

APGA's TIMELINE

the first Seventy-Five Years

1920s

- Robert Pyle serves as chair of the American Association of Nurserymen committee on botanical gardens and arboreta. He would go on to set a string of events in motion that would eventually lead to the creation of the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA).

1940

- AABGA is established to represent public gardens. The organization is an affiliate chapter of the American Institute of Park Executives (AIPE) and run solely by volunteers of member gardens.

- First meeting held in conjunction with AIPE at the Hotel Statler in Cleveland, Ohio, with approximately 40 attendees that included a popular tour of the relatively new Holden Arboretum.

1941

- The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) completes its first year with five officers and close to 50 members.

1946

- AABGA assembles a directory of botanic gardens and arboreta in North America.

1949

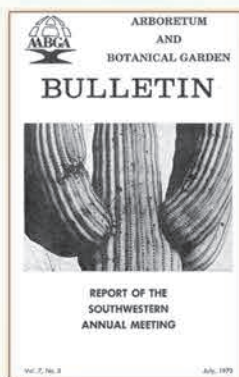
- Membership increases to 72 members.

1950

- AABGA cuts ties with AIPE and creates four new committees:
Membership - C. W. Fenninger, chair
Education - E. L. Kammerer, chair
Publications - M. Van Rennselaer, chair
Plant Introduction - R. B. Clark, chair
- AABGA begins publishing a quarterly newsletter, which consists of news submissions from member gardens.

1959

- AABGA asked to act as the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for unassigned woody plant cultivars by the American Horticultural Council.



NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY

1991

- The North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC) is introduced as a new initiative coordinating continent-wide efforts among public gardens to conserve plant biodiversity and promote high standards in collections management.

1995

- AABGA staff increases to eight. Prior to this paid staff was minimal or made up of volunteers.
- The first AABGA website is created to provide electronic membership services.

2000

- AABGA celebrates its 60th Anniversary, with approximately 435 institutional members and 2,700 individual members.
- Specialized committees are formed and reorganized that would eventually become programs and Professional Sections in existence today.
- AABGA partners with Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Center for Plant Conservation, and The North Carolina Arboretum to co-host the first-ever World Botanic Gardens Congress.

2006

- To be more inclusive of its broadening member base, AABGA undergoes a name change and becomes American Public Gardens Association (APGA).

2009

- May 8: Inaugural National Public Gardens Day.
- APGA's Monthly Newsletter goes digital.

2010

- Agreement signed with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), giving members easier access to USFS lands for the purposes of plant collection, training, and conservation projects.

1970

- AABGA changes its dues structure and begins offering institutional memberships.
- Establishes the Plant Records Center, later the Plant Sciences Data Center, in collaboration with the Longwood Foundation and the American Horticultural Society.

1971

- Articles of incorporation signed in Washington, D.C., that qualify AABGA as a 501(c)3 organization (approximately 300 members).
- AABGA President Joseph Witt appoints the Committee of Future Directions to recommend programs and future planning.

1973

- AABGA holds its first solo annual meeting in Los Angeles, California, hosted by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum and attended by 93 members.
- AABGA awards the first of the Association's Student Travel Awards.

1977

- AABGA leads the North American Certificate in Horticulture program (NACH), in an effort to distinguish between amateur and professional horticulturists.
- Dr. Mildred Mathias (director of UCLA Botanical Garden) appointed part-time Executive Director, the first-ever paid employee of the association.

1982

- Susan H. Lathrop is hired as the first full-time Executive Director.

1986

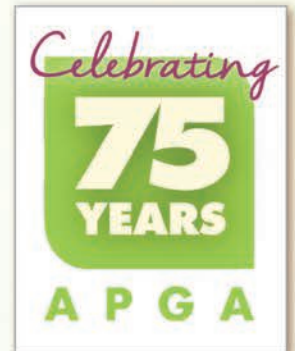
- AABGA publishes the first issue of *The Public Garden* magazine.

1989

- Association grows to 1,700 members.

1990

- AABGA celebrates its 50th Anniversary with more than 1,500 members.



2011

- The Sentinel Plant Network is officially launched as an APGA program centered on the detection and diagnosis of high-consequence pests and pathogens.
- Agreement signed with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that leads to the development of future programs centered around climate education.

2012

- Dr. Casey Sclar selected to serve as Executive Director.
- The Association introduces a searchable online directory for members and gardens.

- Membership grows to nearly 4,500 total individual and institutional members.

2013

- APGA launches its first program centered around climate change education and communication.

2014

- APGA experiences the highest annual conference attendance in its history, with over 800 registrants. It was hosted by Denver Botanic Gardens in partnership with The Gardens on Spring Creek, Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, and Betty Ford Alpine Gardens.

- APGA's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan established and approved.

2015

- APGA celebrates 75 years with 570+ institutional garden members and more than 8,000 individuals!