# Mission Statement
The Tucson Botanical Gardens connects people with plants and nature through art, science, history and culture.

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David Lovitt, Jr.  
Ex Officio: Michelle Conklin

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This newsletter is published quarterly by Tucson Botanical Gardens and mailed as a benefit to members. All photos by Gardens staff and volunteers unless otherwise noted. Art Director, Rob Elias  
Designer, Theresa Reindl Bingham

*Duplicate Mailings? If so, please contact Membership at (520) 326-9686, ext. *13.*
“Plants … beckon you to immerse yourself in their presence.”

Recently on a walk through the Gardens, I was struck by how guarded some guests reacted to passersby. Plants, by contrast, beckon you to immerse yourself in their presence. It’s almost impossible to pass by Lamb’s-ear (*Stachys byzantine*) without rubbing its velvety leaves between your fingers, or stopping to allow the fragrance of a Vitex (*Vitex agnus castus*) overtake you. Today, as we all struggle with maintaining social distancing, public gardens, and our ability to connect with nature, are needed more than ever.

Which brings me to thanking you.

I’ve been touched to my very core by the outpouring of support from members and friends of TBG. Notes filled with snippets of expressions of love and appreciation ranged from a simple yet meaningful, “Thank You” to a woman who chuckled and said, “I love TBG – I told my husband that if the Gardens were ever to close their doors – you might as well just put me in a wooden box and bury me.” That’s a dedicated member!

Thanks to your support, we’ve been busy:

- It may have taken a pandemic to force us to make a major software change to manage and control numbers of people in the Gardens, but with every challenge comes an opportunity. The system goes live on September 1st and should result in a much smoother check-in process when you visit, attend a class or an event.

- As Luminaria Nights and Feast takes a 2020 break, the celebrations will continue in another form. Every Thursday through Sunday evening, beginning September 19th, we invite you to enjoy evening lights in the Garden beginning with:

  - **Bird Houses & Nests** – Lovely in the daylight, and dramatic in the evening, 13 artists have come together to create, “Bird House and Nests” curated by SculptureTucson.

  - **La Calavera Catrina** – We know that the pathways are narrow in the Barrio Garden, so we opened up the view and created a temporary new one-way-in, one-way-out pathway. The lights will shine on nine larger-than-life sculptures on loan from the Denver Botanic Gardens, and will guide you to the new Barrio entrance near the Zen Garden.

  - **Wander-Land: An Evening Holiday Stroll** – The Gardens is pulling out all the stops to create a magical holiday garden strolling experience. A near-garden-wide sound system playing holiday music will put you in the spirit. Holiday window displays along with a new oversized lighted sculpture in the Exhibit Garden by artist Joe O’Connell will join the 3,000 luminaria bags, Korean Lanterns and Nature Sculptures by Mykl Wells.

  - **The Gardens** – Adam and his team have done a remarkable job keeping up with pruning, planting and fertilizing. They have a surprise in store for you in the fall, but I’m pinky-sworn to not reveal too much – yet!

Check our website and newsletter for specific evening hours, and admission prices.

While many of us are sharing the everyday stresses that this new model of living has brought upon us, I can say without hesitation that I haven’t lost my hope and enthusiasm for the upcoming season – except this time, there’s a healthy dose of gratitude added to the mix.

**Michelle Conklin**
**Executive Director**
Mulch Ado About Nothing

Adam Farrell-Wortman
Horticulture Manager
Tucson Botanical Gardens

People love to show me their gardens and I love seeing the great diversity of gardens and their gardeners. Like many things in life, there is no singular “right way” to garden. That said, if I could change one thing in most Tucson gardening practice it would be the use of mulch. More to the point, the lack of mulch.

I’m not sure why or how, but the fundamental practice of mulching a garden and/or landscape is not a common practice in the Old Pueblo. The most common mulch around town is rock mulch, which makes since so many of our plantings are rightly desert themed. However, most of these mulches have been applied simply for aesthetic purposes and are not done in a way that provides the many benefits mulching brings to our plants.

Mulching is one of my favorite garden chores on a brisk fall morning. Many garden chores can take hours and at the end of the day nothing has changed to the naked eye. But after a few hours of mulching your work is immediately visible. In my opinion no landscape or garden bed is complete until it has been mulched.

A properly applied mulch shades the ground in summer and insulates it in the winter, which translates to +10 degrees cooler soil temps in summer and +10 degrees warmer temps in winter. Mulch prevents dust and soil erosion. It protects microbial soil life by shielding it from harmful UV light. It helps mitigate soil compaction from a gardener’s heavy feet. It prevents evaporation and organic mulch has the bonus of wicking excess moisture away, keeping soil moisture consistent and uniform. All in all, mulch is essential to a healthy soil ecology and health soil leads to healthy plants. As an added benefit, mulch is also quite attractive, it comes in a variety of colors and textures and can elevate the aesthetics of any planting.
To emphasize the benefits of mulch I like to share this antidote from my work with a community garden in WI:

Two years before I began my work at the Eagle Heights Community Gardens the garden community installed a hedge row of 100 highbush blueberries. Unfortunately, after two years the plants had little new growth and were showing signs of stress and nutrient deficiencies. In my first year I performed a soil pH test knowing blueberries preferred an acidic soil, the results showed a basic soil profile, so we added a good amount of Sulphur which greened up the plants, but at an unsustainable yearly expense. The next year my co-worker who was reading, Michael Phillips's book The Holistic Orchard: Tree Fruits and Berries the Biological Way, suggested we try this particular style of mulching which increases mycelium that as a symbiotic relationship with roots, increasing their nutrient uptake. Long story short, by mulching 8” thick with recently pruned and chipped branches we doubles the size of the blueberry bushes and the next year they produced the first harvest. Thereafter, all we had to do was add two inches of mulch a year to maintain the 8” depth.

I hope you’re convinced to incorporate mulching in your gardens and landscape. If nothing else, the water retention benefit should be enough for any desert gardener to mulch religiously. The world of mulches is extremely diverse, each having strengths and weaknesses. However, do not let this overwhelm you, there are just a few rules of thumb for the mulching novice to ensure the benefits.

The first step is to choose your mulch. There are two broad categories of mulch: Organic (dead material like leaves, woodchips etc.) or Inorganic (rock, rubber etc.). I advise mixing in an eighth inch of compost as part of any mulching project. Whichever you choose, Organic or Inorganic, if you’re a beginner, it is best to use a mixed grade (chunk size) and/or a larger grade mulch. These grades allow for faster water percolation (good for our monsoons) and avoids matting (tight, solid layers) which can create an anaerobic (oxygen free) environment. As with any garden product, I encourage you to source your mulch as local as possible. One of our local partners is Tanks Green Stuffs which has a variety of locally produced mulches to choose from. I am also a big fan of pecan shells from the orchards of southern Arizona.

The next step is to figure out how much you need. This depends on how thick you want it to be. The least amount you can add and receive the soil ecological benefits is a depth of 2 inch which comes out to about 1 cubic yard for 160 square feet (don’t worry, that’s what online mulch calculators are for). If you don’t want to mulch every year and you have the means to acquire enough material, you can mulch up to four inches all at once. More than 4in is only advisable for specific reasons and with specific mulches.

Now, all you need to do is water, then spread the compost and mulch evenly throughout the bed. I suggest overtop watering a few times right after mulching to prime and help stabilize the material. After more than 20 years of experience teaching people to mulch, I can tell you that 2 inches is deeper than you think, and you will be inclined not to use enough. The only other thing to remember is to keep it 2-3 inches away from the trunk or main stem of your plants and 3-4 inches away from the walls of your home or wooden structures.
Behind the Gallery Doors: Burle Marx the Collector, Environmentalist and Artist

David Klanderman
Exhibit Curator

When Michelle asked me if I would put together a curated gallery show on Roberto Burle Marx, my first question was, “Who?”

“You know, the famous Brazilian landscape architect.”

“Like that helps.”

But it did. I googled Burle Marx and it became immediately obvious that this guy was important. But, the exhibit, what would that entail? Other museums had delved into his art and landscape designs. I had neither the time, nor did the Gardens have a budget, to do the same. And then one day, while killing time in the Garden’s Edward McGibbon Library, I checked the card catalogue (remember those?). A solitary listing under “Brazil” revealed that the Gardens held a portfolio of botanical artwork (by Margaret Mee and included in TBG’s exhibit) for which Burle Marx had written the introduction. It was all about his field trips into the forest to collect plants.

That’s it! That’s the exhibit!

While the Gallery exhibits are closed to the public, I’d like to give you a glimpse of Burle Marx, the explorer and collector to help put into the context his landscape design philosophy, and his motivation as an environmentalist.

The curated exhibit evolved out of what I think he found on those trips; he brought back to civilization more than 3000 species for his landscape work, sure, but, he also extracted artistic inspiration from the indigenous peoples he encountered, from the play of sunlight on the little current ripples on the Amazon and Rio Negro Rivers, from the underside of a giant lily pad. He brough it all back. It all shows up in his artwork as well as his designs for gardens and public spaces.

The military junta that seized control of Brazil in the 1960s invited Burle Marx to join an advisory board on the cultural and environmental resources of his homeland. Not surprisingly, he parlayed his reputation as an explorer and designer into a political pulpit from which to defend the environment. Brazil had its national parks but they served largely as a smorgasbord of profitable eye candy that could be gifted to the junta’s friends and supporters. Burle Marx railed against the destruction that naturally followed; mining operations contaminated rivers, forest was burned (and still is today) to produce pasturage for cattle, tribes were enslaved, or moved, or simply made to disappear. Brazil’s national parks and the national heritage they defended, he reasoned, were for the people, all the people, and should not be sold off so cheaply. He said it all without mincing his words in a series of depositions, now published.

I encourage you to visit the Burle Marx inspired landscape installation at TBG. Designed by Jason Isenberg of REALM, the staff believe that the 200 cactus barrels planted against a sea of Amarnath, which is adjacent to a water wall inspired by artist himself, would make Burle Marx proud.

And so, I came to know Roberto, he’s my friend now and I call him that, and his importance to Brazil and the greater world. He’s worth the effort after all.
SCULPTURE TUCSON

Bird Houses and Nest

A GARDEN SCULPTURE EXHIBITION
September 26, 2020 – January 3, 2021

• 13 Objects
• 13 Artists
• Made especially for the Gardens

Artwork by (clockwise from top left): Greg Corman, Lon Walters, Phil Lichtenhan, Richard Jones, Judy Gans, Jeff Falk
WELLNESS

AROMATHERAPY FOR SELF-CARE

Natural Bath & Body Recipes with Essential Oils
Saturday, September 19, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
$28 Member/$35 Non-Member

Essential Oils for Mind and Mood
Saturday, October 17, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
$28 Member/$35 Non-Member

Green Cleaning with Essential Oils
Saturday, November 14, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
$28 Member/$35 Non-Member

BOTANICAL ART

Keeping a Botanical Sketchbook
Wednesday, September 23, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Botanical Art in Pen and Ink
Wednesday, October 7, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Creating Botanical Motifs and Patterns
Wednesday, October 21, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Beginning Ohara Ikebana:
The Gentle Art of Japanese Flower Arranging
Thursdays: October 8, 15, 22, 29 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Series of 4 Classes: $128 Member/$160 Non-Member

ART

Introduction to Modern Calligraphy
Wednesday, September 23, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Watercolor Butterflies
Wednesday, October 21, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Nature Journalist
Wednesday, November 11, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member
GARDENING

Top 10 Shrubs for Landscaping
Wednesday, September 16, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

DIY Desert Garden Design
Saturdays: October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
Nov 7 – 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Series of 6 Classes: $96 Member/$120 Non-Member

Top 10 Cactus for Landscaping
Wednesday, October 7, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

The Cold Desert: Design, Protect and Enjoy Your Winter Container Garden
Thursdays: October 8, 15, 22 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Saturdays: October 10, 17, 24 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Series of 3 Classes: $44 Member/$55 Non-Member

Pruning Desert Trees
Thursday, October 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Sustainability Made Simple
Thursday, October 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Petscapes
Thursday, October 28, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Welcome to the Desert, Master Your Container Gardens
Thursdays: November 5, 12, 19 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Saturdays: November 7, 14, 21 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Series of 3 Classes: $44 Member/$55 Non-Member

Pots, Pots, and More Pots – The Perfect Holiday Gift
Thursday, December 3, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 5, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

NATURE & ECOLOGY

Amazing Arachnids
Friday, September 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

Owls: Rulers of the Night Skies
Friday, October 30, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

Hawks, Eagles, and Falcons
Friday, November 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

Devilish Plants
Friday, December 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

CULINARY ARTS

A Sonoran Breakfast
Saturday, September 19, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Sonora Hot and Cold – Caldo de Queso y Horchata de Melon
Saturday, October 10, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Sonoran Sweets – Coyotas y Ponteduros
Saturday, October 24, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Classic Pozole
Saturday, November 7, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member

Tamales de Res Sonorenses
Saturday, November 28, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
$36 Member/$45 Non-Member
The following supporters provided urgently needed gifts to sustain the Gardens when it was forced to temporarily close due to the community-wide response to the COVID-19 virus. We are incredibly grateful to these generous donors, whose emergency gifts arrived from May 14 through July 31, 2020.

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Sandra & Shirley Brantley
J&J Family Trust
Dorothy Kret & Michael Lex
Paulette MINATRE
Jeanene Smith
Elizabeth Smith
Don Snider
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust
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Samantha Zitola & Adele Shakal

Thank You

... to the Gardens’ Rapid Response Donors
MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES
Tucson Botanical Gardens has been nurtured by the encouragement and support of our members, their families and friends. The following donors, who made contributions between May 14 to July 31, 2020, wished their friends and loved ones to be remembered amid the Gardens’ natural beauty. We are inspired by their generosity.

GIFTS IN HONOR OF
Teri Bingham’s anniversary with Canyon Ranch .............................................. Canyon Ranch
Murray DeArmond on the occasion of his 85th birthday ................................... Terence De Carolis
Lynn Richards ................................................................. Jack & Cheryl Marina
Thomas & Jodi Sorensen ................................................................. Matthew Raphael

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF
Joann Douthitt ................................................................. Martha & Scott Cavell
Jack Grann .......................................................................................... Robie-Jean Chandler
George Shriver .......................................................................................... Alicja Mann
Ted Struble ................................................................................................. Karen Stern

COMMEMORATIVE TRIBUTE BRICK
Dottie Lofstrom ..................................................................................... In Memory of Bettie & Bob
In Memory of Coziibear

DONORS TO SPECIAL PROGRAMS
The following donors designated their generous contributions to the Gardens’ signature programs. We are grateful for their investments which were received between May 14 to July 31, 2020.

DESIGNATED GIFTS
Pima County Attractions and Tourism
Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust

MASTER PLAN
Peggy M. Hitchcock

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Shannan Marty & Chris Pendleton

GIFTS-IN-KIND
Theresa Reindl Bingham
Certified Folder
Nina Duckett
Christine Flores & Robert Egan
Pro Em Party Concepts LLC
REALM, Un Urban Organics Company
Smart Card Services, LLC
Tank’s Roll-Off and Recycling
### HOT SUMMER DAY FUND

Thank you to these generous donors. The following donors came to the aide of the Gardens when summer temperatures were high and daily admissions were very low. Their gifts arrived between July 15 through July 31, 2020, just in time to provide care for the living collection.

#### $1000 AND ABOVE

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Susan Kentosh & Matthew Zamora
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Jo Nugent
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Pam Oldfield
Mark Olm & Louise Argall Olm
Shelley Chase Olsen
Donna Osborn
Nanette & Millie Pageau
Jean Paine
Kathleen Parson
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Merri Pendergrass & Doug Noble
Patricia A. Penpraze
Douglas Perkins
Sally & Ben Perkins
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Maurice Peterson
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Ida Piotkin
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Luisa Priddy
Eva Prince & John Olesniewicz
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Sarah & Leonard Schultz
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Edith Seely
Christina Seger
Janet Sewwood
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Mary & Jay Siegfried
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Barbara Smith & Lisa Gordon
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Linda & Craig Soland
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Melissa Sorensen
Angela Spaln & Tom Kibelstis
Marcia & Ronald Spark
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Deborah Stephens
James Stevenson
Shelby Stirrat
Leann & Paul Storm
Julie Strom & Robert Seaman
Steve Stupak
Beth Sudurt
Lindsay Sutherland & Ralph Golick
Colleen Swain
Elisa Swyers
Helen Taini
Fred & Geri Taylor
Dawn Urquhart
The David and Laura Lovell Foundation
Aaron Thomas
Russell & Marilyn Thornewill
Curtis Thorgaard
Lois Thornton
Marylyn K. & Gene E. Tobey
John J. Topper
Tsu Shuen Tsao
Monty & Karen Turner
Leslie Uhr & Brit Rosso
Jane & Richard Ulmer
Douglas Ulmer & Laura Hollengreen
United Way of Tucson
& Southern Arizona
Elizabeth & Rich Van Horn
Martha & Dennis Van Vactor
Dr. Amy Wagemie-Steppan
Dorothy Wagener
Jennifer Walker
Thomas & Linda Watson
Dr. Thomas & Arlene Webster
Debra & Ronald Webster
Sandra Weir
Karen West
Carol & Neil West
Susan D. Whitesell
KathyAnne Whittemore
Nancy & Gerald Williams
Kimberly Williams
Victoria Williams
Roberta Williams
Judith Willoughby
Elizabeth Wilson
Kathleen Woessner
& Joann Fortino
Charles & Barbara Woodman
Elizabeth & Edward Worland
Samuel B. Wyner
Mary Yagle & Nathan Ellis
Josie Zapata & Rossana Lievaranos
Stephanie Zill
Gene & Susie Zonge
Tucson artist, Lucy Masterman, has spent her professional career creating images in vivid watercolor. A long-time member of TBG, she has spent hours exploring the grounds of the Gardens, which inspired her to create an exhibit which demonstrates the beauty of nature and the garden spaces that she loves.

Having grown up in Tucson, Lucy graduated from the University of Arizona, with a BFA in Commercial Art. She moved to Washington DC and while there, earned an MFA in Painting from George Washington University in conjunction with the Corcoran School of Art. She lived in Brooklyn, NY, then moved with her family to Kansas City, Missouri. While there, she participated in solo exhibits at several private galleries as well as national juried exhibitions, including Watercolor USA in Springfield, MO, the National Watermedia Biennial in Rochester, NY, and the Mid-Four Juried Art Exhibition at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, MO.

After having returned to Tucson, Lucy has had many solo exhibits, and has been honored at various local art and charitable events.

Although her images vary in subject matter—from vintage motel signs and scenes from travels in Mexico, to views of a field of wildflowers—Lucy consistently brings a fresh, clear sense of color and design to the world around her.
September 17 - November 29
La Calavera Catrina
Exhibition organized by Denver Botanic Gardens
Ricardo Soltero (b. 1962, Nayarit, México)

For the first time ever, La Calavera Catrina will be on exhibit outside of Denver, Colorado and will grace Tucson, Arizona with their presence.

Beginning September 17, guests of the Tucson Botanical Gardens will experience the rich history and iconography through colorful and joyful large-scale skeleton sculptures titled La Calavera Catrina.

HOURS: 8:30-4:30 TIME BLOCKS:
8:30AM-10:30AM | 10:30AM-12:30PM
12:30PM-2:30PM | 2:30PM-4:30PM

SPECIAL EVENING HOURS THURS. - SUN.
6:00PM-7:30PM | 7:30PM-9:00PM

EVENING HOURS ARE CONSIDERED A SPECIAL EVENT AND ARE TICKETED SEPARATELY FROM GENERAL ADMISSION

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