

Heartfelt 'Seed the Future' Campaign Exceeds Goal

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden raises over \$14 million to support native plant conservation

MORE THAN WINTER RAINS have lived the pathways and meadow of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The California native plant focused institution recently successfully completed a \$14 million capital campaign, pulling in nearly \$15 million, when all was done. In a comprehensive campaign, "Seed the Future," a team of volunteers and staff, all donors themselves, focused on the important role the Garden plays now and will play in the future of our community and world.

Already the funds raised are being used to expand and renovate gardens; enrich work in conservation and education with new, modern facilities; and increase the Garden's long-term sustainability.

"We are so grateful to the nearly 400 people who showed their support for the Garden by donating to this campaign," said Dr. John Wiemann, Garden Trustee and Co-Chair of the Seed the Future Campaign. "It shows tremendous faith in the Garden's future and the importance of its conservation mission," added Co-Chair Dr. Ed Birch.

Several early gifts to the campaign are already being used for construction, research, and



SBBG Trustee Sue Adams, Susan Sweetland, and Marilyn Magid at the Campaign Victory Party



Campaign Committee Co-Chairs John M. Wiemann and Ed Birch

preservation. A \$2.5 million gift from Mrs. John C. Pritzlaff focused on building the Garden's first new structure in more than 20 years – the Pritzlaff Conservation Center. The Center will consolidate the Garden's

research, administration, and exhibition areas including laboratory space, expanded herbarium, and a rare plant seed bank. The building is designed to be highly energy efficient, will incorporate photovoltaic panels to produce most of its annual power demand, capture storm water for use in garden irrigation, and achieve a Gold Level LEED certification. Currently under construction, the Pritzlaff Conservation Center is expected to be completed in the spring of 2016.

The Garden created its first endowed position, a Systematist, thanks to a \$2.3 million contribution from Drs. Ken and Shirley Tucker. The Systematist will continue the Garden's work in plant taxonomy and add the capacity for DNA based research. Dr.

Shirley Tucker, a botanist and Dr. Ken Tucker, an entomologist, knew firsthand the challenges of funding basic research as federal money decreased and private institutions filled the gap.

Major funding from SBBG Trustee John Gabbert, founder and CEO of Room and Board, and his wife Martha, was an expression of their dedication to the Garden's mission. "We only have one planet and one of the things that makes this planet such an amazing place to live is the vast diversity of living things. We gave to the Seed the Future campaign because the work the Garden is doing in education and research is vital to protecting this wonderful, diverse planet we call home," John Gabbert enthused.

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's rare books will be available in the University of California Santa Barbara Library's new Special Collections facility beginning in 2016, thanks to the Seed the Future gift of SAGE Publications chair and co-founder, Sara Miller McCune. "My goal in making this gift is to ensure the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's important collection of rare books is preserved for generations to come," explained Miller McCune.

Dedicated donors were inspired to give significant gifts at the beginning and end of the campaign. A million dollar challenge match organized by Garden Trustee, Peter Schuyler, with campaign supporters Gay Bryant, Connie Harvie, Chapin and Cynthia Nolen, Gerry and Bobbie Rubin, and Jack and Judy Stapelmann helped to inspire many of those additional gifts from previous donors.

"It was a real community effort and we are thankful to everyone who made this possible" said Dr. Steve Windhager, Executive Director of the Garden.

In addition to the Pritzlaff Conservation Center, improvements funded by the campaign will include renovation of existing buildings that will expand classroom areas, provide for a fire-safe library on site, and enhance the visitor experience with a new visitors' gallery. Five gardens are being planted or renovated including: the Home Demonstration Garden, the historic Meadow, the Wooded Dell display around the historic Campbell Bench, a new Island Section, and the Centennial Maze, which commemorates the Garden Club of Santa Barbara's 100th anniversary.

The Garden will remain open to the public while construction is underway on the Pritzlaff Conservation Center on its property east of Mission Canyon Road.

Written with materials supplied by the Botanic Garden.



Campaign Committee Co-Chair Ed Birch and Sue Birch



SBBG President Board of Trustees John Brinker, SBBG Executive Director Dr. Steve Windhager, Bobbie Rubin, Gerry Rubin, and Campaign Committee Co-Chair John M. Wiemann



Jack Stapelmann, SBBG Trustee Peter Schuyler, and Judy Stapelmann



Kathie McClure and Jim McClure



Steve Senesac and Ann Steinmetz

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is a 78-acre educational and scientific institution that fosters the conservation of California's native plants through their gardens, research, and education, and serves as a role model for sustainable practice. The Garden was founded in 1926 and is among the nation's oldest botanic gardens focused exclusively on native plants.

For more info visit www.sbbg.org



Volunteers from Santa Barbara Garden Club plant the Centennial Maze, December 2014.



Seed the Future volunteers celebrate the groundbreaking for the Pritzlaff Conservation Center spring of 2014



Seed the Future

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