

# HOPE FOR HEALING THE PLANET



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN  
2007 ANNUAL REPORT



JUST ONE LOOK  
 AT THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN  
 AND THE SURPRISE AND WONDER  
 OF THE *plant world*  
 COME ALIVE.

JUST ONE LOOK  
 AT THE *state of our planet* AND YOU'LL  
 WONDER, WHAT WILL IT TAKE  
 TO KEEP IT ALIVE?

THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN  
 EMBARKS ON THE HUMANITARIAN  
 CAUSE OF OUR LIFETIME.

SAVE THE PLANTS. SAVE THE PLANET.

*The site of the future Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Conservation Science Center at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Designed by Booth Hansen, in partnership with Oehme, van Sweden landscape architects. The new building will be adjacent to the Lavin Plant Evaluation Garden. Groundbreaking 2008. Scheduled completion 2009. Story page 4.*



THE REAL

*inconvenient truth* IS THIS:  
*if the plants go, we go.*



**FALL LINGERED A LITTLE TOO LONG LAST YEAR.**

October 2007 was the mildest in thirty-six years. The month's average temperature was 60.4 degrees, well above the 54.1-degree October average recorded since 1928. The warmer weather meant we could take another stroll through the Chicago Botanic Garden and enjoy the magnificent colors—in November. In fact, for the first time in recent memory, many trees were still covered in leaves at Thanksgiving.

Unfortunately, our fall was simply a footnote to the global story on climate change. While Chicagoans were remarking on the lovely weather, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was releasing its *Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007*:

- “There is observational evidence from all continents and oceans that many natural systems are being affected by regional climate changes, particularly temperature increases.”<sup>1</sup>
- “A global assessment of data since 1970 has shown it is likely that anthropogenic (human-caused) warming has had a discernable influence on many physical and biological systems.”<sup>2</sup>

The report, compiled by leading scientists worldwide, is comprehensive in scope, compelling in message: Our world is warming up and we humans are to blame. Our impact on this earth is having profound repercussions, changing the planet as we know it.

**HOW REAL IS THIS THREAT?**

Worldwide, by 2050, it is predicted that 34,000 plant species will become extinct, and in the United States, we are at risk of losing 29 percent of our plant species. Scientists say one thing is certain: If climate change is causing us concern, it should be about the peril to plants.

And this is a problem. The world—humans, animals, insects, birds, fungi—depends on plants for the air we breathe, our food, medicine, clothing, shelter. And plants depend on us.

Yet, the impending extinction of plant species is noticeably absent from most green conversations. When was the last time we heard a celebrity hold a news conference about a threatened plant? Clearly our plant world needs a defender, a protector, a champion. The Chicago Botanic Garden is not just reporting for duty. We're leading the way.

**THE REPORTS ARE SERIOUS,  
BUT NOT HOPELESS. IF WE ACT NOW.**

In the past ten years, the Chicago Botanic Garden's plant conservation science program has grown to become one of the premier programs in the country. We have embarked on a far-reaching course to address pressing conservation issues to save our plants, and ultimately, to save our planet.

Without question, this is the humanitarian effort of our lifetime. The strength of the Garden's leadership and the breadth of its work are born from a powerful commitment to our planet and our children—a legacy for the future.

In June 2008, thanks to an \$8 million challenge grant from the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation, we will break ground on the 36,000-square-foot Rice Plant Conservation Science Center. Here, the Garden will expand international research on the most critical threats to plant diversity: climate change, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and pollution. We will launch a unique doctoral program in plant conservation and biology with Northwestern University.

Late in 2007, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)—a global conservation organization that networks 600 botanic gardens in 120 countries around the world—named the Chicago Botanic Garden as its United States headquarters. The Garden will play a key role in helping coordinate BGCI's conservation programs.

On the local level, we expanded the role of the Chicago Botanic Garden with the launch of Windy City Harvest, an ambitious plan to create an urban organic food production program on the west side of Chicago.

If there's an impetus for our high level of commitment, it comes from the Garden family: fiercely loyal, passionately supportive Boards; over 50,000 members, volunteers and staff; generous corporate and philanthropic partners; academic partners; and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, its President Todd H. Stroger, board of commissioners, and General Superintendent Steven M. Bylina, Jr.

Together, we can remind our city, our nation, and our world that there is no “green” conversation without plant

conservation. This year's annual report gives substance to that conversation. Let's put some muscle behind green. Let's focus our passion for plants and make it grow. Let's never forget that plant conservation is the ultimate humanitarian cause.

And let's never forget the catalyst for all of it: the Chicago Botanic Garden, providing an enduring case for the wonder and awe of the plant world. And what it means to be green.



SOPHIA SISKEL  
*President and CEO*

WILLIAM J. HAGENAH  
*Chairman*

<sup>1</sup> The AR4 Synthesis Report

<sup>2</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Working Group II Report: “Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability”

IT'S ABOUT THE PLANTS.

*it's about the planet.*



**BUILDING THE NATION'S PREMIER PLANT CONSERVATION SCIENCE CENTER.**

**THE STAKES ARE ENORMOUS:** Nearly 30 percent of the nation's plants are threatened with extinction by 2050.

**THE PROJECT IS AMBITIOUS:** The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Center, a new 36,000-square-foot plant conservation science center where the Garden will tackle the pressing endangerment of the nation's and the world's plant life through research and education.

Rice Center laboratories will house the Garden's research programs in molecular biology, conservation genetics, plant physiology, community ecology, reproductive biology, and mycology/fungal diversity. The new facility will enable the Garden to expand international research on the most critical threats to plant diversity—climate change, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and pollution.

Thanks to an \$8 million challenge grant from the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation, the Chicago Botanic Garden will break ground in June 2008, with completion slated for 2009. Here, the Garden plans to strengthen ongoing international plant conservation research and expand education programs to

include a doctoral degree in plant biology and conservation, in collaboration with Northwestern University.

"The new Rice Center will become the world's state-of-the-art facility for plant conservation science," said Sophia Siskel, president and chief executive officer of the Chicago Botanic Garden. "The new science center will provide sophisticated laboratories for research in a wide variety of plant science disciplines, and the teaching facilities critical to the Garden's mission to train plant science and conservation leaders."

The Rice Center is part of a planned 15-acre research campus connected to the heart of the Garden by a dramatic footbridge. A viewing gallery and 10,000-square-foot living roof will be open to the public, giving nearly 800,000 visitors and school children each year the opportunity to view plant science firsthand. The building, designed by Booth Hansen, uses materials and systems to earn a "gold" rating for sustainable design from the U.S. Green Building Council.

**THE RESULT:** A national home to far-reaching education and research programs with an engaged visitorship united by a single purpose—saving the world's plants and the planet.

**LEADERSHIP COMMITMENTS**

*As of April 30, 2008*

**\$5,000,000 and above**

Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation

**\$1,000,000 – \$2,499,999**

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Hagenah

The Harris Family Foundation

The Hunter Family

Josephine P. and

John J. Louis Foundation

The Negaunee Foundation

Woman's Board of the

Chicago Horticultural Society

Anonymous (2)

**\$500,000 – \$999,999**

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Lenhardt, Jr.

**\$250,000 – \$499,999**

The Buchanan Family Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley M. Dixon, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. James J. Glasser

Cathy and Bill Osborn

Howard J. and

Paula M. Trienens Fund

Susan A. Willetts and Alan K. Pritz

Ms. Nicole S. Williams and

Dr. Lawrence Becker

Anonymous

**\$100,000 – \$249,999**

Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Carr III

Nancy Gidwitz and Jeff Grossman

Mrs. Max A. Hart

Illinois Clean Energy

Community Foundation

Julie and George Peinado

Dr. Scholl Foundation, in honor

of Barbara Whitney Carr

Dr. Albert H. Slepyan

Anonymous (2)

**\$50,000 – \$99,999**

Dorothy H. Gardner

Sue L. Gin

Robert D. Hevey Jr. and

Constance M. Filling

Kitty and Bill Moeller

Dr. M. J. Pomeranz

Elizabeth and Charles Schroeder

Ms. Scotty Searle

Tawani Foundation

**\$25,000 – \$49,999**

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Lake Forest Garden Club

Chauncey and Marion D.

McCormick Family Foundation

Homi and Anne Patel

Peggy and Art Wood,

Wood Family Foundation

**\$10,000 – \$24,999**

Mr. and Mrs. Harrington Bischof

Mr. J. Melfort Campbell

Susan and Michael Canmann

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher A. Deveny

Kathi S. Grant

Barbara Jane Irwin and Robert Romo

Mrs. Arthur R. Kneibler

Edward and Lucy Minor

Mr. and Mrs. Jay L. Owen, Jr.

Mrs. Edward K. Poor III

Sophia and Jon Siskel

Mrs. Jackson W. Smart, Jr.

Anonymous (1)

**\$5,000 – \$9,999**

Bryn Reese and Dean Klovens



A: Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Conservation Science Center  
 B: Rooftop Gardens  
 C: Entry Bridge over Rainwater Glen  
 D: Bike and Tram Path  
 E: Lavin Plant Evaluation Garden  
 F: Science Campus Bridge  
 G: Evening Island

*"We are very proud that we gave one of the first gifts to establish the research program at the Chicago Botanic Garden more than a decade ago," said Peter Nolan, Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation president. "The plant research under way at the Garden is significant and the Rice Foundation is pleased to provide for its growth into the future."*



LEFT TO RIGHT: DANIEL F. AND ADA L. RICE FOUNDATION BOARD DIRECTORS: CORI NOLAN; PETER NOLAN, PRESIDENT; ROBIN NOLAN



# Seed bank

## SECURITY GUARDS

If three people have nature's back, they're Pati Vitt, Ph.D., curator; and Emily Yates, M.S. and David Sollenberger, co-coordinators of the Chicago Botanic Garden's National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank. Together, they manage the Chicago Botanic Garden's participation in national and international seed banking projects—a crucial step in conservation science.

With global warming hot on the heels of plant survival, seed banking is the practice of collecting seeds and storing them in subzero temperatures, where they can be safe for centuries. Seed banks act like Fort Knox, protecting seeds from harm's way until they may be needed.

### THE PRAIRIE STATE?



Illinois, known as the "Prairie State," should rethink its moniker. Only 1/100 of the original prairie still exists in Illinois. Chicago Botanic Garden's National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank is an important step in helping us reaffirm our state nickname.

The Garden has been an active participant in seed banking for years. In 2000, the Millennium Seed Bank Project was launched by London's Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The Chicago Botanic Garden joined the worldwide effort as a U.S. partner and is specializing in collecting the seeds of the highly endangered tallgrass prairie ecosystem. Our prairies are facing a multitude of threats including

development, urbanization, invasive species, global climate change, and pollution. Saving seeds not only preserves our natural heritage, but provides material for restoration and research projects.

The international effort aims to collect seeds from 10 percent of the world's 280,000 flowering plant species by 2010. The Garden is collecting 10,000 to 20,000 seeds from each of the 1,500 native species across the Midwestern and Great Plains states—that's 15 to 30 million seeds collected by hand. The seeds will be stored on-site in the Garden's Dixon Seed Bank Vault for use in on-the-ground restoration projects, seed biology, and ecology-related research.

### *Seeds of Health. Seeds of Hope.*

Herbal remedies have enjoyed a resurgence in popularity. *Echinacea*—or purple coneflower—is frequently used at the onset of a cold and in the treatment of viral infections and inflammation. Native Americans have used *Echinacea* for over 400 years as a cure for infections and wounds. Now found in over-the-counter supplements and teas, it is thought to aid in the treatment of everything from ear infections to athlete's foot. This popular herb generates more than \$300 million in sales annually.

*Echinacea* is a common prairie flower that blanketed the Midwest years ago. However, urbanization and agriculture have overtaken the prairie, leaving only small, isolated fragments where these



native plants try to survive. Seed banking efforts have helped prevent this popular flower from becoming extinct.

Purple coneflowers continue to brighten Midwestern gardens each summer—and provide relief for Midwestern sniffles throughout the winter. That's a seed worth banking on.



*"Three years ago, it seemed that all my life's training would end up for naught because of the effects of climate change on natural ecosystems. Then one morning I realized: I work at an institution that has all the basic requirements to affect positive change in the face of global warming and the coming environmental changes. I realized that I work at the environmental equivalent of the Mayo Clinic."*

— PATI VITT, PH.D., CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN CONSERVATION SCIENTIST, PLANT DEMOGRAPHER



## THE HEALING POWER OF *horticulture*

**WINDY CITY HARVEST HELPS REBUILD LIVES AND COMMUNITY.**

Nature is filled with lessons of rebirth and second chances. So it is fitting that the Chicago Botanic Garden would take the lead on Windy City Harvest, a pioneering new urban agriculture program in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood.

Windy City Harvest creates jobs and provides opportunities for residents to learn about horticulture and organic food production alongside Garden growers and educators, while creating much-needed green space in an inner-city environment.

North Lawndale Employment Network, the City Colleges of Chicago, and the Chicago Christian Industrial League have been the Garden's key partners in this important initiative. Lead donors include the Steans Family Foundation and the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust.



U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, D-Ill., requested and secured \$75,000 in funding for Windy City Harvest. Sen. Durbin, a long-time friend of the Chicago Botanic Garden, enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the Garden.



### *College First Cultivates Young Scientists.*

The Chicago Botanic Garden is greening the next generation of conservationists thanks to College First, an innovative two-year program for high school students. During the summer, students study at the Garden—learning about conservation biology, plant genetics, aquatics research, and horticulture. For eight weeks, students are mentored by Garden staff on job skills and workplace etiquette. Field trips and guest speakers contribute to their learning.



Throughout the school year, students attend monthly meetings with an emphasis on study skills and college and career guidance, including financial aid planning. Each year, eighteen students participate. Selected in their sophomore year, students continue through high school graduation. They are often the first in their families to attend college.



## GROWING *green thumbs* AND ENTREPRENEURS

Summer is anything but lazy for the thirty-six high school students who participate in the Chicago Botanic Garden's Green Youth Farm, a model program for underserved youth that runs from May through October each year.

Students learn all aspects of organic farming, with daily doses of leadership, team building, and responsibility. The young farmers are encouraged to take the produce home for family and neighbors. The rest is sold at farmers' markets and at the Garden. Students are paid a stipend with incentives to earn bonuses. Returning students are given more responsibility and help manage student teams. Waukegan High School, North Chicago Community High School, North Lawndale College Prep, and the Manley Career Academy in Chicago participate in the program.

The Garden operates two farms—one in Chicago's North Lawndale community and the other in North Chicago. By the end of the summer, these sites are bursting with great organic food, and young student farmers discovering that their gardens are not the only things to have grown.

In 2007, the Green Youth Farm successfully established a middle school program for ten sixth- through eighth-graders at McCorkle School on South State Street.



**WINDY CITY HARVEST IS SUPPORTED BY**  
Bank of America Illinois  
Bradshaw-Knight Foundation, Inc.  
Kristin Dean  
James W. DeYoung  
Robert F. Finke  
Food for Thought Enterprise  
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation  
Harris Bank Foundation  
Greta Huizenga  
Illinois Department of Commerce  
and Economic Opportunity  
Tiffany Johnson  
Margaret Leider  
Mazany Charitable Fund of the  
Chicago Community Foundation  
Polk Bros. Foundation  
Sara Lee Foundation  
Searle Family Trust  
The Searle Funds at  
The Chicago Community Trust  
The Siragusa Foundation  
Steans Family Foundation  
Heather Steans  
Joseph W. Turner  
Robert and Ellen Vladem

- GREEN YOUTH FARM PARTNERS**  
Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago  
NeighborSpace  
Umoja Student Development Corporation
- GREEN YOUTH FARM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY**  
After School Matters, Inc.  
Alvin H. Baum Family Fund  
Grace A. Bersted Foundation  
Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust  
Harris Bank Foundation  
Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Kraft Foods, Inc.  
Walter S. Mander Foundation  
Ruddie Memorial Youth Foundation  
The Siragusa Foundation  
Steans Family Foundation
- ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IS PROVIDED BY**  
The Brinson Foundation  
HSBC-North America  
Junior Garden Club of Lake Forest  
Kemper Educational and Charitable Fund

PLANT CONSERVATION IS A GLOBAL CONCERN. *The Chicago Botanic Garden leads the way.*

**1** **GREAT BASIN, ROCKY MOUNTAINS**  
Garden-trained interns form partnerships with the U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, to work on habitat conservation research in the Western states.



**2** **OTTAWA, CANADA**  
Kayri Havens, Ph.D., Garden plant conservation scientist, plays a key role in IUCN (World Conservation Union) Plants Committee meeting.



**3** **ENGLAND**  
The Garden participates in the Millennium Seed Bank project with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.



**4** **REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA**  
Dr. Shalva Sikharulidze and Dr. Marine Eristavi from the Republic of Georgia work with Garden scientists to develop a plant introduction program similar to *Chicagoland Grows*,™ to benefit the Bakuriani Alpine Botanical Garden.



**5** **NORTHEAST CHINA**  
Galen Gates, Garden director of plant collections, partners with Chinese scientists on an expedition into northeast China to discover new plants.



**6** **UNITED STATES**  
Boyce Tankersley, the Garden's director of living plant documentation, is project manager for *PlantCollections* database, a collaboration between the Garden and American Public Gardens Association, University of Kansas, Google Base, Florida State University, and others worldwide.

**7** **PERU, SOUTH AMERICA**  
Pati Vitt, Ph.D., Garden conservation scientist, led studies at the Tahuayo River Basin Amazon research station in the Amazon Basin of Peru in South America.

**8** **BEIJING, CHINA**  
Beijing links the first four of 180 Chinese botanic gardens to the Garden's *PlantCollections* database.

**9** **WUHAN, CHINA**  
Kayri Havens, Ph.D., Garden plant conservation scientist, and Larry DeBuhr, Ph.D., Garden vice president of academic affairs, participate in the Botanic Gardens Conservation International Congress.



**10** **PERTH, AUSTRALIA**  
Australia sends interns to train in the Garden's Conservation and Land Management Fellows program.



## THE *green carpet* TREATMENT

### CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN EARNS PLANT CONSERVATION AND GARDEN AWARDS.

The Chicago Botanic Garden's commitment to excellence was recognized in 2007 by three prestigious organizations.

The Plant Conservation Alliance awarded its 2007 Leadership Award to the Chicago Botanic Garden in recognition of its outstanding conservation efforts, habitat restoration research, and training programs for future plant scientists.

The Chicago Botanic Garden's work in habitat restoration began in 2002, through a partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, to create the Conservation and Land Management Intern program. This program has trained 300 field botany and ecology interns in twelve Western states, creating a new generation of plant conservation leaders.



Kris Jarantoski

The American Horticultural Society bestowed its Professional Award on Kris Jarantoski, executive vice president and director of the Chicago Botanic Garden. The award recognizes a member of the horticulture community whose career achievements represent a significant contribution to horticulture.

"Kris has made enormous contributions to the development of the Garden and its collections, which will continue to make an impact on visitors and Garden employees for years to come," said Sophia Siskel, president and CEO of the Chicago Botanic Garden. Jarantoski develops and directs horticulture, plant collections, and garden operations. He has served the Garden for thirty-one years.



Barbara Whitney Carr

The American Public Gardens Association (APGA) presented its prestigious 2007 Award of Merit to Barbara Whitney Carr, former Garden president and CEO. The award recognizes an individual who has performed with distinction in the field of public horticulture and has excelled as a public garden professional. Carr, who joined the Garden in 1995 as president and CEO, led the creation of a \$148 million, ten-year master site plan and fundraising effort that encompassed the construction of eight new gardens, expanding the Garden's collection to 2.3 million plants.

## CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN RECOGNIZED AS *international plant conservation hub*

### BOTANIC GARDENS CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHES U.S. HEADQUARTERS AT THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN.

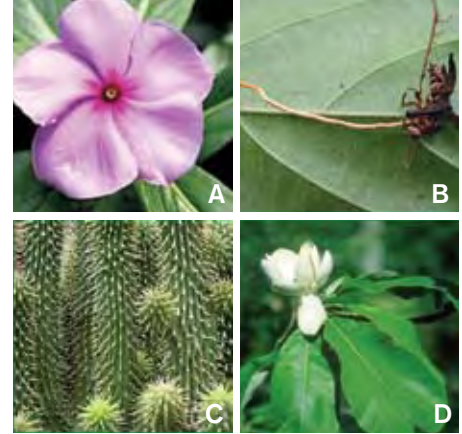
How do you mobilize 2,500 botanical institutions in 120 countries around the world to join forces for plant conservation? You work with a committed leader. Last November, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), a global conservation organization headquartered in London, named the Chicago Botanic Garden as its U.S. headquarters.

The Garden will play a key role in helping coordinate and link the network of BGCI's North American conservation programs to its global programs. Worldwide efforts include engaging people and botanic gardens, securing plant diversity, and influencing decision making and policy. The partnership will build on the Garden's well-established association with the American Public Garden Association, the Center for Plant Conservation, the Plant Conservation Alliance, and plant conservation networks in Canada and Mexico.

"The opening of our U.S. headquarters at the Chicago Botanic Garden marks an exciting milestone in BGCI's development," said Sara Oldfield, secretary general of the BGCI. "Combining our global reach with the Garden's incomparable expertise is undoubtedly one of our most exciting partnerships, creating a major force for plant conservation in the diverse, varied continent."

*"When I became the Garden's first Ph.D. student four years ago, I was thrilled to be in a position that allowed me to utilize the Garden's staff, and unique connections and facilities to perform research that truly makes a positive impact on conservation and restoration practices and policies around the world today."*

— ANDREA KRAMER, CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, PH.D. CANDIDATE, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BOTANIC GARDENS CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL (U.S.), INC.



### *The healing power of plants.*

Here's what's at stake:

**A. Catharanthus roseus** (Rosy periwinkle)—Treats four out of five children with leukemia.

**B. Caterpillar Fungus**—A parasitic fungus that may help slow aspects of the aging process.

**C. Hoodia**—A Namibian succulent that could address obesity.

**D. Hou Po**—A Chinese Magnolia, effective for previously untreatable cancers.

*Plants for Life*, a recent BGCI report, reveals that hundreds of medicinal plant species, whose naturally occurring chemicals make up the basis of over 50 percent of all medicinal drugs, are facing global extinction. This report brings the world's leading botanists, conservationists, healthcare professionals, and traditional healers together to identify which medicinal plant species are most at risk and what steps are needed to save them.





## CRABAPPLES vs. CLIMATE CHANGE

# *a cautionary tale*

Every Mother’s Day, scores of families enjoy the lush beauty of crabapple tree blossoms throughout the Chicago Botanic Garden. It’s a long-time tradition—one that may disappear in the next twenty-five years if global warming continues at its current rate.

How do we know? Computer modeling is an important tool for Garden scientists who develop various scenarios to better understand the impact of climate change on plants. Garden scientist Pati Vitt conducted a computer model (see diagram below) of the Prairifire (Malus ‘Prairifire’) crabapple.

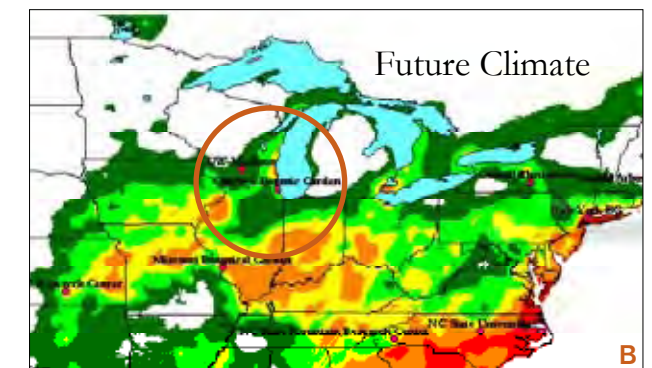
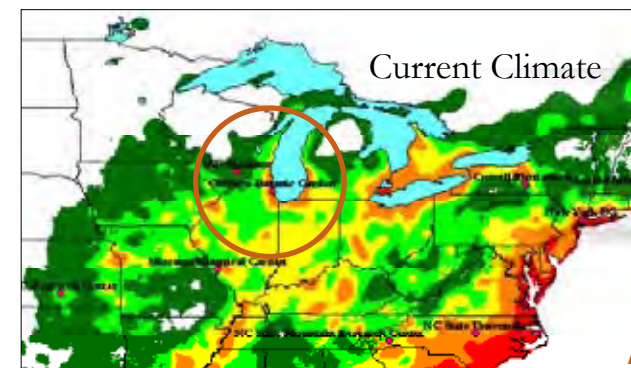
Current conditions provide a welcoming climate for the Prairifire crabapples.

Fast forward to 2030. With current predictions of climate warming, the environment dramatically changes for the worse. Our climate zone becomes potentially inhospitable for the beloved Prairifire crabapples, and global warming comes to rest, right in our own backyard.

The crabapple story illuminates the urgency of the issue and the work of Garden conservation scientists. Threats to plant life may lead to the loss of important crops, a lifesaving drug—or the Garden’s crabapples.

### COMPUTER MODELING HELPS PREDICT THE FUTURE OF THE GARDEN’S PRAIRIFIRE CRABAPPLES.

In the diagram below, the warmer colors indicate areas of the highest suitability (red is the highest). The cool colors indicate areas of low suitability (dark green is the lowest).



Model A (above) shows climate suitability for Prairifire crabapples under current climatic conditions. Suitability is currently above average.

Model B (above) shows plant suitability under conditions predicted for 2030 under most scenarios. Suitability for Prairifire crabapple trees may be diminished.



*“The questions now focus on how much will the climate change and how will the change affect natural systems and humans. The results of our research are influencing land management policy and practice regionally, nationally, and globally. In many ways, plant and habitat conservation is the ultimate humanitarian cause.”*

— KAYRI HAVENS, PH.D., CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN DIRECTOR OF PLANT SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION





# THE FAIRCHILD challenge

## 2007 FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- Amundsen High School
- Antioch Community High School
- Benito Juarez Community Academy
- Big Picture High School at Back of the Yards
- Chicago High School for Agricultural Science
- Deerfield High School
- Dundee-Crown High School
- Lake Forest High School
- Lane Tech College Prep
- Niles West High School
- Riverside Brookfield High School
- Warren Township High School
- Zion-Benton Community High School

## THE FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

- Chicago Wilderness
- Circle of Service Foundation
- National City Bank

## TEENAGERS TAKE ON THE ENVIRONMENT. EVERYONE WINS.

These days, young people have a lot on their minds: sports, schoolwork, friends, getting a driver's license, and the environment. Yes, the environment. Through the Fairchild Challenge, Chicago-area teens are joining forces to address critical environmental issues with their hearts, minds, and all that teen energy.

The Fairchild Challenge—a free, interdisciplinary environmental competition for high school students originally developed at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens in Florida—began at the Chicago Botanic Garden in 2004. In just four years, the Fairchild Challenge has grown from 250 students in 2004 to 2,000 students involved in the 2007–2008 school year. The 2007–2008 program was sponsored by National City.

Students apply their creativity and critical thinking to create projects and participate in environmental-themed challenges. In 2007, students created a “Green Grub Hub,” researched “From Greenbacks to Smokestacks, the Plants That Shaped Chicago,” designed a “Sustainabili-Tee,” and participated in an environmental poetry slam.

Students' projects are awarded points by expert teams of judges from appropriate disciplines. Students can win the Eco-Expedition prize, a one- to two-week environmental expedition. Schools win cash prizes of up to \$1,000.

“The Fairchild Challenge engages our talented teenagers, putting their best thinking to work for the environment,” said Tree Sturman, Fairchild Challenge manager. “It’s a first step toward becoming actively engaged citizens, and perhaps, our next generation of conservation leaders.”

# Conservation IS CATCHING ON

## PROJECT BUDBURST BLOOMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

In spring 2007, the Chicago Botanic Garden helped launch Project Budburst, a multi-year national collaborative project to determine the impact of climate change on plants. Citizen gardeners from across the country monitored the first bursts of spring.

“By recording the timing of leafing and flowering of native species, we can learn more about the prevailing characteristics of local climates. In turn, we will be better able to predict the long-term effect of climate change on plants,” explained Dr. Kayri Havens, director of plant science and conservation at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

## The green movement inspires and motivates good environmental citizens.



Project Budburst is part of a larger study of phenology (the study of life-cycle events in plants and animals).

The long-term result of this research will help doctors to better time and predict the onset of allergy and asthma season; inform tourists when and where to go to observe bird migration, wildflower displays, and fall color; predict forest pest and disease outbreaks; and aid in invasive species management.

“This is a timely, relevant opportunity to engage a national corps of committed citizens, students, and teachers in an important conservation science project,” said Jennifer Schwarz, manager, Center for Teaching and Learning at the Garden. Project Budburst is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; the U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management; and the Plant Conservation Alliance.

Managing organizations are the Chicago Botanic Garden, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, and University of Montana. Collaborators include the National Phenology Network, University of Arizona, University of California–Santa Barbara, and University of Wisconsin–Madison.



## Esprit De Conservation Corps.

Chicago-area corporations are turning to the Garden to create meaningful volunteer projects for employees that build teams, provide community service, and help the environment.

A team of forty PricewaterhouseCoopers employees cleared three dump-truck loads of invasive buckthorn and prepared seeds for the National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank during their employee volunteer day at the Garden. Nearly 200 HSBC employees participated in a corporate volunteer day, during which they cleared buckthorn and improved paths in McDonald Woods, sorted seeds for the Seed Bank, and weeded and mulched display gardens. Teams from TAP Pharmaceuticals and AllState Insurance assisted with the Garden's annual bulb sale. And a team of managers from American Eagle Outfitters sorted seeds for the Seed Bank.





*“Every company and not-for-profit institution talks about ‘going green’. The Chicago Botanic Garden is not just talking—we’re taking action.”*

— SOPHIA SISKEL  
*Chicago Botanic Garden’s  
president and CEO*

## A LEGACY OF *leadership*

### GARDEN NAMES SOPHIA SISKEL NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO.

The Chicago Botanic Garden has a legacy of strong, visionary leadership. In 2007, Sophia Siskel, who became the Garden’s fifth president and CEO, embraced this legacy. She succeeded Barbara Whitney Carr, who retired after twelve years of stewardship of the Garden.

“The Garden conducted an international search that included some of the most talented people in the botanical garden and museum fields,” said William J. Hagenah, chairman of the Garden’s board of directors. “Sophia was selected to lead the Chicago Botanic Garden because of her extensive experience in museum management. Her leadership will advance the Garden’s mission as a public display garden and strengthen our role as a world leader in plant conservation, education, and horticulture.”

In her new position, Siskel will lead the Garden through an exciting time of growth and opportunity. Initiatives include: addressing the world’s pressing plant conservation issues, building the nation’s premier plant science conservation center, and embarking on a ten-year strategic plan.

Siskel is profoundly sensitive to the Garden’s dual role. “The Chicago Botanic Garden is a unique museum for gardeners, nature lovers, and solace-seekers. It continues to grow as a beloved destination for families and friends.

“Yet, as the earth faces profound environmental challenges, the Garden provides solutions and hope through its renowned plant science, plant conservation, and education programs,” Siskel said.

Siskel joined the Garden in February 2006 as vice president of visitor operations. She led a team of more than one hundred employees overseeing all aspects of the visitor experience at the Garden, 364 days a year.



Prior to the Chicago Botanic Garden, Siskel was vice president of exhibitions and education at The Field Museum. She also worked at the Museum of Contemporary Art, coordinated the 1995 Claude Monet retrospective at The Art Institute of Chicago, and directed exhibitions at Leslie Hindman Auctioneers, Chicago.

She is a graduate of Wellesley College, with a bachelor’s degree in art history and economics. She received her master’s degree in art history from the University of Chicago, and an M.B.A. from the J. L. Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. In 2002, she was named by *Crain’s Chicago Business* as one of “40 Under 40” and in 2008, she is one of *Crain’s* “Women to Watch.”

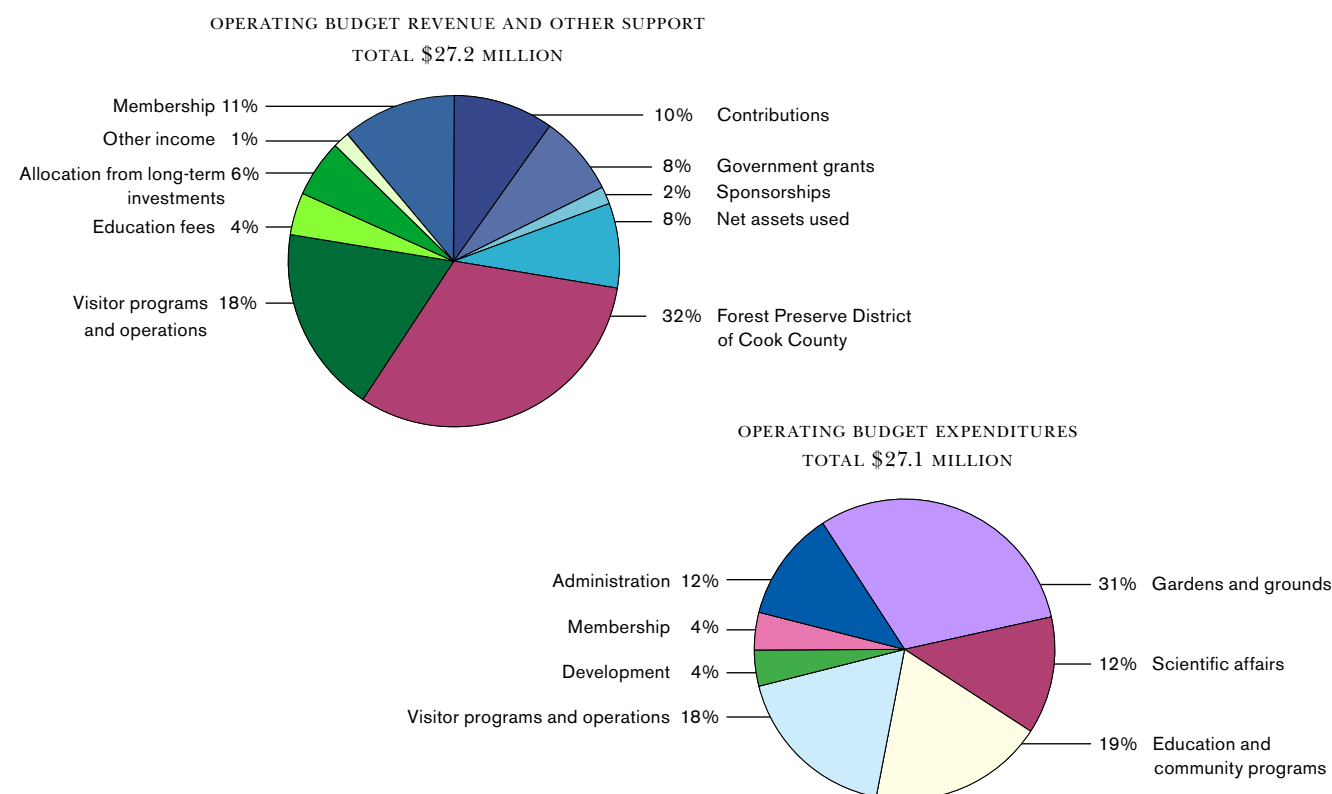
### *The next ten (exciting) years.*

Just as nature is constantly growing and changing, so is the Chicago Botanic Garden. During 2007, management teams collaborated on developing a new Master Site Plan for the Garden.

In addition to the Plant Conservation Science Campus, the plan calls for the development of three new campuses. The Children’s Learning Campus will greatly expand the Garden’s educational efforts. Thanks to State Representative Tom Cross (R-Ill.), the Garden received \$300,000 in state funding for the Children’s Campus entryway. The West Collections Campus will transform an underutilized area near the Garden wall to significantly expand the Garden’s plant collections. The new Entry Campus will include improved access and parking to create a more welcoming and horticulturally exciting visitor experience.

## STATEMENT OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007



### OPERATING RESULTS

The Garden's operating results for 2007 were solid, with a surplus of \$156,000. Operating revenue (see above) increased to \$27.2 million from \$25.6 million in 2006, an increase of 6 percent. The operating revenue increase was driven by strong results for Visitor Programs and Operations, which generated gross revenues of \$5 million, an increase of \$720,000, or 17 percent, from 2006. Membership also had a very successful year, topping 50,000 member households for the first time and showing record revenue of over \$3 million, up 21 percent from \$2.5 million in 2006.

With the inclusion of board-designated and restricted net assets, total revenue and other support was \$44.9 million, up \$1 million, or 2 percent, from \$43.9 million in 2006.

Actual operating expenditures in 2007 (see above) were \$27.1 million, an increase of \$1.6 million, or 6 percent, over 2006. Included in this amount was an increase of \$490,000 in Visitor Programs and Operations to support the increase in gross revenues. Visitor Programs and Operations expenditures in 2007 were \$4.9 million, compared to \$4.4 million in 2006. With the inclusion of depreciation, interest expense, major gift fundraising costs, and other designated expenditures that are not included in the operating budget, total expenses for 2007 were \$37.9 million, an increase of 5 percent over the \$35.9 million incurred in 2006.

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

The Garden's Statement of Financial Position also reflected the strong financial performance in 2007 (see right). Net assets increased by 7 percent to \$140.3 million in 2007 from \$131.1 million at the end of 2006. The \$96.4 million of unrestricted net assets represented the majority of total net assets, while \$24.2 million were temporarily restricted, and \$19.7 million were permanently restricted. This compares to \$97.1 million of unrestricted net assets, \$16.7 million of temporarily restricted net assets, and \$17.3 million of permanently restricted net assets in 2006.

Total assets increased from \$154.8 million in 2006 to \$167.7 million in 2007, an increase of 8 percent. The increase in asset value was due in part to the increase in the market value of institutional investments (primarily the endowment) that increased by \$4.5 million or 10 percent. Total liabilities increased by \$3.8 million or 16 percent. The largest increase was a note payable issued for a land purchase by Windy City Harvest.

*Complete audited financial statements for the Chicago Botanic Garden, including the auditor's report, for the year ended December 31, 2007, are available at [www.chicagobotanic.org/financialreport](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/financialreport)*

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2007 (in millions of dollars)

#### ASSETS

Cash	\$1.1
Pledges receivable	16.5
Accounts receivable	2.4
Investments	49.8
Other assets	2.1
Property and equipment	95.8

**TOTAL** \$167.7

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

##### Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$3.1
Notes payable	2.8
Other liabilities	1.5
Bonds payable	20.0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u><u>\$27.4</u></u>

##### Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$96.4
Temporarily restricted	24.2
Permanently restricted	19.7
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u><u>\$140.3</u></u>

**TOTAL** \$167.7

*"The Garden once again showed strong financial performance in 2007, both in terms of its operating and overall results. Total assets increased by 8 percent and net assets increased by 7 percent for the year. These strong results will further strengthen the Garden's ability to continue its leadership role in the advancement of botanical education and research throughout the region, the nation, and internationally."*

—TOM NISSLY, CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, AND TREASURER



A LEGACY OF  
*commitment*



*John H. Stroger, Jr.*  
MAY 19, 1929–JANUARY 18, 2008

For many years, President John H. Stroger, Jr., provided very important and insightful leadership, including involvement with the Garden’s strategic and master site plans, which guided the Garden’s development over the past ten years and will continue for many years to come.

His support and involvement led to the passage of Senate Bill 83, which secured needed funds for the Chicago Botanic Garden. The funds were used for major infrastructural improvements including miles of shoreline restoration, new and renovated facilities, and a new home for the Regenstein School of the Chicago Botanic Garden. They also helped the Garden increase educational opportunities for children, expand science and conservation initiatives, and strengthen support of community and neighborhood education projects which extend throughout Cook County.

President Stroger’s passion and commitment played a key role in creating the world-renowned institution that exists today. For all he had done for the Garden, in 1996, President Stroger received the Chicago Horticultural Society Medal for enduring leadership, service, and devotion.

His instrumental role in building a place of beauty, serenity, and peace—for all the people of Cook County—will always be part of President Stroger’s great legacy.

**LIFETIME BENEFACTORS**

*We are grateful to the following donors whose extraordinary generosity has built and transformed the Garden. Their gifts totaling \$1,000,000 or more have created beautiful landscapes, well-respected academic and research programs, and have established the Garden as an international center for plant science.*

*\$10,000,000 and above*  
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The Regenstein Foundation

*\$5,000,000 – \$9,999,999*  
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**CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN ENDOWED FUNDS 2007**  
*Endowed funds provide a secure foundation for the future. The Garden is honored by the thoughtful generosity of those who have established or contributed to the following named endowed funds. Permanent endowments may be established with gifts of \$50,000 or more.*

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Buehler Family Foundation  
**Buehler Fund for Horticultural Therapy** †  
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The Butz Foundation  
**Walter L. Cherry Internship in Horticulture** †  
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*2007 internship awarded to Jillian Serapin*  
**Joan L. Cole Fund** †  
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**Suzanne S. Dixon Prairie Endowment Fund**  
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*Position held by James R. Ault, Ph.D.*  
**Mary R. Ginger Research Fellowship at the School** †  
Dr. Leonard G. Ginger  
Estate of Mary R. Ginger  
*2007 fellowship awarded to Courtney Gill*

**Edna Kanaley Graham Bulb Garden Endowment Fund**  
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Hevey  
Mr. Robert D. Hevey Jr. and Ms. Constance M. Filling  
*2007 fellowship awarded to Douglas J. Lynch*

**Pamela K. Hull Internship Endowment**  
Pamela K. Hull

**Kenilworth Garden Club Endowment for the Buehler Enabling Garden** †  
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**Malott Family Endowment for the Japanese Garden** †  
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Malott Charitable Trust  
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**Mead Flower Show Endowment**  
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**Negaunee Foundation Fund for Invasive Plant Research** †  
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**Janet Meakin Poor Research Symposium Endowment** †  
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**Florence Rantz Enabling Garden Endowment**  
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**Searle Research Endowment Fund**  
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### Susan and Roger Stone Endowment for the Curator of the National Tall Grass Prairie Seed Bank †

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*Dr. David and Carolyn Nahrwoold at the 2007 Garden Heritage Society Dinner.*

### Woman's Board Endowment Fund for the Curator of Aquatics

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*Position held by Robert J. Kirschner*

### Woman's Board Endowed Fund for Aquatics Programs

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### Woman's Board Endowment for Community Gardening

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### Woman's Board Internship Endowment Fund

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*2007 internship awarded to Richard Hancock*

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### Dorothy D. Ziska Endowment Fund

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† *Contribution in 2007*

## ANNUAL GIVING

*Operating funds support the daily life of the Garden, touching all that goes on in every area. We are pleased to recognize those individuals who so generously gave gifts of \$150 or more between January 1 and December 31, 2007.*

### \$250,000 – \$499,999

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### \$100,000 – \$249,999

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Virginia B. Cherry\*

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*Finance Committee Chairman and long-time board member Dick Thomas with fellow board member George Peinado and his wife Julie at the June Summer Dinner Dance. Mr. Peinado is also a member of The Guild.*



*Eve Rogers and Julie O'Connor, co-chairs of the 2007 Harvest Ball given by The Guild of the Chicago Botanic Garden. This eagerly awaited fall celebration, with dinner, dancing, and live and silent auctions, raises money for the planned Growing Garden on the Children's Learning Campus.*



*Susan Willetts and her husband Alan Pritz enjoy the evening at the Summer Dinner Dance. Susan is a member of the Board and a co-chair of the Science Initiative Steering Committee.*

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*Sophia Siskel, volunteer Peter Dogiakos, and Barbara Carr share the Buehler Enabling Garden with Juliana Taylor and Katherine Buchanan during an afternoon tour of the Chicago Botanic Garden.*

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*Barbara Carr welcomes Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and their guests to the Summer Dinner Dance. Pictured with Mrs. Carr are Commissioner Tim and Shelly Schneider, Commissioner Mike and Barbara Quigley, Commissioner Tony and Nilo Peraica, Commissioner Earlean Collins, and Jerome Fulton.*



*Madeleine and Jim McMullan at the All Aboard! Wonderland Express dinner. Madeleine is a member of the Woman's Board.*



*Board member Jane Irwin and husband Bob Romo enjoy the evening at A Rare Affair.*



*Woman's Board Member Lois Steans and her husband, Harrison, at the 2007 Annual Meeting. The Steans family has been instrumental in the development of Windy City Harvest.*

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*John Gardner, Cindy Lenhardt, and their spouses, board members Ben Lenhardt and Dorothy Gardner, at the Summer Dinner Dance. Dorothy is a co-chair of the Development Committee. Ben is a co-chair of the Science Initiative Steering Committee, and with Cindy have named the libraries at both the Regenstein Center and the new Rice Plant Conservation Center.*

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*Summer Dinner Dance Co-Chairs Sandy and Jeanine McNally and Susan and Michael Canmann share a quiet moment before guests arrive. This annual gala welcomes the summer season with dinner and dancing, and raises funds for research, conservation, and education at the Garden.*



*2005–2007 Co-Presidents of The Guild of the Chicago Botanic Garden, Anne Loucks and Michael Busch.*



*Board member Nicole Williams and her husband, Dr. Larry Becker, look over the unique plants offered at A Rare Affair.*



*Women's Board members Mary Hill and May Cat Kneibler welcome the holiday season at Wonderland Express.*



*Peter and Cori Nolan of the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation at the annual meeting and dinner honoring retiring Garden President and CEO Barbara Carr.*

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*The Garden Heritage Society recognizes Garden friends who have thoughtfully provided for the Garden in their estate plans or through planned gifts. Planned gifts include charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, gifts of full or partial interests in homes, gifts of retirement plan assets, and will or trust provisions.*

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\* Deceased



*The Chicago Botanic Garden is grateful to the 1,000 volunteers who last year contributed time, energy, and love to the Garden. Volunteers work in science labs, prepare garden beds, staff special events, and welcome visitors.*

## VOLUNTEERS



One of the great surprises at the Chicago Botanic Garden is its eighty-one acres of waterways and six miles of shoreline. The Garden is grateful to State Representative Beth Coulson, who requested and secured \$50,000 for the Garden's \$8 million North Lake Restoration Project.

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Sheryll Rockway				

\* Deceased

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### WOMAN'S BOARD

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*Former Woman's Board President Mary Boyer welcomes guests to A Rare Affair. This biannual dinner and auction features a selection of rare and unusual plants.*

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*Peggy Carr, member of the Woman's Board since 1960, and her friend, Todd Schwebel of The Guild, at the Woman's Board's All Aboard! Wonderland Express dinner.*

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## CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

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Plant Conservation Biology  
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Living Collections  
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Graphic Design  
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Public Relations

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Design Services  
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### VISITOR PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

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Group Visits  
Interpretive Programs  
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Public Programs  
Retail Services  
Security  
Visitor Services

### FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Accounting  
Administrative Services  
Human Resources  
Information Services  
Volunteer Services

## GARDEN FACTS

### IN 2007, 760,025 VISITORS CAME TO SEE:

- 23 display gardens
- 3 native habitats
- 385 acres total
- 81 acres of waterways
- 9 islands
- 6 miles of shoreline
- 15 acres of prairie
- 100 acres of woods

### PLANTED AND CARED FOR BY:

- 250 full-time employees
- 45 part-time employees
- 170 seasonal employees
- More than 1,000 volunteers
- 50,000 members, the most of any botanic garden in the U.S.

### LIVING COLLECTIONS CONSIST OF:

- 2.3 million accessioned plants
- 9,414 taxa
- 13,038 trees
- 910,885 bulbs
- 1,152,871 perennials
- 24,045 aquatic plants
- 64,288 shrubs



## CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

THE MISSION OF THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN IS TO PROMOTE THE ENJOYMENT, UNDERSTANDING, AND CONSERVATION OF PLANTS AND THE NATURAL WORLD.



The text of this book contains  
30% post-consumer fiber.

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CONCEPT, DESIGN,  
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