### **2011 ANNUAL REPORT**



**CELEBRATE • CULTIVATE • CONSERVE** 

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden
2011 Annual Report
is dedicated to
the board, its committees,
the membership and volunteers
for their energy, intelligence
and extraordinary generosity



KEARNY'S GAP BRIDGE IN ARROYO DE LOS PINOS, MUSEUM HILL (PHOTO BY CHRIS CLARK)

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden celebrates, cultivates and conserves the rich botanical heritage and biodiversity of the region. Our commitment is demonstrated through education, community service and sustainable management of our nature preserves and future public garden.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Effective December 2011

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#### **President's Message**

May 2012

2011 has been a year of organization building and planning. In that regard I am pleased to report great progress in a number of areas – including

- Reaching 24% of our Museum Hill Campaign goal;
- Beginning construction of our new Garden at Museum Hill;
- Strengthening our Board of Directors:
- Creating a Legacy Society to provide for future endowment funds;
- Increasing annual memberships by 50%.

Our Capital Campaign raised \$1.8 million by the end of 2011, 24% of our \$7.5 million Museum Hill Campaign goal. The City of Santa Fe installed a bike trail from Old Pecos Trail to Camino Corrales alongside the arroyo leading into our cultivated Botanical Garden. We restored and relocated a 1913 historic bridge abandoned on ranchland outside Las Vegas, NM, to span the Arroyo de los Pinos in the heart of our future Garden. This beautiful, iconic red pedestrian bridge will connect the Orchard and Courtyard Gardens to the Naturalistic Gardens. We expect to begin construction of the Orchard Gardens in late spring 2012 and to open these gardens by the summer of 2013.

During the year, we expanded and strengthened our Board of Directors, which now has 15 very eager and hard-working individuals from all sectors of the community. We also formed a formal Advisory Council which includes community leaders and past Board members.

We recognize that the construction of the Botanical Garden at Museum Hill will lead to increased program and operating costs, which cannot all be met from admissions and membership dues. Thus we have formed a Legacy Society to encourage endowment gifts, and to recognize and thank individuals who let us know they have included SFBG in their estate plan. We are pleased to report that by year-end we had received commitments for \$3.5 million in future estate gifts for endowment. All 2011-2012 Founding Members of the Legacy Society will be listed on a plaque in the Welcome Ramada of the Orchard Gardens.

SFBG Members have long formed the backbone of annual support for our mission and programs. The Membership Committee's hard work in 2011 resulted in a total of 600 members by year end, up 50% from our 400 members in 2010. The coming year, 2012, is our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – and we are very pleased at our progress over the last year. Join us as we continue to grow and 'plant our future' at Museum Hill.

Cathy Kalenian, Board President

#### **2011 IN REVIEW**

#### THE ORGANIZATION

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden (SFBG) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, established in 1987 by a small group of gardeners, botanists and environmentally oriented people who shared the vision of establishing a botanical garden in Santa Fe. Their vision grew, and in 1992 a membership program was initiated.

Education and community service remain the primary goals of the SFBG, and we continue to offer relevant workshops and events for visitors of all ages that focus on horticulture, environmental science, conservation and stewardship of our natural environments.

#### **Organizational Structure**

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden is guided by a Board of Directors elected by a vote of the members of the Board each year, at a meeting that precedes the members' annual meeting. Each Director is elected to a two-year term and may be re-elected for two additional terms. Officers, including a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, are also elected.

A full time Executive Director is responsible for operational management that strengthens the vision and mission of the organization. A part time Outreach Director is responsible for volunteer management, program and event planning, as well as advertising and publicity. Two part time Development Associates manage membership and donor relations, the newly launched Legacy Society, and support the fundraising efforts of the Development Committee. An acting Development Director is primarily focused on annual fund raising activities to cultivate and build personal and business relationships.

Committees play a crucial role in the organization. Current structure places designated committees under the authority of an Executive Committee. Committee members are approved by the Board, but are not restricted to board members. Standing committees are: Executive; Finance; Audit; Human Resource; Nominating; Membership; Development; and the Site Committee.

#### THREE LOCATIONS

#### Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve

In 1993 the Santa Fe Botanical Garden entered into a long-term lease with the trustees of El Rancho de las Golondrinas for a 35-acre site, the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve (LCWP), which quickly became the focus of much of the organization's educational programming. The unique and fragile beauty of this wetland is a treasure in Santa Fe. Many dedicated volunteers have spent countless hours removing exotic and invasive plants, restoring the habitat through revegetation and ensuring that the pond remains a healthy environment for riparian plants, birds and invertebrates. Improvements, including a floating dock, boardwalk and bird

blind, have allowed visitors access to the site without damaging its delicate ecosystem.

The LCWP is open to visitors on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons from May through October. Docent led walks are offered on Saturday mornings, or by appointment. Approximately 2,000 people visited the preserve in 2011.

#### Ortiz Mountains Educational Preserve

The 1,350 acre Ortiz Mountains Educational Preserve (OMEP) was acquired by donation in 2001 in the settlement agreement of a lawsuit requiring the cessation of mining activities by a mining conglomerate. The preserve is protected by a conservation easement overseen by the Santa Fe Conservation Trust. Since assuming stewardship of this land, volunteers have made it accessible to our visitors with the addition of a network of trails and a visitors' kiosk. In 2007 the land was sold to the County of Santa Fe, while management of the preserve remains the responsibility of the SFBG. Each season a series of free lecture tours and hikes is offered to the public on varied topics including the history of gold mining in the Ortiz Mountains, native plant communities at 8,000 feet, photographing the natural landscape, early morning bird walks, and more.

Access to the preserve is restricted to docent-led events that are scheduled each season from May through October. Approximately 500 people visited the OMEP in 2011.

#### Santa Fe Botanical Garden at Museum Hill

The new botanical garden will be constructed on approximately 14 acres of land leased from the City of Santa Fe and the State of New Mexico. Running along the Arroyo de los Pinos from Camino Lejo to the Old Pecos Trail, the land enjoys varied topography, stunning views, a feeling of seclusion, proximity to world-class state and privately operated museums, and easy access by foot, bicycle, bus or car. Award winning landscape architect W. Gary Smith has taken this project from master planning to a fully developed design. The garden will be constructed in three phases, beginning with Orchard Gardens, followed by the Naturalistic Gardens and the Courtyard Gardens. The fourth phase, the Arroyo Trails, will remain a beautiful, dog friendly place to walk along new pedestrian trails.

The Museum Trail section of the city bike trail was completed this year in a collaborative project between the City of Santa Fe and the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. The bike trail is ½ mile in length, running from the Old Pecos Trail to Camino Corrales. It is beautifully appointed with sit rocks other amenities.

Addressing the complicated topography of the site, a bridge has been installed to connect gardens built on either side of the arroyo. The chosen bridge comes complete with lots of character and a colorful New Mexico story. Built in 1913 for San Miguel County, the bridge is a free-span, steel, subdivided Warren pony truss bridge that is cataloged in the New Mexico Department of Transportation Historic Bridge Survey. It is commonly known as the Kearny's Gap Bridge, recognizing its

location along State Hwy 283, near this historically important location. It was taken out of service when the highway between Santa Fe and Las Vegas, New Mexico was widened.

Until its relocation, the Kearny's Gap Bridge rested on ranchland owned by the children of David Thomas "Dee" and Mabel Bibb, a prominent Las Vegas ranching family. Negotiations proved successful and the bridge was acquired, disassembled, taken to Albuquerque where it was removed of its original lead-based paint and brought to code, painted a vibrant red and then reassembled on site in its new home. The bridge is a spectacular feature in the new garden, and is likely to become an iconic image for the garden.

Construction of the first phase, the Orchard Gardens will begin in June 2012. The Orchard Gardens will be planted with a stunning collection of plants, including a mixed fruit tree orchard, selected for their star quality performance in our Santa Fe environment. The collection will include New Mexico native species, in addition to plants that are highly adapted to our growing conditions.

#### SIGNATURE EVENTS

Among SFBG programs offered each year are several signature events that are both educational and fun.

#### **Winter Lecture Series**

2011 saw the launch of our winter lecture series: four talks on topics relating to garden history. Topics ranged from the gardens of Ancient Rome, Medieval monastery gardens, Italian Renaissance gardens, and the Gold Garden at Chartwell, the country home of Winston Churchill. Attendance was so exceptional that the lectures were moved to a new venue, the auditorium at the International Museum of Folk Art.

#### **Garden Tours**

Over 800 people attended the June tours, featuring private gardens located throughout Santa Fe. Garden styles are as varied and diverse as the gardeners who tend them, but all are standouts. 2011 was the tour's 16<sup>th</sup> year – and judging from attendance, it continues to grow in popularity. Garden Tours are a major fundraising event for the organization. Ticket sales support general operations.

A pre-tour gourmet picnic lunch was held in the Talbot garden, beautifully located in a lovely historic Eastside neighborhood. The event was a picture-perfect garden party enjoyed by 200 guests. Lovely box lunches were prepared by Walter Burke Catering. Lunch tickets sold out quickly. Los Alamos National Bank was the title sponsor for this event.

#### **Spring Plant Sale**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual plant sale was held on Mother's Day weekend under a tent at the Museum Hill overflow parking lot. Word spread about the selection of reliable perennials, ornamental grasses, bulbs, and shrubs resulting in lots of new members

wanting to attend the Friday afternoon *Members' Only* sale prior to the public sale the following day. Plant experts from the ranks of our staff and membership take an active role, offering information on the attributes and requirements of the plants that are available for purchase. Proceeds from the sale support general operations.

#### **Fall Plant Swap**

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual plant swap was held on Labor Day weekend. Unlike the plant sale held earlier in the year, this event is entirely free. Members bring divisions of plants from their own gardens to trade for offerings from fellow gardeners. This event was so much fun that we expect it to grow into an annual gardener's happening!

#### **Children's Holiday Craft Workshop**

The Children's Holiday Craft Workshop celebrated its 11th anniversary in 2011. This event is offered free to children in the Santa Fe community and is held at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center. Volunteers provided craft materials, refreshments and assisted approximately 120 children, accompanied by parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or friends in making crafts for friends and family. This event has been generously sponsored by Ann Mumford.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Children's Education Program at the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve

For a number of years SFBG has been working with 3rd grade students, teachers and families. In 2012, we will expand the youth programs to middle school youth in grades 6 - 9. The goal of the children's education program is to establish ourselves as a reliable resource for the Santa Fe Public Schools, providing informal science education in support of school curriculum based upon performance standards and benchmarks as established by New Mexico Public Education Department. With funding in place, plans are underway to provide downloadable lesson plans and resources for teachers, suggested reading lists, a pre-visit instructional DVD and activities focusing on ecosystems and the wetland habitat. The expanded program will be available to teachers in Fall 2012.

#### A New Website

Our new website went live in July. Utilizing the latest technology, the site features a comprehensive plant data base, a plant of the month feature, a press room where we can share newspaper and other print publicity, a reciprocal privileges link, videos and much more. A shopping cart feature has made it possible to join or renew memberships, register for programs, and purchase tickets to events on-line. We will be adding an on-line gift shop soon!

#### Benefit Art Show

In October the Selby Fleetwood Gallery and botanical artist Mary Fran Cardamone produced a four day show and art sale to benefit the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. Mary Fran Cardamone has an exquisite relationship with her botanical specimens, combining the unique characteristics of each plant with its mythology, ethnobotanical background, and modern cultural associations. Her paintings were very well

received and the event resulted in a large donation. Both artist and the gallery were extraordinarily generous to host such a special event.

#### **Museum Hill Capital Campaign**

Santa Fe Botanical Garden's Board of Directors first identified all of the capital and related costs of designing and constructing the new 13-acre Garden at Museum Hill. These costs were broken into four phases, consisting of the Orchard Gardens, the Arroyo Trails, the Naturalistic Gardens and the Courtyard Gardens. In addition, the Board identified start-up costs for professional staffing and programs – i.e., horticultural, educational and collections management - required to create a first-quality botanical garden, which must be in place before the Garden opens and can charge admission. Finally, the Board identified the need for establishing a Garden Preservation Fund for timely major maintenance of the garden, its structures and equipment, as well as the costs of carrying out a multi-year capital campaign.

The total of all of these costs amounted to \$7.5 million, which became the goal of the Museum Hill Capital Campaign. In the Fall of 2010 the Board formed a Campaign Steering Committee, headed by Cathy Kalenian, and a Community Leadership Council, chaired by Joan Dayton, and launched the major gifts phases of the campaign, which has raised \$2 million in its first eighteen months. This includes the generous participation of 100% of the SFBG Board of Directors, and will enable us to break ground this summer on construction of the Orchard Gardens as well as to complete construction of the Arroyo Trails.

In addition, the Board carefully projected long-range operating costs and income for SFBG in the first 10-15 years after the Museum Hill Garden opens. It also compared these projections with the experience of small to mid-size botanical gardens nationally to make sure that we were being realistic in our planning assumptions. This financial plan showed that an endowment fund would eventually be required to assure sustained excellence and growth of our programs as well as fiscal stability. To date we have secured generous legacy commitments of \$3.5 million toward creating a permanent Endowment Fund. This is on top of the \$2 million raised to date for the \$7.5 million capital campaign, making a total of \$5.5 million these past eighteen months in capital and endowment fund commitments.

We believe that this 13-acre Botanical Garden at Museum Hill will be the most significant civic project in Santa Fe this decade. While much work remains to complete our capital campaign, we are gratified by the positive response thus far and expect that the excitement surrounding the grand opening of the Orchard Gardens next year will further accelerate financial support for Santa Fe Botanical Garden.

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Permits West, Inc.

Plants of the Southwest

Real Food Nation

Santa Fe Cigar Company

Santa Fe Dining

Santa Fe Greenhouses

Santa Fe New Mexican

Sleeping Dog Tavern

The Bug Lady, Linda Weiner

Tooley's Trees

Tortillas, Inc.

Trader Joe's

Whole Food Market

Yoberri

#### Gifts Received in Memory of

#### Jean Douglas

**Judith Crawford** 

#### **Isabel Meyer**

Barcy Fox

#### **Doug Dayton**

Catherine and Guy Gronquist

#### Margie Lange

Jan Jahner

#### **Seymour Merrin**

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#### Clair Jensen

Carol Pava

#### **Dorthea Donnelly**

Wendy and George Powell

#### **Gladys Marie Tidwell**

Robert Shelton and John Brothers

#### **Terence Tarr**

Elspeth Bobbs

Pamela Lyng

Sally Marsh and Therese Faget

Randy Murray

Ruth Pennycook

E. C. Sheeley

Jean Smith

Drew Stewart and Anna

Hargreaves

Loren and Virginia Vance

#### Gifts Received in Honor of

#### **Elsbeth Bobbs**

Alma Best

Santa Fe Garden Club

#### Joan Dayton

Mary Anne and Bruce Larsen

Sarah Olson

#### **Tara Earley**

William Thurwachter

#### **Barbara Goede**

Alice and Jerry Kruse

Dee Nelson

Gloria Murphy

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#### **Charlie Newman**

Alice and Jerry Kruse

#### James Rambo

Eva Rambo





#### **CELEBRATE • CULTIVATE • CONSERVE**

\$250,000+

Suzanne and Joel Sugg State of New Mexico

\$100.000+

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