



## **College Internship Program**

The Garden offers internships to college students in the areas of horticulture, landscape architecture or design, botany, scientific illustration, and related fields. Three- and six-month internships are available and are scheduled on an individual basis. Interns will receive hands-on training and experience in the areas of Plant Propagation and Greenhouse Management, Landscape Management, Interpretive Education, Plant Inventory and Database Management, Marketing and Event Planning.

### **Plant Propagation and Greenhouse Management**

Plants are propagated from seeds, cuttings, offsets, and by transplanting seedlings from The Garden. In addition to plants from the dry garden, we propagate plants from Ruth Bancroft's private perennial garden. Each fall we offer bearded iris rhizomes for sale. Interning in Plant Propagation also encompasses: working at plant sales, helping stock the plant sales area, helping with setup before events, being on hand to answer questions and sell plants, watering, keeping the propagation and plant sales areas clean and pest-free, grooming plants, plant identification, etc.

Director of Horticulture Brian Kemble oversees The Garden's greenhouse collection of plants that are frost-tender and cannot be planted outdoors. The collection includes aloes, euphorbias, cacti, etc. The ever-expanding collection includes plants that Ruth Bancroft has collected for over 50 years. A major portion includes aloes that have been collected by Ruth and Brian, and hybrids Brian has developed during his 29 years of work, research, and aloe breeding at The Garden. Interns in this area will get experience repotting and caring for the collection.

### **Landscape Management**

The Ruth Bancroft Garden was started in 1972. This mature garden requires ongoing maintenance to preserve the design elements and plants that Ruth Bancroft has so carefully cultivated. Interns in the area of landscape management will receive hands-on training to work in The Garden in all aspects of maintenance. These include: preparing beds and assisting with new plantings; pruning plants that have become overgrown or crowded into the pathways; replanting older succulents that have gotten too tall; weeding garden beds and paths; grooming plants to remove dead inflorescences, branches, or leaves; agave removal after plants have flowered and died; installing winter cold frames over frost-tender plants or beds; monitoring for pest problems and damage; etc.

### **Interpretive Education**

The Garden has education programs for students of all ages. Third graders visit for a two-hour tour during which they learn about succulent plants, pollination,

propagation, local history, and ethnobotany. Adult education includes workshops and special tours like succulent container gardening, composting, birding, winterization techniques, and aromatic plants. We also offer a series of tours focused on specific plant groups such as aloes, agaves, and bromeliads. Finally, we offer all-day horticultural seminars on plants and garden design for green industry professionals. Interns will assist Education Coordinator Karen Gardner with developing these and other educational programs and resource materials.

### **Plant Inventory and Database Management**

Plant inventories and garden maps need updating as new plants are added, existing plants are transplanted, and mature or diseased plants die. Ruth Bancroft kept meticulous handwritten records on plants in The Garden. Records include when and where plants were purchased, when and where they were planted, whether they require winter protection, when plants died, etc. This information will eventually be digitized for better access for educational and reference purposes. An ongoing effort to capture digital images of each plant as it flowers was begun in 2002. These images have been used in multiple print pieces and on the website. Interns will gain experience with data entry and maintenance, plant inventory procedures and updates, and digital photography.

### **Marketing and Event Planning**

The Garden hosts a number of special events, including annual auctions, fruit-tastings, sculpture exhibits, and plant sales. Interns will assist in all parts of the event-planning process, including equipment and facility rentals, donation solicitations, registration, program evaluation, and more. Additionally, the Garden engages in outreach and public relations through a variety of outlets: printed news media, email bulletins, promotional materials, and the RBG website. Interns will assist Development Director Rebecca Ines and other staff members in planning events and marketing. Interns involved in this program will gain valuable experience in event planning, public relations, and networking.