



CENTER FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

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Center for Plant Conservation President and CEO, Dr. Joyce Maschinski, Announces Retirement

Escondido, CA – The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) has announced the retirement of its President and CEO, Dr. Joyce Maschinski, effective July 1, 2022.

Dr. Maschinski was appointed President & CEO of CPC on October 9, 2019, by the CPC Board of Trustees. A highly respected plant conservation scientist, Joyce, previously held positions at The Arboretum at Flagstaff, AZ and Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Coral Gables, FL and, most recently, served in the dual role as Director of Plant Conservation at San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and V.P. of Science and Conservation of CPC. Joyce’s research on seed biology, plant demography, and reintroductions of dozens of rare plant species is internationally renowned. Her commitment to multidisciplinary, collaborative work is equally esteemed. Joyce’s scientific expertise and extraordinary leadership skills guided an important productive era for CPC.

“Over the years, I have been blessed to make so many great plant conservation friends and so many amazing rare plants,” said Dr. Maschinski. “I loved bringing us together to write the [CPC Best Plant Conservation Practices to Support Species Survival in the Wild](#) and I’m so happy to see the entire network’s great work displayed on the [CPC Rare Plant Academy](#) and in the upcoming CPC Applied Plant Conservation Online Course.”

While at CPC, Joyce facilitated the synthesis of our network’s tremendous brain trust and scientific accomplishments in publications and online resources. The [CPC Best Plant Conservation Practices to Support Species Survival in the Wild](#) are available online with instructional videos and a community forum as part of the [CPC Rare Plant Academy](#). The guidelines highlight the methods our scientific network systematically deploys to conserve rare plants and set the gold standards of the industry. The inspirational and instructional videos available online are a way our scientists connect their experiences with rare plant conservation practitioners around the world. The forum provides an opportunity to engage in conversations about critical questions, and to deepen the awareness of challenges and solutions to plant conservation. Continuing our vision to provide resources for practitioners, CPC will launch the first modules of the Applied Plant Conservation Online Course in fall 2022 – a synthesis featuring many of the bright and dedicated CPC network scientists.

In addition, Joyce and colleagues published or initiated major syntheses of CPC plant conservation science to review plant reintroductions, to test seed longevity, and to revise our 10% collection rule. Coming together, we improve our understanding of these fundamental aspects of plant conservation practice and we save more plants than would ever be possible alone.

Since 2019, in acknowledgement of its vision, science, and leadership, Joyce and CPC assumed responsibility as the fiscal sponsor of the [California Plant Rescue \(CaPR\)](#). With generous funding from the

State of California's Biodiversity Initiative, California Plant Rescue is a 5-year seed banking and research initiative. Through efforts of the California Native Plant Society, a CPC Conservation Partner, the California legislature awarded \$3.6 million towards seed banking, data management, and infrastructure aimed at bringing its rare and endangered plant species under conservation management. Since receiving this award, CaPR botanic gardens, many of which are CPC Participating Institutions, have secured 442 new rare plant populations in seed banks – even with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Modeling after California Plant Rescue, in 2020, CPC launched and is currently fundraising for a [similar initiative in Florida](#).

During Joyce's tenure, the [National Collection of Endangered Plants](#) increased from 1511 to 2208 rare plant species, and CPC's network expanded from 57 to 71 Institutional Conservation Partners. Most recently, we welcomed the Southeast Grassland Initiative, United Plant Savers, and the Institute for Regional Conservation to our network. What's more, in spring 2022, CPC launched new Conservation Partner categories for individuals: plant conservation professionals, emerging professionals, and students. These new partners not only expand our brain trust, but increase our ability to spread good plant conservation practice around the world. These significant milestones position CPC for a bright future.

"It's hard to express my gratitude for giving me the wonderful opportunity to lead this fine organization," concluded Dr. Maschinski. "I'm sure you will join me in wishing the CPC Board of Trustees the best of luck as they seek CPC's next inspirational leader."

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The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) is a one-of-a-kind network, uniting plant conservationists from botanical gardens, arboretums, and other plant-focused organizations that collaboratively work to save the rare and endangered plants of the United States, its territories, and Canada, throughout their native range. Founded in 1984, CPC's mission is to safeguard rare plants by advancing science-based conservation practices, connecting and empowering plant conservationists, and inspiring all to protect biodiversity for future generations. The CPC National Office is located at 15600 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027. CPC has been headquartered at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in Escondido, California since 2016, in partnership with the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, a CPC Participating Institution. For more information, visit saveplants.org or contact info@saveplants.org. Follow CPC on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) to join the conservation conversation.