



## CENTER FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 25, 2023

### **Native Plant Summit to Highlight the Critical Importance of Endangered Plants**

Escondido, CA – The San Diego County-based nonprofit, the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), is pleased to present an inaugural summit event, ***Unleashing the Power of Native Plants: A Resilient Future for Our Planet***, taking place in Boston, MA, on Friday, October 13, 2023, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the renowned Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. The summit will serve as a platform for esteemed experts, professionals, and advocates from related fields to come together and discuss the importance of protecting and conserving native plants and their habitats as well as the pivotal role of plant species in establishing sustainable responses to global environmental crises.

With this summit, the Center for Plant Conservation—a leading authority on science-based best practices to conserve rare and endangered native plants—seeks to elevate awareness, stimulate conversations, and foster collaborative efforts to address native plant extinction and habitat eradication that place future ecosystem sustainability at a crisis point. The loss of unique native plant species and the deterioration of the open landscapes they rely on not only diminish the biodiversity of our ecosystems but jeopardize the delicate balance upon which all humans and animal species on the planet depend.

“For 40 years, CPC has been implementing a unique model for preventing the extinction of rare and endangered plants, providing an essential “safety net” against the disappearance of these species,” said Dr. Carlos L. de la Rosa, CPC’s President & CEO. “This safety net is not just an idea to solve the plant-pollinator-habitat extinction crisis. It is an ongoing, proven, and successful initiative we must ramp up and complete as soon as possible.”

CPC is thrilled to host distinguished scientists and conservationists from throughout its nationwide network of botanical organizations for a keynote presentation and panel discussion during the summit. The event’s keynote speaker, Dr. William (Ned) Friedman, Director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University, will be joined by an expert speaker panel including Dr. Emily E.D. Coffey, Vice President of Conservation & Research at Atlanta Botanical Garden; Wesley Knapp, Chief Botanist of NatureServe; and Dr. Lucinda McDade, Executive Director & Judith B. Friend Director of Research at California Botanic Garden.

“Our keynote speaker and panelists represent institutions and organizations that are part of CPC’s network of 74 Conservation Partners; all focused on safeguarding and educating the world about plant species that are most at risk,” said Dr. de la Rosa. “Their work in documenting, researching, and effectively addressing the prevention of species extinction is at the core of CPC’s mission.”

This event is generously sponsored by Corient and the Boston Junior League Garden Club. Event information and speaker bios can be found [here](#).

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Founded in 1984, the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) is a leading authority on science-based best plant conservation practices with the mission to *safeguard rare plants by advancing science-based conservation practices, connecting and empowering plant conservationists, and inspiring all to protect biodiversity for future generations*. CPC serves as the hub of a one-of-a-kind network, uniting plant conservationists from 74 botanical gardens, arboretums, and other plant-focused organizations that collaboratively work to save the 4,400 most rare and endangered plants of the United States, its territories, and Canada, throughout their native range.

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](http://saveplants.org) or contact [info@saveplants.org](mailto:info@saveplants.org). Follow CPC on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) to join the conservation conversation.