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The Center for Plant Conservation Appoints Scot Medbury as Interim CEO

Escondido, CA – The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Scot Medbury as Interim CEO. Drawing on his extensive experience working in public gardens and his long-standing association with CPC—including serving on the Board of Trustees for nine years and serving as a Conservation Officer from Hawai’i in the early 1990s—Scot’s leadership and expertise will provide continuity and focus as he guides the organization to search for a new permanent CEO this summer.

“Scot and I joined the CPC Board at the same time,” shared Dr. Barbara Millen, CPC Board Chair. “While working together for nearly a decade, I gained deep admiration and respect for Scot’s leadership skills, horticultural expertise, collegial and affable nature, and knowledge of the powerful constituencies and networks that work together with CPC towards sustainable ecological solutions in North America and throughout the globe. It will be a great pleasure to work again with Scot and the CPC Board together as we enhance CPC’s leadership framework and guide its strategic future.”

Scot brings to the Interim CEO role a distinguished career in the curation, cultivation, and interpretation of public gardens, which spans four decades. His experience includes prominent appointments at gardens in California, Washington, Hawai’i, Great Britain, and New Zealand. Notably, Scot is President Emeritus of Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) in New York City, where he served as the Garden’s sixth leader from 2005 to 2020. Under his leadership, BBG successfully launched and completed a \$125 million capital campaign, resulting in a decade of award-winning new gardens, sustainability features, and visitor facilities.

In addition to his tenure at BBG, Scot also held the position of Executive Director at Sonoma Botanical Garden (2020-2023) and served as Director of both the San Francisco Botanical Garden and the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers (1999-2005). At the historic Conservatory, he oversaw a comprehensive restoration and exhibitions upgrade, re-establishing it as one of San Francisco’s premier attractions. Currently, Scot manages the University of Oregon’s research-greenhouse complex, a role he will leave in July 2024 to step into his new position at CPC.

Scot is actively involved in several professional associations, including the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), where he is a past Trustee. He has served on the governing councils of CPC, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, and as an advisor to the International Dendrology Society and numerous public gardens. Today, he is a Trustee of the Highstead Foundation in Redding, CT.

His contributions to the field have been recognized with numerous accolades, including the professional citation from APGA in 2004 and honorary membership in the Garden Club of America in 2005. In 2006, Scot was named to the American Alliance of Museums' Centennial Honor Roll.

Scot holds two degrees from the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle: an MS from the UW Center for Urban Horticulture and a BA, *Phi Beta Kappa*, from the UW Jackson School of International Studies.

“I am honored to advise and assist CPC’s Board during this important transition,” says Medbury. “My primary goal is to further strengthen the organization to enable my successor to take it to the next level of productivity and success, something essential at a time when the degree of plant endangerment is growing at a record pace.”

CPC is confident that Scot’s interim leadership brings the dedication and expertise needed to guide the organization as it continues to and advance its critical mission to save plants from extinction. CPC’s Conservation Partners, friends, and supporters are in good hands during this important transition. Please join us in welcoming Scot to this new role!

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Founded in 1984, the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) is a leading authority on science-based best practices for rare plant conservation 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 79 botanical gardens, arboreta, federal agencies, and other plant-focused organizations that collectively 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 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 [X \(Twitter\)](#) to join the conservation conversation.