

# DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN



## PRESS KIT



DESERT  
BOTANICAL  
*garden*<sup>®</sup>

# OVERVIEW

## THE GARDEN:

Discover the tranquil vibrancy of 50,000 desert plants nestled amid the red rocks of the Papago Buttes at Desert Botanical Garden. Visitors can stroll through five thematic trails to explore plants, including towering cactus, alluring succulents and brilliant desert wildflowers. Delve deeper to experience world-class art exhibitions, festive events, fascinating classes and so much more.

## MISSION:

The Garden's commitment to the community is to advance excellence in education, research, exhibition and conservation of desert plants of the world with emphasis on the Sonoran Desert. We will ensure that the Garden is always a compelling attraction that brings to life the many wonders of the desert.

## CONTACT:

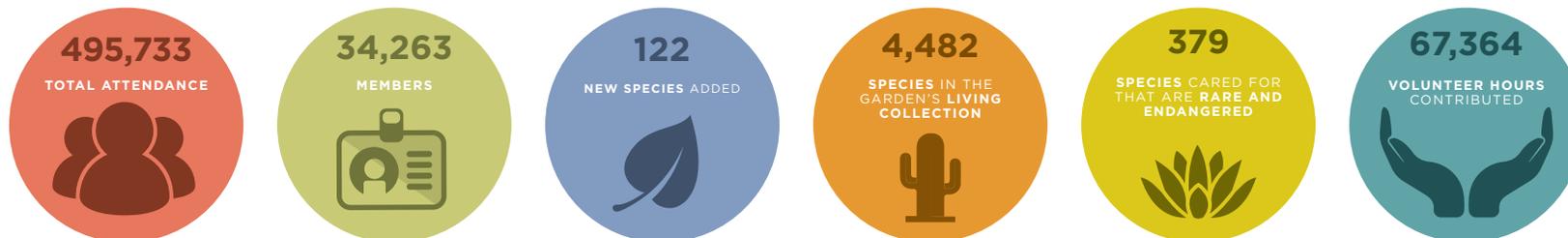
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## MEDIA CONTACTS:

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## YOUR GARDEN BY THE NUMBERS *(As of 2018)*:



# HISTORY

In the 1930s, a small group of passionate local citizens saw the need to conserve the beautiful desert environment. One was Swedish botanist Gustaf Starck, who found like-minded residents by posting a sign that said “Save the desert,” with an arrow pointing to his home. Eight decades later, thanks to leadership and investments from many individuals, Desert Botanical Garden has blossomed from a dream into a living museum unlike any other. See how the Garden has grown during its history into a compelling attraction and desert conservation pioneer.



**1939**

The Garden opens its doors to the public.



**1947**

Gertrude Webster dies leaving her estate to support the Garden.



**1957**

The Garden's collections increase from 1,000 to more than 18,000 specimens.



**1970**

The new library is built to house a valuable donation of rare books and prints.



**1977**

The Docent Program is established.



**1983**

The American Association of Museums accredits the Garden.



**2009**

Joy and Howard Berlin Agave Yucca Forrest opens.



**2008**

Dale Chihuly's exhibition draws more than 500,000 people to the Garden.



**2008**

Ottosen Entry Garden opens.



**2002**

The Garden completes a \$17 million expansion.



**1988**

Plants and People of the Sonoran Desert Trail opens.



**1985**

The Garden becomes a charter member of the Center for Plant Conservation.



**2013**

The Garden celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



**2015**

The Jan and Tom Lewis Desert Portal opens.



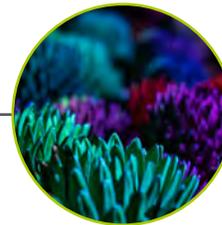
**2015**

The Garden hosts its first nighttime only exhibition by Bruce Munro.



**2017**

New Butterfly Exhibit and Hazel Hare Center for Plant Science open.



**2018**

Electric Desert | A Light and Sound Experience by Klip Collective sees nearly 200,000 visitors.



**2019**

Desert Botanical Garden celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

# EDUCATION

At Desert Botanical Garden, learning knows no bounds. Our education offerings go beyond the boundaries of the classroom to create enlightening opportunities to build connections with nature. Whether it covers gardening or cooking, the Garden's classes take nature experiences into hands-on practice. Take a peek at some of the types of classes, workshops and excursions the Garden is offering.



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY



LANDSCAPE & GARDENING



CHILDREN & FAMILY



COOKING & WELLNESS



HISTORY & SCIENCE



TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

# TRAILS & EXHIBITIONS

Desert Botanical Garden provides a world-class experience for every visitor. Through permanent trailside exhibits, temporary art installations and seasonal experiences, the Garden ignites discovery about the desert and the plants that have adapted to this fascinating ecosystem.

## TRAILS:

**DESERT DISCOVERY LOOP TRAIL** exhibits desert plants from around the world.

**PLANTS & PEOPLE OF THE SONORAN DESERT LOOP TRAIL** explores the use of desert plants for nourishment, cultural activities and tools.

**SONORAN DESERT NATURE LOOP TRAIL** illustrates the relationship between desert plants and animals.

**CENTER FOR DESERT LIVING LOOP TRAIL** displays ideas and strategies for sustainable ways to live with nature.

**Harriet K. Maxwell DESERT WILDFLOWER LOOP TRAIL** showcases the diversity of desert wildflowers.

## SEASONAL EXHIBITS | VISIT [DBG.ORG](http://DBG.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Mighty monarch butterflies return this fall. Experience a diverse kaleidoscope of butterflies from the Southwest, and discover the magnificence of the mighty monarch butterfly—from their amazing migration to the plants they need to survive.



The Garden continues its annual exhibition of Ofrenda, or “offering.” Ofrendas are created to remember and honor the memory of loved ones that have passed. This year’s theme is “Alebrijes y La Muerte.” The artists explore not only the visual concept of the alebrije but also its origin and meaning as it applies to Mexican culture and the celebration of Día de Los Muertos.



The Garden’s newest exhibition, **Wild Rising** by **Cracking Art**, is traveling straight from Milan, with more than 1,000 animal sculptures made from colorful and recyclable plastic. Visitors of all ages will be drawn to engage with these vibrant creatures and to discover that plastic does not have to end up in landfills. It can be reinvented into something eye-catching and thought-provoking.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**OCT. 4 - NOV. 22**  
**FEB. 7 - MAY 29**

*Ages 21 and older*

Desert Botanical Garden once again offers an exciting and diverse lineup of talented performers in the Spring and Fall Music in the Garden concert series.



**MARCH 20 - 22**

*Free Admission to enter the Spring Plant Sale*

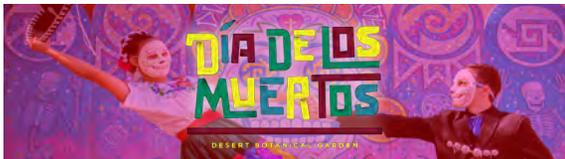
Don't let 30,000 plants intimidate you! Our on-site horticulture experts will help you find the perfect cactus, agave and ornamental to plant in your own garden.



**FEBRUARY 8 & 9**

Sample, sip and savor your way through the splendor of the Garden at Corks & Cactus, where boutique wines and desert beauty blend into a delightful event. Sample from 40 different wines each day, enjoy musical entertainment and purchase delicious fare.

*21 and over*



**NOV. 3 - 4 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**LA PROCESIÓN EACH DAY 5 - 6 p.m.**

*Included with membership or paid Garden admission*

Celebrate the tradition of Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, with a festival filled with music, dance and storytelling. Children will love the crafts and face painting, and the whole family will enjoy the entertainment and the Mercado filled with art, jewelry and other wares. Each day ends with La Procesión, a procession through the Garden by the performers and audience members, concluding with a traditional burning of troubles.



**NOV. 16**

*Included with membership or paid Garden admission | \$4 admission per dog with proceeds benefiting the Arizona Humane Society*

Bring the whole family—dogs included—for a walk on Garden trails. Meet other dog lovers, heel for family photos, learn about local dog-related nonprofits, shop and enjoy samples with your pup.



**NOV. 29 - 30, DEC. 6 - 8, 13 - 15, 17 - 31**

*Tickets on sale Oct. 1 at [dbg.org](http://dbg.org).*

Celebrate the spirit of the season with Las Noches de las Luminarias. Stroll the Garden's trails lined with 8,000 flickering luminaria bags, gaze at twinkling lights and admire the enchanting glow of Wild Rising creatures. Happen upon tunes from eclectic entertainment groups, and cherish the time spent with friends and family during the holiday season.

# RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) identified cactus as one of the most threatened groups of living organisms, but the Garden is working to protect and conserve these treasured desert plants and many others. The Garden's researchers often collaborate internationally, as well as with federal and state agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Parks Service, to protect Arizona flora and habitat.



**GARDEN SCIENTISTS ARE FULFILLING OUR MISSION** THROUGH PROJECTS IN ARID REGIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

# OVERVIEW



## CREDITS:

- ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS
- FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE CENTER FOR PLANT CONSERVATION
- DESIGNATED BY POPULAR VOTE IN 1993 AS A “PHOENIX POINT OF PRIDE”
- NAMED ONE OF “ARIZONA’S TREASURES” BY GOVERNOR JANET NAPOLITANO IN 2005