



For Immediate Release
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**KATHRYN KENNEDY, PH.D, RECEIVES HIGHEST CONSERVATION
AWARD FROM GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – The Center for Plant Conservation and the Garden Club of St. Louis announces Kathryn L. Kennedy, Ph.D., received the Frances K. Hutchinson Medal, one of the Garden Club of America's highest awards for conservation. Kennedy joined the Center for Plant Conservation as its president and executive director in Sept of 2000. The Center coordinates and assists development of hands-on plant conservation programs in a national network of 36 participating institutions. Kathryn coordinates the Center's work from the national office in St. Louis, ensuring scientific excellence and program development for the organization and its institutions. Nominated by the Garden Club of St. Louis, Kennedy accepted the medal in a ceremony in Norfolk, Va.

Prior to joining the Center for Plant Conservation, Kennedy had been working toward the conservation of rare plants for over 20 years. “It is not an overstatement to say that Kathryn’s leadership, dedication, and scientific brilliance have brought CPC to the front lines in the ongoing struggle to save the earth’s endangered plants,” said Becky Fouke, the Garden Club of St. Louis awards committee chairman.

“I’m thankful for GCA’s support for my passion, the conservation and restoration of America’s vulnerable native plants. Nearly 25% of our native flora is already at risk, and climate change brings new challenges,” said Kennedy. “Every plant lover makes a difference, moderating energy use, sharing our love of native plants in our own gardens, supporting conservation policies and budgets, and volunteering.”

The Center for Plant Conservation is coordinated by a national office and guided by a volunteer board of trustees and the experts of the CPC Science Advisory Council. By developing standards and protocols and conducting conservation programs in horticulture, research, restoration, and raising awareness, CPC’s network is striving to save America’s rarest plants from being lost forever. For additional information on the Center for Plant Conservation visit the CPC website at www.centerforplantconservation.org