



LAURITZEN
GARDENS

Lauritzen Gardens Contacts

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
OCTOBER 16, 2023**

**- LAURITZEN GARDENS RECEIVES CONSERVATION PRACTITIONER
ACCREDITATION FROM BOTANIC GARDENS CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL -**

(OMAHA, NE): Lauritzen Gardens is excited to announce that, this month, the organization has achieved accreditation as a Conservation Practitioner from Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), a global network of 800 botanic gardens located in 118 countries. Lauritzen Gardens is one of only 31 botanic gardens in the world to achieve this honor, which “recognizes excellence in plant conservation policy, practice and education.”

The BGCI Conservation Practitioner accreditation recognizes botanic gardens with a conservation-oriented approach that work to support local, national or global conservation goals. As part of the application process, Lauritzen Gardens’ staff worked for over a year to document the public garden’s efforts in endangered plant conservation, scientific research, collection curation, public engagement, conservation horticulture, and sustainable practices.

“This accreditation acknowledges the hard work and commitment of the Lauritzen Gardens staff over many years, and the importance of public gardens as centers of excellence in horticulture, research and education to protect and promote biodiversity for the benefit of future generations,” said Lauritzen Gardens executive director John Newman.

Established in November 2011, the conservation program at Lauritzen Gardens is dedicated to the conservation of plants, the advancement of conservation principles and the stewardship of the region's biological diversity. The garden was given status as the 38th institutional conservation partner in the Center for Plant Conservation in March of 2012 and has been a member of Botanic Gardens Conservation International since 2012.

“Lauritzen Gardens was created to provide a place of beauty and enrichment for the community, but we also aspire to address the environmental challenges of our times,” said Jim Locklear, director of conservation for Lauritzen Gardens. “A lot of our conservation work is behind-the-scenes, so it’s wonderful to have this spotlight shine on our efforts,” added Locklear.

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Lauritzen Gardens is an urban oasis of beauty and tranquility. This 100-acre botanical garden, comprised of more than 20 outdoor garden areas, as well as the indoor gardens of the Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory, creates a living museum of unique four-season plant displays, maintained to the highest standards consistent with environmental stewardship. The garden aims to be a vibrant place for the community to learn about and connect to the natural world and the organization strives to impact every visitor through the natural beauty of its horticultural displays, enriching educational programs, entertaining special events, or via its research to conserve the endangered plants of the Great Plains.

Lauritzen Gardens is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The ConAgra Café serves lunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and J's Coffee is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. Lauritzen Gardens is conveniently located in the beautiful riverfront hills at First and Bancroft Streets and is close to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium and the Old Market. For more information, please visit www.lauritzengardens.org or call (402) 346-4002.

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is a membership organization, representing botanic gardens in more than 100 countries around the world. Their mission is to mobilize botanic gardens and engage partners in securing plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet. Find out more about their important work and about BGCI accredited gardens at www.bgci.org.