



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Garden Feast**

**A benefit supporting San Francisco Botanical Garden, featuring keynote speaker Paul Hawken**

**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

San Francisco Botanical Garden presents Garden Feast, a festive fundraising luncheon held on the sweeping Great Meadow to support the Garden and its innovative programming, which includes free, hands-on nature education opportunities for 13,000 Bay Area children every year.

This year's event, co-chaired by Jennifer Petersen and Ruth Wilcox, features a keynote address by environmentalist, entrepreneur, author, activist, and one of the environmental movement's leading voices, Paul Hawken.

Paul is the co-founder of Smith & Hawken and founder of Project Drawdown, which works to map, measure, and model the one hundred most substantive solutions that can cumulatively reverse global warming by reducing and sequestering greenhouse gases. He has started ecological businesses, written extensively about nature and commerce, and consults with heads of state and CEOs on climatic, economic and ecological regeneration.

This year's Garden Feast honors the contributions of Helen McKenna Ridley and Allan Ridley, who have dedicated their lives to serving the youth of our communities. In addition to careers in education and lifelong service to the nonprofit community, Helen, a 40-year veteran of the Garden's volunteer corps, has served on the Garden's Board of Directors, volunteered in the nursery, and been instrumental in developing its youth programs. Together with Allan, they have led popular bird walks for 20 years.

Garden Feast guests will enjoy a delicious lunch on the Great Meadow, surrounded by 55 acres of beautiful gardens displaying significant and diverse plant collections, which include nearly 9,000 different kinds of plants from around the world. Guests will have a chance to bid on unusual and exotic plants, exclusive experiences, unique travel packages, and more.

The Garden is known for its youth education program, which serves many of San Francisco Unified School District's K-8 schools. The programs connect children to the natural world through hands-on activities and exploration, using the Garden as an outdoor classroom.

"This annual tradition celebrates spring in the Garden and raises essential funds for our core programs, helping us welcome and wow more than 450,000 visitors each year," says Stephanie Linder, Executive

Director at the Garden. “We are thrilled to be joined by keynote speaker Paul Hawken and to be honoring Helen and Allan Ridley for their incredible service to the Garden and our community. I also want to express my deep appreciation for event Co-Chairs Jennifer Petersen and Ruth Wilcox and the entire event committee for their efforts to make this event extra special.”

San Francisco Botanical Garden would like to thank Garden Feast media sponsor San Francisco Chronicle and the generous sponsors and attendees.

**WHAT:**

**Garden Feast** – San Francisco Botanical Garden’s luncheon and garden party in support of the Garden and its youth education programs

**WHEN:**

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

**TIME:**

11 AM – 2 PM

**WHERE:**

San Francisco Botanical Garden, Golden Gate Park, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave at Lincoln Way, San Francisco

**TICKETS:**

\$300 Early Bird Ticket (available before April 10)

\$500 Individual Ticket (includes name recognition)

Sponsorship levels \$1,000-\$25,000 (contact Brittney Burrows at 415-661-1316 ext. 301 or [bburrows@sfbg.org](mailto:bburrows@sfbg.org) for more info about sponsorship benefits)

**INFO/TICKETS:**

[sfbg.org/gardenfeast](http://sfbg.org/gardenfeast), 415-661-1316 ext. 301

**About San Francisco Botanical Garden**

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum is a living museum within Golden Gate Park, offering 55 acres of beautiful gardens displaying nearly 9,000 different kinds of plants from around the world, including many that are rare and endangered. Established in 1940, San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park is a public/private partnership between San Francisco Botanical Garden Society and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

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