

Press Release

Silver for Cornish designer of the Fauna & Flora Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023



[HIGH RES IMAGE LINK](#)

Cornish based garden designer, [Jilayne Rickards](#), is celebrating winning a silver medal at RHS Chelsea Flower Show for the [Fauna & Flora Garden](#).

The garden will be heading straight to Cornwall when the show ends, to its new home in the [Eden Project's](#) Rainforest Biome.

Highlighting the collaborative conservation work of Fauna & Flora, an international nature conservation charity, the Fauna & Flora Garden - which is generously sponsored by [Project Giving Back](#) - focuses on the spectacular Afromontane landscape of Central Africa along with its much-loved inhabitant, the mountain gorilla.

Designer, Jilayne commented: "This is a fantastic result, and I am very proud to have been able to bring the vital work of Fauna & Flora to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Our aim with

the garden is to help people better understand the importance of protecting nature around the world, and how this can be best achieved through collaborative conservation efforts.”

Jilayne, who grew up in Cornwall, has been designing and creating gardens for more than 20 years and made her show garden debut at the 2019 RHS Chelsea Flower Show with the CAMFED Garden, which won gold and the BBC/RHS People’s Choice Award.

Many of the plants have been grown in Cornwall, nurtured by the highly skilled horticulturists at the Eden Project in their geothermally heated nursery. The native African plants, that make up the majority of the 3,000 plants that feature in the garden, will then return to the warmth of the Project’s Rainforest Biome, to educate and inspire approximately one million annual visitors.

Catherine Cutler, Interim Head of Living Landscapes from Eden Project, said: “We are thrilled to hear that the Fauna & Flora Garden has been awarded a silver medal. We have worked closely with Jilayne and the team from start to finish, growing, nurturing and planting a good deal of the plants that are currently on view in the garden. We are especially looking forward to welcoming the garden to its new home, after the show, in our Rainforest Biome.”

In 1978, following a personal plea from its vice president, Sir David Attenborough, Fauna & Flora helped to establish the Mountain Gorilla Project. Forty-five years on, now known as the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), the project is a shining example of how community-focused, collaborative conservation can benefit both people and nature. Mountain gorilla numbers have increased to more than 1,000 since work began, and the livelihoods of people living closest to the gorilla habitat have improved thanks to the ecotourism that the gorillas attract.

The Fauna & Flora Garden portrays this story by recreating the journey of an ecotourist on a gorilla trek, tracing a rough track through a succession of lush and changing landscapes. The path eventually leads to a gorilla nest – set among bamboo and other typical gorilla food plants – and a towering waterfall, 5.5metres high.

Cath Lawson, Senior Programme Manager, Eastern Africa, Fauna & Flora said: “Winning silver at RHS Chelsea is a wonderful culmination of a fantastic journey and a fitting reward for all the effort that everyone involved has dedicated to bringing this garden to life. We’d like to thank Project Giving Back for giving us the opportunity to profile the vital work of this project, demonstrating that protecting nature through community-led collaboration can yield outstanding results.”

From inception, creating as sustainable a garden as possible, was a priority. Designer, Jilayne, worked closely with award-winning contractor, Tecwyn Evans, of Living Landscapes, to ensure that the garden met this precedence.

Jilayne added: “We want this garden to inspire people to think differently; embolden them to reuse and recycle, to increase the biodiversity of their gardens by leaving wild areas, and garden more sustainably using planet-friendly practices.”

Suppliers were thoroughly researched and the carbon footprint of all materials was considered, including location and whether recycled alternatives were available. Entirely cement and concrete free, the garden features minimal hard landscaping, increasing areas of planting and generating a positive effect on biodiversity.

The boulders, a waste product from agricultural farming, will be returned to the supplier post-show and reused on other projects. The recycled topsoil in the garden is peat free and the

majority of plants are UK grown (at the Eden Project) chemical free, in peat free soil, recycled or recyclable pots.

To find out more about Fauna & Flora and its work to protect threatened wildlife and habitats across the world, please visit: www.fauna-flora.org

Please vote for the Fauna & Flora Garden in the BBC/RHS People's Choice Award. Visit [HERE](#) to vote. Voting opens at 7pm on Wednesday 24th May and closes at 7pm on Thursday 25th May.

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About Fauna & Flora

Fauna & Flora protects threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and that enhance human well-being. Operating in more than 40 countries worldwide, F&F saves species from extinction and habitats from destruction, while improving the livelihoods of local people. Founded in 1903, F&F is the world's longest established international wildlife conservation organisation and a registered charity. <https://www.fauna-flora.org>

About Jilayne Rickards

An ambitious and dynamic designer, Jilayne has been designing and creating gardens for over 20 years. One of only a handful of UK based female designers registered with both the Society of Garden Designers and British Association of Landscaping Industries, Jilayne's award winning gardens have featured in many magazines. Most recently, her Urban Retreat Garden was recognised by the BALI National Landscape Awards in 2020 with an unprecedented haul of four awards, including a Design Excellence Award, Designer and Contractor Joint Award and Best Use of Reclaimed and Recycled Materials Award. Her gardens are designed with biodiversity and sustainability in mind and are constructed using methods that reflect her determination to reduce the carbon footprint of her builds. She was a judge for the RHS Green Plant scheme and a speaker on sustainable gardening at Futurescape 2021, and is currently training to become an RHS Show Judge.

<https://www.jilaynerickards.com/>

About Living Landscapes

Living Landscapes is committed to sustainable and environmental construction practices, which has supported their long history in becoming BALI and RHS multi-award winners.

Living Landscapes collaborates with landscape architects and garden designers who also support its core values. It firmly believes that landscape construction should complement the natural location it's within. If wildlife and local habitats are created or enhanced through land forming and planting this should be done with careful consideration and thorough site analysis, ensuring the final creation naturally complements the surrounding environment.

<https://www.livinglandscapesuk.com/>

About Project Giving Back

Project Giving Back (PGB) is a unique grant-making charity that provides funding for gardens for good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. PGB was launched in May 2021 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its devastating effect on UK charitable fundraising. It will fund gardens inspired by a range of good causes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

PGB will fund a total of 15 gardens at RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2023 and intends to fund up to 42 gardens at the show from 2022 - 2024. (Applications for 2023 & 2024 are now closed). Project Giving Back was established with funding from two private individuals who are RHS Life Members and keen gardeners. They wish to remain anonymous. PGB will help UK-based good causes recover from the unprecedented effects of the global pandemic by giving them an opportunity to raise awareness of their work for people, plants and the planet at the high-profile RHS Chelsea Flower Show.
Find out more at www.givingback.org.uk.

About the Eden Project

Owned by the Eden Trust, the Eden Project is a global arts, science and educational charity with a social and environmental mission: to create a movement that builds relationships between people and the natural world to demonstrate the power of working together for the benefit of all living things. Founded as a Millennium Project in 2001, Eden has a reach of several million and, as the Eden Project establishes new sites across the UK and in China, Australia and New Zealand, its reach is growing.

Becky Bennett | Media Relations Manager

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