



CENTER FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

Save Plants



CPC IMPACT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Mature seeds of *Geum geniculatum* (bent avens). Photo credit: Michael Kunz.



Since 1984, when the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) was founded, we have been fortunate to build a network of more than 70 world-class botanical institutions, known as our Participating Institutions (PIs), and lead efforts to rescue and protect from extinction the 4400 most endangered plant species of North America. Through deep collaborative work, we now have over half the rare plant species of North America banked in CPC's National Collection – in the conservation frameworks of our PIs as well as in replicate samples at the USDA National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, CO. Plans to secure all remaining North American rare plant species are accelerating through the unparalleled California Biodiversity Initiative which, under CPC's leadership, aims to place 1166 of California's rarest native plant species in conservation frameworks by 2024. CPC has also built on existing collaborations with its long-standing PIs in the Southeastern U.S. and mounted the Florida Plant Rescue. There, we are targeting the collection and conservation of 168 at-risk plant species that have not yet been secured in our gardens. This year, the CPC Board also approved an expansion of our historic Plant Sponsorship Program (PSP), which aims to secure the National Collection far into the future. The PSP establishes endowment funding for National Collection species and distributes funds to support a broad range of conservation work at PIs conserving these sponsored plants. In these settings, seeds, spores, and other plant tissues are preserved; seed banks are maintained using best practices; research on plant genetics and optimal preservation and growing conditions is conducted; and when needed, rare plant species are reintroduced into the wild. In addition, CPC is continuing its original research to advance scientific knowledge and practices on the preservation and protection of native plants and methods to respond more effectively to environmental challenges we increasingly face. Our classic publications on plant conservation are now accessible through a virtual web platform, the CPC Rare Plant Academy, and there, in conjunction with our PIs, we have introduced additional virtual resources and programs to train plant and conservation scientists worldwide. The earnest work to secure endangered plants and promote best practices is supported by an exceptional headquarters team led by Dr. Joyce Maschinski, an internationally-recognized plant scientist who recently retired in July 2022 after serving as President & CEO since 2019. As a result of our team's dedication, we completed the year in strong financial position and remain on track to achieve our conservation goals and strategic programmatic priorities. Through all of these ambitious programs and initiatives, CPC is recognized as a global leader in plant conservation. In profound recognition of its work "to advance science-based conservation practices, connect and empower plant conservationists, and inspire all to protect biodiversity for future generations," CPC was honored with the National Distinguished Service Medal in Horticulture at the annual national meeting of the Garden Club of America. Dr. Maschinski made a formal presentation and the award was accepted by Dr. Barbara Millen on behalf of CPC and its Board of Trustees.

Our leadership position in plant conservation would not exist without the significant support of our global network of scientists, our conservation practitioners and our many friends and donors. On behalf of our headquarters team at San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, our PIs and other partners, and the CPC Board, I would like to deeply thank all for your critical, ongoing engagement particularly after yet another challenging year. Help us continue our work to 'save plants from extinction', secure them for future generations, and train plant conservationists throughout the world. There is no more important time than now!

With deepest gratitude,

Dr. Barbra E. Millen, CPC Board of Trustees Chair

Looking back at 2021, The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) is proud of what we have been able to accomplish together. Thanks to our National Office staff, Board of Trustees, and generous donors, we have been able to initiate or continue exciting projects that help plant conservation in the U.S. and its territories, Canada, and around the world. Our National Collection now holds 2208 rare plant species thanks in large part to dedicated initiatives in California and Florida. Our network has grown to 71 Institutional Conservation Partners. The Rare Plant Academy highlights CPC best practices and allows for the special sharing of our experiences. The Seed Longevity Study we initiated will refresh old seed collections, while contributing to our general knowledge about the best way to conserve rare species. From the boots on the ground experiences in the field to findings discovered in research labs, our fantastic network and collective teamwork built these programs and tools that enhance our ability to convey our understanding about best practices for plant conservation to the CPC Network and the rest of the world. Thank you for this great collaboration that helps Save Plants.

In gratitude,

Joyce Maschinski, CPC President & CEO

FIELD WORK TEAMWORK NETWORK



Dr. Joyce Maschinski retired on July 1, 2022 after serving as CPC's President & CEO since 2019. We thank Joyce for her leadership and her stalwart dedication to saving plants.

Regional Initiatives

Within our nationwide network, the Center for Plant Conservation supports regional networks bound by common goals and circumstances. These regional efforts allow CPC to strengthen our relationships with local botanists, to benefit from the fact that the best information is local, and to foster the connectivity among our partners in the regions. By being the catalyst to bring our partners together, CPC can advance the gap analysis of which plants in the region are already safeguarded and which are still at risk. And from this, we strive to rally the troops and expand resources for expeditions and field work to identify and collect those species not already placed in a conservation collection.

Most Biodiversity Hot Spots are regional in nature. A regional approach is the most effective way to tackle the critical work of saving the species in these areas. In 2021, CPC championed two such regional initiatives, California Plant Rescue (CaPR) and the Florida Plant Rescue (FLPR).

The Florida Plant Rescue (FLPR)

Climate change in Florida has far-reaching impacts: it intensifies hurricanes, affects sea-level rise, and increases temperatures, seriously threatening rare plant populations already constrained by urban development.

As home to more than 2,840 native plant species from tropical and temperate origins, Florida ranks third in plant diversity in the United States and many species are found only in Florida. Saving seeds, spores, or other plant tissues in conservation collections at botanical gardens can safeguard plant species against extinction; yet over 168 plant species in Florida are considered globally rare and are not currently secured in conservation collections.

The Florida Plant Rescue (FLPR) is a statewide seed collections initiative that aims to secure and safeguard all of these remaining Florida rare plant species in conservation collections to prevent their extinction. This initiative is being led by the Center for Plant Conservation's National Office in collaboration with the existing community of botanical experts within the CPC network of Participating Institutions. We are also working with two important database network partners, Florida Natural Areas Inventory and the Institute for Regional Conservation.

Funding provided by individuals and the Band Foundation supported the collection of eight species in 2021, hiring a regional coordinator located in Florida, and compilation of a vetted list of Florida plant species for prioritized ex-situ conservation.

FLPR 2021 Members

(*CPC PI)

- Atlanta Botanic Garden*
- Bok Tower Gardens*
- Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden*
- Florida Native Plant Society*
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory
- Institute for Regional Conservation*
- Marie Selby Botanical Gardens*
- Montgomery Botanical Center*
- Naples Botanical Garden*

Trichostema suffrutescens

Photo credit: Anna Clarke, courtesy of Bok Tower Gardens

The California Plant Rescue (CaPR)

California's varied geology and climates have created a multitude of habitats with different topography, temperature ranges, and precipitation patterns. Species co-evolve in these conditions, so many habitats beget many species. Many plants and animals are found here and nowhere else, making California one of the most biologically diverse places in the world.

Most of the state of California lies within a biodiversity hotspot called the California Floristic Province, an area of diverse vegetation. Designated a hotspot in 1996, it shares this distinction with 33 other places in the world. Part of what makes California a hotspot is that its spectacular biodiversity is seriously threatened. At least 75% of the original habitat has already been lost.

The California Plant Rescue (CaPR) partnership focused on conserving the flora of the state of California and the California Floristic Province. CaPR began in 2014 when the California member institutions of CPC came together at the prompting of Peter Raven, chair of the CPC Board at the time, and under the leadership of California Botanic Garden (then Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden). United under CPC's best practices, the group works collaboratively to ensure all the plant diversity of California is conserved in ex situ collections. With funding, provided by the California State legislature, in 2021, CaPR collected 166 new plant species, which are now added the CPC National Collection.

CaPR 2021 Members (*CPC PI)

- California Botanic Garden*
- California Native Plant Society*
- Center for Plant Conservation
- Mojave Desert Land Trust
- Regional Parks Botanic Garden*
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden*
- San Diego Botanic Garden*
- San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance*
- University of California Botanic Garden at Berkeley*
- University of California-Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden*
- Theodore Payne Foundation
- University of California-Davis Arboretum and Public Garden*

Together, these two regional initiatives work to achieve conservation on a larger scale. These collaboratives vary in size and scope and share a desire to increase the pace and connectivity of their conservation activities.

State of the Science - CPC Grant Updates

Our four federally-funded projects exemplify the true nature of the link between field work, the network, and teamwork. Developing the concepts, writing the grants and securing the funding, subcontracting with our many partners in the field, and ultimately adding to the body of plant conservation knowledge or collecting specific species, all lead to our collective goal of saving more plants.

Applied Plant Conservation Online Course

In 2021, CPC worked on the development of a brand-new, online Applied Plant Conservation course that will train our current and future botanical workforce in the best practices of rare plant stewardship and conservation. Partial funding for course modules has been generously provided by the Bureau of Land Management Offices of California, Colorado, and Nevada. The result will be a dynamic, video-based course featured on the Rare Plant Academy covering topics ranging from rare plant genetics and reintroductions to seed collections, exceptional species, and much more. CPC National Office staff are pleased to be collaborating with partners throughout our network to develop and teach course content.


Seed Longevity Study

This year marked the launch of CPC's nationwide research project evaluating the longevity of rare and endangered plant species seeds in conservation seed banks. The CPC National Office awarded seed collections funding to 23 Participating Institutions who will recollect seed from 115 populations of rare plants held in long term storage for 15 years or more. Our collaborators at the National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation will evaluate how the viability of these seeds has declined over time, using both a traditional measure (germination) and a new biophysical proxy of seed health, RNA integrity.



Canby's dropwort (*Oxypolis canbyi*)

Photo credit: Michael Kunz, courtesy of North Carolina Botanical Garden

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a headband with eye patterns and denim overalls over a red shirt, is focused on a task in a field. She is holding a small, clear plastic container with both hands and using a small, patterned tool to carefully handle a sample inside. In the foreground, a plant with small, vibrant purple flowers is in focus. The background is a soft-focus view of a wooded area with dry leaves and branches.

Atlanta Botanical Garden Field
Biologist Cami Adams prepares to
collect a DNA leaf sample parallel
to the maternal line seed collected of
Liatris gholsonii.

Photo credit: Ashlynn Smith,
courtesy of Atlanta Botanical Garden

Wrapping Up the Rare Plant Academy Grant

CPC is entering the final year of our Institute for Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant in support of the Rare Plant Academy (RPA). Over the past three years, this grant funding has enabled us to develop the RPA into a robust digital hub of learning, sharing, and discovery for the plant conservation community. In 2021, we served over 20,000 web users (an 80% increase over the same period in 2020), updated and improved our Best Practice Guidelines with a new chapter in Conservation Horticulture, and sparked 125 community forum discussions. Over the next year, we will continue to refine our online platform and add to our growing library of plant conservation “how to” videos as we wrap up our grant work—but the work doesn’t stop there! You can always count on RPA being your go-to resource for plant conservation best practices. Just as technologies, resources, and research continue to grow, so too will the RPA as we further our mission to Save Plants from extinction.

US Forest Service

For many years, CPC has received funding to support seed collections on US Forest Service lands, primarily in the Southwest. With such funding, in 2021, CPC subcontracted The Arboretum at Flagstaff to assess the status and collect seeds of Goodding’s Onion (*Allium gooddingii*). They visited more than a dozen sites where Goodding’s onion historically occurred. They found the species population was drastically reduced at most sites and no longer present at some. The major threat to this delicate perennial is the habitat degradation due to grazing and the increasingly frequency of wildfires. With Navajo Nation & Forest Service partners, they made 10 seed collections from nine wild populations. This seed collection and monitoring field work will lead to management strategies that will protect these plants.

New Species to National Collection

The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) maintains a collection of the most imperiled native plants of the United States, its territories, and Canada through its network of world-class botanical gardens. Known as the CPC National Collection, this living collection of endangered plants is a critical conservation resource, serving as an emergency backup in the event a species becomes extinct or no longer reproduces in the wild.

Each year, cadres of plant conservationists at our Participating Institutions spend days, weeks, and sometimes months in the field collecting new species to add to their collections, with the ultimate goal of having all rare and endangered plant species in the CPC National Collection. The collaboration of the teams in the field with the staff in the CPC National Office ensure that these species are collected and stored according to best practices and that the information on these species is accurately saved in the national database.

In 2021, the addition of 180 new species of plants brings the total number of plants safeguarded in the collection to 2,208. We are halfway to our goal of 4,400. Several projects account for increases in the National Collection: the California Plant Rescue project has captured many of the rarest species in the state, the Florida Plant Rescue is gaining momentum, and collections for the U.S. Forest Service have added rare species to gardens throughout the network. Even the IMLS Seed Longevity Study added species that were collected this year or collected opportunistically during field excursions.

The National Collection is more than the number of plant species safeguarded. It represents the stories of individual plants, the people involved in the work to find and collect the plants, and the research to preserve, nurture, and perpetuate the plants once they are safely in the collection. One such story is about the Pineland blackanthers (*Melanthera parvifolia*).

At Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Florida, rare species are treated as jewels. The Fairchild team uses drawstring, organza jewelry bags to collect the seeds of Pineland blackanthers. This species is in the sunflower family where flowers develop in clusters of disk florets arranged like a starburst, with new florets emerging from the center and older florets at the margins. The organza jewelry bags are used to maximize seed collection efforts since this species develops flowers continuously over several months.

This endemic herbaceous plant in South Florida pine rocklands is state listed as threatened. The species was first described in 1903 based on a specimen from Big Pine Key in Monroe County. It is predominantly in Miami-Dade and Collier counties. As part of the CPC's new Florida Plant Rescue initiative, Fairchild's Conservation Team collected seeds of this species from a large, stable population in Zoo Miami's pine rockland. The pineland had recently experienced a prescribed burn and was in excellent condition with many herbaceous plant species flowering, especially the pineland blackanthers. We are so grateful to the Conservation Team at Fairchild for the care they take in collecting these precious seeds.

Pineland blackanthers (*Melanthera parvifolia*)

Photo credit: Lydia Cuni

New Participating Institutions

The Center for Plant Conservation is a network, uniting plant conservationists from botanical gardens, arboreturns, and other plant-focused organizations working to save plant diversity for future generations. Currently 71 members strong, the CPC network of Conservation Partners is strengthened by the knowledge and experience that each institution brings.

In 2021, the CPC Board of Trustees approved the following five new members to the CPC network:

ZOO NEW ENGLAND

Zoo New England (ZNE), located in Boston, Massachusetts, has a mission “to inspire people to protect and sustain the natural world for future generations by creating fun and engaging experiences that integrate wildlife and conservation programs, research, and education.” ZNE has been developing new organizational practices, weaving conservation into their onsite visitor experiences, and spearheading plant conservation projects to advocate for plants and biodiversity.



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND BOTANICAL GARDEN

CPC’s focus has long been on the plants and institutions in the U.S., although rare and threatened plants throughout North America need attention and care. Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden (MUNBG) strives to become the leading site for plant conservation research and education in the region of Newfoundland and Labrador. We welcome MUNBG as the first Canadian Participating Institution.



MT. CUBA CENTER

Mt. Cuba Center presents a haven for native species of the mid-Atlantic region across their 1,083-acre property. With roots dating back to 1935 as the private estate of the Copeland family, the iconic gardens opened to the public in 2002, incorporating native plant gardens and protected land with the existing historic gardens. Mt. Cuba Center founding mission is to encourage visitors to explore the native plants of the region and become conservators themselves.



MATTOLE RESTORATION COUNCIL

Since 1983, the Mattole Restoration Council (MRC) has been devoted to the restoration and conservation of the Mattole Watershed, which covers 304 square miles within the northern California Coast Mountains. Its goal is to protect and maintain healthy natural systems and native species populations through its ecosystem restoration projects. MRC’s Native Plant Nursery collects native plant seeds and propagates native species for installation on restoration sites and for sale to the general public, with the capacity to propagate up to 200,000 plants.



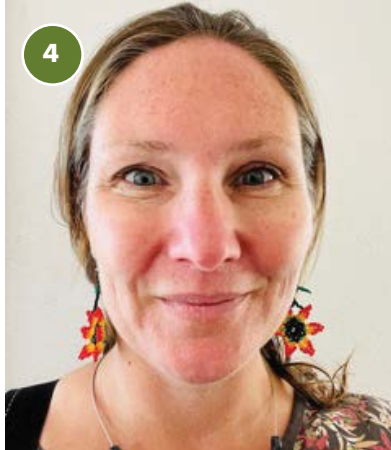
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS), with 33 local chapters, works for the statewide conservation, preservation, and restoration of the native plants and their communities in Florida. Collections of cuttings and seeds of native plants maintained by FNPS are used in plant restoration projects on public lands. Through land acquisition and extensive partnerships, FNPS protects and preserves native species in their natural habitats and aids the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.





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CPC 2021 Conservation Champions

The work of plant conservation, whether in the field, in the office or in the lab, is accomplished by people. In 2021, CPC highlighted the work of some of the individuals doing extraordinary work to save plants. Here is an overview of those Conservation Champions. To dig deeper into how these champions work, check out the CPC 2021 monthly newsletters at saveplants.org. One thing is clear, if we are going to save plants, we must work together.



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1 Christy Powell, Horticulture Manager, San Diego Zoo. (January) To take care of plants and people, Christy searches for answers to unknown questions, seeks collaborations to address those questions, and works to promote big interdisciplinary conservation horticulture projects here in the U.S. and around the world.

2 Anna Strong, Botanist, Texas Parks & Wildlife. (March) Anna has the challenge of working in the very big state of Texas tracking the conservation status of over 400 rare plant species. As a former CPC National Office staff member, Anna knows the importance of tracking rare plant species.

3 Carolyn Schmitz and Tony Schmitz, Arizona-based artist and filmmaker. (June) These siblings used their artistic talents to create an animated video for CPC about why plants matter and are doing their part to inspire and connect people to the value of plants.

4 Sula Vanderplank, Director of the Terrestrial Ecosystem Conservation Program, Pronatura Noroeste. (April) Sula is working to conserve some of the rarest plants of Baja California, including around 60 taxa that are on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border.

5 Suzanne Chapman, Retired Botanical Collections Curator, Mercer Botanic Gardens. (November) At Mercer Botanic Gardens, she had many opportunities to be a hero for rare plants facing threat from climate change. Her great love of nature and of plants continues in her retirement, where she continues to share the message that we (humans) are an integral part of nature.

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6 Lucy Commander, Project Manager, Australian Network for Plant

Conservation. (September) Lucy, is known for her outstanding research on seed germination in arid Western Australian and the Middle East.

7 Lisa Hill, National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation. (February) Lisa's dedication to seeds – tiny and large – has led to many important discoveries about the best way to germinate and store seeds of various species. For many years, she has been the shepherd of CPC's rare seed collections at the Biophysics Lab at the NLGRP.

8 Naomi Fraga, Director of Conservation Programs, California Botanic Garden and CPC 2021 Star Award recipient. (May) Naomi's commitment to the conservation of rare and endangered plants is a model to the CPC network and the conservationists of tomorrow. She is an asset to the flora of the United States of America.

9 Sean Hoban, Tree Conservation Biologist, The Morton Arboretum. (August) His exemplary work has helped us understand and improve the conservation value of tree collections held in gardens and arboreta, engendered collaboration across gardens to secure tree diversity, and provided advice for tree seed collectors around the world.

10 Patricia De Angelis, Chair, Federal Committee of the Plant Conservation Alliance & Botanist, USFWS. (October) For more than 20 years, she has worked toward bringing federal agencies together within the Plant Conservation Alliance to support native plant conservation. She knows that public awareness of plants is linked to the funding support that plant initiatives and plant staff positions receive.

11 Christa Horn, Coordinator, CaPR and Program Manager, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. (December) Christa combines a personal love for plants with a keen sense for problem-solving issues, ranging from the logistics of an expedition to ironing out details regarding teamwork.

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Plant Sponsorship Program

When a Participating Institution (PI) accepts responsibility for a National Collection species, it makes a long-term commitment to steward the species for future generations. Participating Institutions invest significant resources and effort in securing and holding the imperiled plant material, and they advance research and new technologies on the best ways to grow, manage, and restore these rare species. To offset some of these expenses, CPC created the Plant Sponsorship Program. Plant sponsorships provide the PI responsible for the named species steady, reliable funding for the long-term work. A sponsorship does not cover all the expenses, but it provides significant help and stability.

In 2021, CPC Board and staff reenergized this foundational program. A task force reviewed and revised the policies and set new levels of sponsorship. CPC received more than \$46,000 in contributions toward sponsoring plants in 2021. These contributions came from many donors. Botanist Anita Tiller actively fundraises for sponsorships for the species in the National Collection under the care of Mercer Botanical Center in Texas. Since 2006, Anita has been raising funds for the Louisiana Quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*). Most years, she sends CPC a few hundred dollars for this plant. This year, a generous gift of \$8,335 completed the sponsorship at the \$10,000 level and Mercer will add the annual stipend for *Isoetes louisianensis* to their other fully sponsored plants.

Sometimes a team of donors join together to ensure that a species of concern has long-term support. When Ed Guerrant, former director of the Rae Selling Berry Seed Bank and Plant Conservation Program in Portland, Oregon, suggested a plant sponsorship for the Siskiyou Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus persistens*), the local offices of the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Field Office, and the Klamath National Forest pooled their resources to provide a \$15,000 grant to CPC for the full sponsorship of *Calochortus persistens*.



Botanist Anita Tiller



Louisiana Quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*)

Photo credit: Carl Taylor, US Forest Service



Siskiyou Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus persistens*)

Photo credit: Matt Braun, USFWS



Ed Guerrant

Photo credit: Linda McMahan



Plant sponsorship in honor of
Susan and Jan Schmidt



Quercus dumosa

Photo credit: Stacy Anderson

Under the Plant Sponsorship Program, a single donor or a group of donors may sponsor a plant at the \$10,000 level by contributing any dollar amount or at Premium levels by contributing \$25,000, \$50,000, or \$100,000. Donors may designate funds to sponsor a specific species in the National Collection or may support the Plant Sponsorship Program generally, in which case CPC will direct these funds to sponsor plants in the National Collection that would benefit from sponsorship.

When CPC President & CEO Joyce Maschinski's sister and brother-in-law passed away, Joyce could think of no better way to honor their legacy than with a plant sponsorship. She selected the coastal sage oak, *Quercus dumosa*, because it is a San Diego County species that supports a broad community, just as her sister and brother-in-law supported their community. Within one year, friends and relatives donated enough to fully sponsor this species at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

Throughout CPC's history, Board Members have worked with their local garden clubs to sponsor species in the National Collection. In 2021, Dr. Ruth Evans guided CPC into sending a proposal to the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club in San Diego County, resulting in a \$2,000 donation that formed the base funding towards the sponsoring of *Dudleya brevifolia*. We look forward to building this sponsorship to completion over the next few years.

Even Emeritus Trustees find ways to contribute to CPC's mission. That is the case for Jody Bush, who has been a tireless champion of CPC's plant conservation work in Florida. In 2021, she generously provided the match to sponsor two Florida plant species.

Plant sponsorships play a critical role in CPC's mission to Save Plants as long as extraordinary measures are needed to protect rare native flora.



Short-leaved dudleya (*Dudleya brevifolia*)

Photo credit: Caroline Iacuanfello



Financials


We are pleased to share financial information for The Center for Plant Conservation's fiscal year January 1 through December 31 derived from the audits for 2019, 2020, and 2021. For more detailed financial information, please see our audited financial statements on our website at saveplants.org/about-us/reports-and-finances.

In 2021, our operating revenues, without donor restrictions, were \$1,613,218 and surpassed our operating expenses of \$1,251,702 by \$361,516, comprising our net operating income.

Program expenditures were \$842,229, or 67% of total expenses. This included \$612,660 for National Office expenses (staff salaries, expansion and maintenance of National Collection database, newsletter production), and support of the CPC network including: \$138,000 paid to 30 Participating Institutions for Plant Sponsorships (supported by the endowment draw); and \$86,350 paid to 10 Participating Institutions for seed collections made possible through CPC's IMLS-funded seed longevity, US Forest Service-funded rare plant seed collections, and Florida Plant Rescue.

The Center's endowment, named the Plant Conservation Fund, includes funds established by donors to provide for specific activities and general operations. The endowment assets at fair value increased over the past three years from \$5,588,856 in 2019 to \$5,638,603 in 2020 and \$7,167,941 in 2021.

The annual distribution from the endowment is based on the Board approved draw policy. The rate, determined and adjusted from time to time by the Board, is applied to the average fair value of the endowment portfolio for the prior three years at December 31. During 2021, the draw rate was 5%. In establishing this policy, the Board considered the long-term expected return on the endowment with the objective of maintaining the purchasing power of the endowment over time.



The net investment earnings on the endowment relative to the draw and the resulting effect on the endowment is as follows:

	2021	2020	2019
Endowment Investment Earnings, Net	\$1,740,432	\$287,553	\$1,118,612
Draw	(\$257,169)	(\$240,206)	(\$231,230)
Surplus (deficit) effect on endowment	\$1,483,263	\$47,347	\$887,382

Our change in net assets, which is our bottom line taking into account operating results, endowment results together with all other financial effects was as follows:

	2021	2020	2019
Change in Net Assets	\$1,961,732	\$157,938	\$981,926

As part of the California Biodiversity Initiative, the state of California allocated \$3,200,000 in 2019, \$200,000 in 2020, and \$200,000 in 2021 to support rare plant seed collections for the conservation of California flora. CPC, as fiscal sponsor for California Plant Rescue, received these funds from the state, and manages and disburses them to the 12 members of the California Plant Rescue per agreed upon terms. CPC has placed the corpus of the funds in a temporarily restricted account while retaining 5% of the total funds as administrative cost recovery as agreed upon in the California legislature's appropriation. Throughout 2021, CPC disbursed \$683,787 to members of California Plant Rescue.

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our Board of Trustees, our donors, and partners, The Center for Plant Conservation continues to be a vibrant and sustainable organization that Saves Plants.

Selected Financial Data

The data set forth below are derived from the audited financial statements of CPC, which are included in full on our website at saveplants.org/about-us/reports-and-finances and should be read in conjunction therewith:

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES DATA:

OPERATING DATA:

Operating Revenues	2021	2020	2019
Grants and contributions without donor restrictions	\$569,846	\$347,224	\$402,909
In kind contributions (SDZG)	406,327	459,116	549,386
Government grants + contracts without donor restriction	211,197	174,284	113,436
Participating institution fees	75,925	70,825	41,825
National meeting	10,725	14,050	29,620
Draw from accumulated investment earnings (released from donor restricted endowment)	257,169	240,206	231,230
Other Net assets released from donor restrictions	30,000 ^{1/}	30,000 ^{1/}	40,000 ^{1/}
Gain on forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program Loan	51,967		
Other income	44	639	10,942
Total Operating Revenues	\$1,613,218	\$1,336,344	\$1,419,348
Operating Expenses			
Program Services:			
National office	\$612,660	\$691,494	\$803,956
Plant sponsorships	138,000	138,000	137,500
Seed collecting at PIs	86,350	12,500	85,000
National meeting	5,219	3,590	49,079
Sub-Total Program Services	842,229	845,584	1,075,535
Management and General Support	291,743	255,342	264,961
Fundraising	117,730	97,877	114,528
Total Operating Expenses	1,251,702	1,198,803	1,455,024
Net operating income (loss) after draw from accumulated investment earnings	361,516	137,541	(\$35,676)
Effect of changes in funds subject to donor restrictions			
Draw from accumulated investment earnings (released from donor restricted endowment)	(\$257,169)	(\$240,206)	(\$231,230)
Other net assets released from donor restrictions	(30,000) ^{1/}	(30,000) ^{1/}	(40,000) ^{1/}
Government grants + contracts with donor restrictions	100,000	–	160,000 ^{2/}
Contributions with donor restrictions - Additions to endowment	46,075	2,400	10,220
Subtotal	(\$141,094)	(\$267,806)	(\$101,010)
Net income (loss) before non-operating income and expenses – Investment earnings, net	\$220,422	(\$130,265)	(\$136,686)

^{1/} Satisfaction of donor restriction for 2019, 2020, and 2021 portion - Funding of administration of CA Plant Rescue Program.

^{2/} Funding of administration of CA Plant Rescue Program for 2019 thru 2022.

NON-OPERATING / INVESTMENT EARNINGS / CHANGE IN NET ASSETS DATA:

	2021	2020	2019
Net operating income (loss) before non-operating income and expenses - Investment earnings, net	\$220,422	(\$130,265)	(\$136,686)
Non-operating income (loss) - Investment earnings, net	1,741,310	288,203	1,118,612
Change in Net Assets	\$1,961,732	\$157,938	\$981,926

ENDOWMENT DATA:

Endowment at fair value, beginning of year	\$5,638,603	\$5,588,856	\$4,691,254
Endowment Investment earnings, net of expenses	1,740,432	287,553	1,118,612
Draw from accumulated investment earnings (5% of 3 year rolling average endowment)	(257,169)	(240,206)	(231,230)
Contributions	46,075	2,400	10,220
Endowment at fair value, end of year	7,167,941	\$5,638,603	\$5,588,856
Approximate annual percentage return on endowment	30.87%	5.10%	23.80%
Surplus of Investment earnings over (or shortfall from) Draw from accumulated investment earnings	\$1,483,263	\$47,347	\$887,382

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DATA: ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents - operating	\$1,007,288	\$594,343	\$333,586
Cash and cash equivalents - endowment	37,630	58,093	106,021
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted funds held for others (including CDs)	2,285,215	2,756,299	3,040,254
Cash and cash equivalents - CA Biodiversity overhead for 2020 through 2023	60,000	90,000	120,000
Subtotal Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,390,133	\$3,498,735	\$3,599,861
Accounts, grants and contributions receivable	44,872	41,832	29,051
Other assets	19,690	15,713	15,728
Endowment investments (at fair value)	7,130,311	5,580,510	5,482,835

TOTAL ASSETS

\$10,585,006 \$9,136,790 \$9,127,475

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$192,006	\$182,271	\$94,989
Deferred revenue	13,151	13,351	17,522
PayCheck Protection Program Loan	—	51,967	—
Fund held on behalf of others	2,285,215	2,756,299	3,040,000
Total Liabilities	\$2,490,372	\$3,003,888	\$3,152,511

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions			
Undesignated	\$766,693	\$404,299	\$266,108
Designated by Board for an endowment	608,744	608,744	608,744
Accumulated endowment investment earnings	374,914	171,001	127,837
Total without donor restriction	\$1,750,351	\$1,184,044	\$1,002,689
With donor restrictions			
Donor restricted - temporary in nature	\$160,000	\$90,000	\$120,000
Endowment - perpetual in nature	2,209,485	2,163,410	2,161,010
Accumulated endowment investment earnings	3,974,798	2,695,448	2,691,265
Total with donor restriction	\$6,344,283	\$4,948,858	\$4,972,275
Total Net Assets	8,094,634	6,132,902	5,974,964

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$10,585,006 \$9,136,790 \$9,127,475

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San Diego gumplant (*Grindelia hallii*)

Photo credit: Stacy Anderson,
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A close-up photograph of a young seedling with two green leaves and a reddish stem, growing out of a dark, moist soil surface in a nursery pot. The pot is filled with a mix of dark brown soil and light-colored perlite. A small, white, rectangular label is partially visible in the background, with handwritten text that includes "Juglans major" and "11/6/20". The background is blurred, showing other plants and pots in a nursery setting.

The Center for Plant Conservation is a one-of-a-kind network of botanical institutions, collectively known as CPC Participating Institutions, that collaboratively work to save the imperiled plants of North America.

CPC Participating Institutions maintain the CPC National Collection of Endangered Plants, a living conservation collection of imperiled plants. They collect and manage living seeds and plants, advance our understanding of the means needed to save these species, and communicate with partners within the CPC network to ensure that all are using the best and most up-to-date practices to **Save Plants**.



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Juglans major growing in the nursery at San Diego Botanic Garden from collected seeds. Photo credit: Rachel Sadowski.