

THE LEAFLET









Cover photo: Iván Jiménez Ursulea tuitensis

The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden

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Curator's Corner

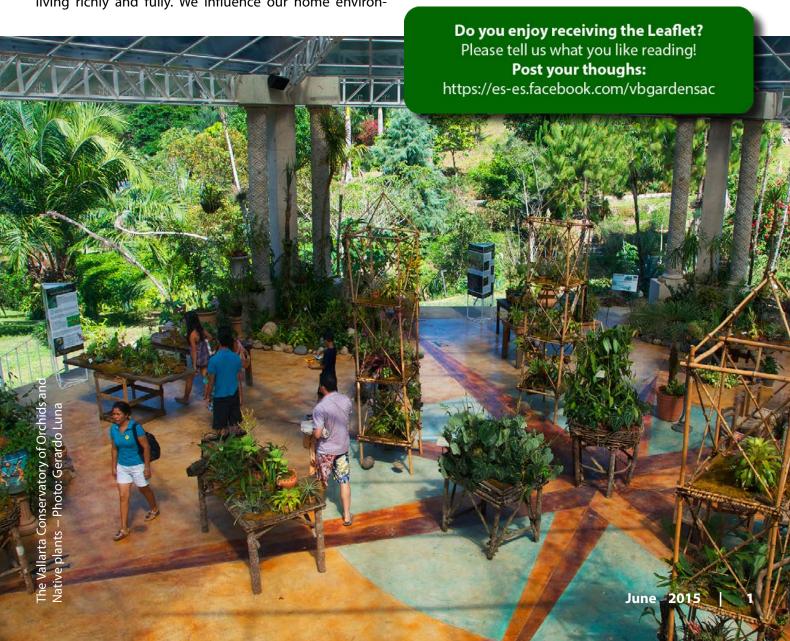
Dear Friends of the Garden,

On Friday, June 5th, we at the VBG will celebrate World Environment Day. But what does that mean exactly? Just what is our environment? Your answers to these kinds of questions all depend on your point of view.

Just as we each have our own home environment made up of our house, family, neighbors, et cetera; we collectively share our planet's whole and interconnected world environment and depend on it for our survival and quality of life.

The best news is that in each case our perspective largely defines our chance of not just surviving but thriving and living richly and fully. We influence our home environments constantly with each of our smallest of actions and the relationships that we either build or destroy. Our world environment is subject to the cumulative weight of these same kinds of actions by all living beings. Each of us doing our part to improve our lives, homes, neighborhoods, and planet is powerful stuff. While it can be easy to get tripped up with the problems that abound, our choices to make things better first benefits us as individuals. I hope that World Environment Day triggers your own self-reflection and you re-confirm your resolution to contribute towards a healthy vibrant planet.

In friendship, Bob Price, Founder and Curator, VBG



USA Today Article By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

It's always a pleasant surprise to see articles in a variety of wonderful publications praising the Vallarta Botanical Garden and our work. Our friends in the local media are especially generous in their coverage about garden news and events that we could hardly ever thank them enough.

Sometimes we're fortunate enough to catch the attention of major international publications with enormous audiences. On May 15th we were just included in a USA Today article, "10 Best: Botanic gardens that think beyond the flower." http://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/destinations/10greatplaces/2015/05/15/botanic-gardens/27295173/ In this article, Michel Gauthier of the North American Garden Tourism Conference is quoted as saying, "Gardens are stress relievers. They are more and more relevant to the quality of life."

With USA today's readership of over 3 million, this type of coverage is a powerful way to send more people not just to our Garden, but for them to purposefully choose Puerto Vallarta as their next holiday destination because of its Garden Tourism appeal. By supporting the Vallarta Botanical Garden, members are in turn supporting our local tourism-based economy and ensuring livelihoods and prosperity for our residents. Those who invest in their community's cultural and scientific institutions are actively contributing towards a better future for themselves, their families, and their neighbors.



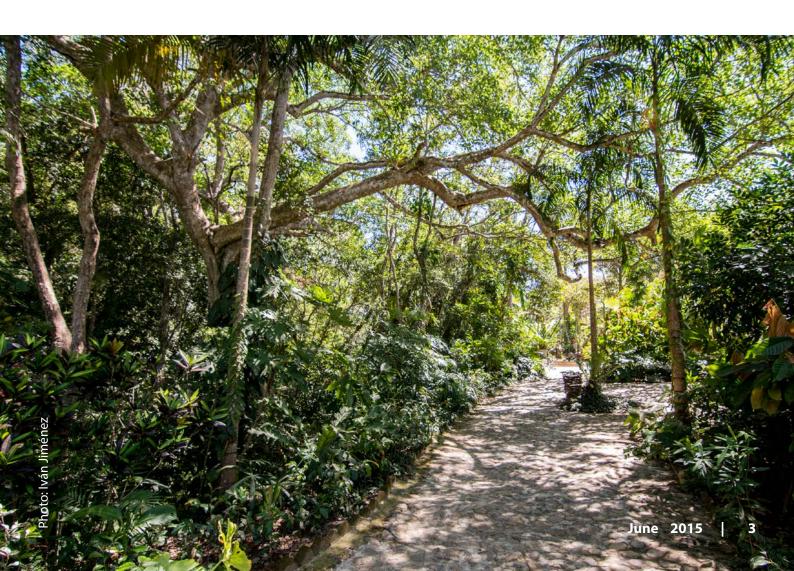
Tax-Deduction Receipts Now Available for Mexican Donors... Thank you Punta de Mita Foundation!

By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

Mexican donors—both as individuals and corporations—are now able to receive "recibos de donativos" (tax-deduction receipts) for their charitable contributions towards the Vallarta Botanical Garden's programs and projects. A new account for the Garden has been opened with the Punta de Mita Foundation, a registered "Donataria Autorizada" (authorized to provide tax-deduction receipts which qualify with Mexico's revenue service). Now donors throughout all three North American countries may receive valuable deductions in their support of our work. US donors may still give through the 501(c)3, "Friends of Vallarta Botanical Gardens, A.C." and Canadian Donors may still give through the "Canadian Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation" in support of our youth educational programs.

A list of different giving options are listed on the last page of *The Leaflet*. Our recommendation is to purchase a Garden membership through your giving. This allows your complimentary entry year-round and welcomes you to join our family of supporters. Individual Membership is just \$750 pesos (or \$60 US or Canadian Dollars) and Sustaining Level Membership is only \$1,200 pesos (or \$95 US or Canadian Dollars) both of which are good for one full year. Advanced level memberships are available for those who choose to create a stronger expression of their support of the Garden.

Thank you for your support!



Birdathon Momentum Continues and Local Fundraising Begins

By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

The Brooklyn Bird Club (BBC) just held their annual Birdathon on May 9th with teams of volunteers and birding enthusiasts counting a total of 119 migratory species. This "Big Day" is a collaboration with International Migratory Bird Day, the flagship program of Environment for the Americas. This year, the BBC choose to sponsor a habitat restoration project at the Vallarta Botanical Garden as the beneficiary of the fundraising component of this important species count with a goal of \$3,000 USD. The Punta de Mita Foundation has set a goal equal to \$2,000 US and is fundraising towards this until the Latin American date of International Migratory Bird Day, October 10th.

The project that we will collaborate on together is further reforestation work to the VBG's Pine-Oak Forest Restoration Area (along the northern slope of Eagle Hill) as well sustainable enhancement of the trail through this section of the Garden and the creation and installation of interpretive signage there. The total project costs are estimated at approximately \$5,000 USD.

While our Garden is perhaps best noted for its collections and forest preserve of the tropical dry forest biome, the highest reaches of our property (approximately 400 meters or 1,300 feet) extend into the neighboring Pine-Oak Forests.

When the property that is now the VBG was purchased over 10 years ago, about 45% of the land (and nearly all of the uppermost slopes) were overgrazed cattle pasture. Restoring this land into Pine-Oak Forest again will not only create a new conservation area, but will add to the plant diversity of our protected forests and attract animals (especially birds!) that rely on these plants for food and shelter. Oaks that we would like to plant in this area include *Quercus aristata*, *Q. elliptica*, *Q. glaucescens*, *Q. iltisii*, *Q. magnoliifolia*, *Q. planipocula* and *Q. tuitensis*. Among appropriate pines to include are *Pinus douglasiana*, *P. jaliscana*, *P. lumholtzii*, *P. maximinoi*, *P. oocarpa*, and *P. strobes*.

Reforestation work was first started in the VBG's Pine-Oak Forest Restoration Area in 2008 and while many of these trees are maturing very well, additional work is needed to remove invasive species that have also taken hold and to plant additional species as appropriate. Also, interpretive signage along this trail will serve as our region's first public educational resource for this important habitat area and the flora and fauna found in these forests. This project is a perfect fit for the 2015 IMBD conservation theme, "Restore Habitat, Restore Birds."

Contributions for this project can be sent to the Brooklyn Bird Club, Friends of Vallarta Botanical Gardens, A.C., or The Punta de Mita Foundation. In each case please notify us that your donation is for "VBG-Pine-Oak-Project."









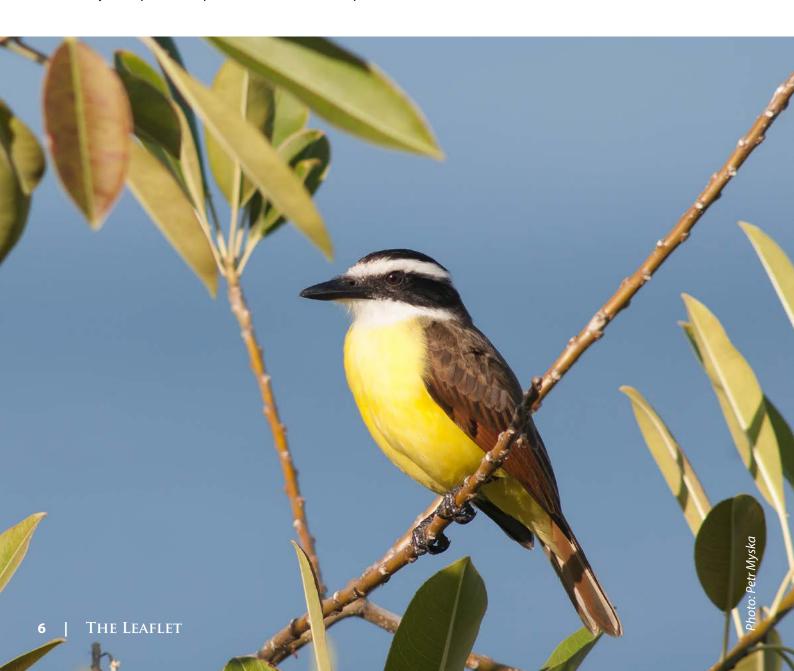


Mexican Bird of the Month

The Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) is one of dozens of bird species with a very limited range north of the US border, but commonly found throughout much of Mexico. Their range extends into southern Texas to the north and continues south without interruption until Argentina making them one of the most widespread flycatchers in the Western Hemisphere.

Their name reflects their often-repeated call of "kis-kadee" and are vocal enough that you are likely to hear them before you see them. They are omnivores that eat foods including fruit and insects that they catch midair and they're especially commonly found over bodies of water where they swoop down to pick off small fish and tadpoles.

Novice birders can confuse Great Kiskadees with a few other local birds including the Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*), the Boat-Billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) and the Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*), but attention to a few key details will help you distinguish these from each other with confidence. Great Kiskadees are large (up to 26 cm long) and stocky. They have stout black bills, a striped head predominantly blackbutset off with a thick white eyebrow and white throat. Their chest and underparts are a bright yellow and their back and wings are reddish brown.



Mexican Orchid Of the Month

Cranichis apiculata

By Lizbeth Hernández Hernández Biologist & Co-author of "Las orquídeas del occidente de México, Volumen 1"

When we talk about orchids our minds often first imagine the exuberant plants of the genera *Cattleya* or *Phalaenopsis*; for many these are the only plants deserving the name of orchid, however, there are plenty of others, with a wide range of shapes and sizes. Some have flowers reaching a height of only a few centimeters or even millimeters and are still part of the delightfully diverse orchid family. Bigger doesn't necessarily mean better and certainly doesn't mean more beautiful.

Cranichis apiculata was found in Guatemala and described by Lindley in 1842. In Mexico it is distributed throughout the Southern Sierra Madres and Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt, in the states of Chiapas, Jalisco, Nayarit and Oaxaca. It is encountered most abundantly in damp places with soils rich in organic matter at altitudes ranging from 1400-2000 meters. Foliage remains while there is sufficient moisture in the air and soil until well into the winter.

It bears mentioning their extraordinarily small size as plants 30-46 cm tall, inflorescences ranging from 6.5 to 15 cm long and 2 to 2.5 cm in diameter when all the flowers have opened. It blooms at the end of the rainy season, from mid-September to mid-Octoberandits flowers are relatively long lasting making for a miniature delight for those who take notice of the small things in life.



In Good Company: Longwood Gardens By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director of the VBG

We at the Vallarta Botanical Garden are celebrating our inclusion in the 2015 list of the "TOP 10 North American Gardens Worth Travelling For,*" in part, by a series of articles highlighting the prestigious gardens sharing this list with us. Later this month during the American Public Gardens Association's Annual Conference I'm looking forward to co-presenting a panel session on Garden Tourism along with Longwood Gardens' Executive Director Paul Redman and three other collaborators. Paul's expertise as a Garden Tourism expert is best evidenced by the enormous popularity of Longwood as a tourist destination with over 1 million visitors each year.

Back in 1700, a hardworking Quaker family, the Peirces, purchased property from William Penn to start a farm in what is now southeastern Pennsylvania. There is no way they could ever imagine that over the course of the next 300 years this humble plot would be built into the one of the world's greatest gardens.

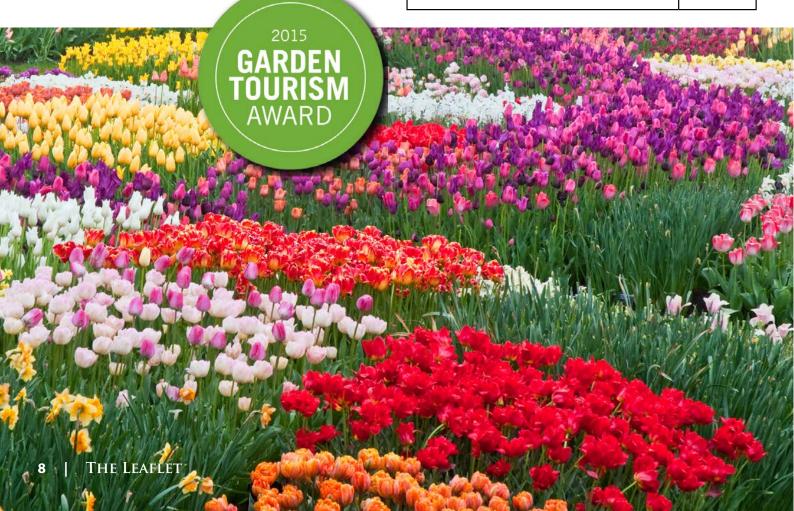
2015 List of the, "TOP 10

North American Gardens Worth Travelling For"

As declared by the Canadian Garden Tourism Council

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Butchart Gardens	Canada
Chanticleer	USA
Denver Botanical Gardens	USA
Desert Botanical Garden	USA
Fairchild Tropical Garden	USA
Huntington Botanical Gardens	USA
Jardín Botánico Culiacán	Mexico
Jardín Botánico de Vallarta (Vallarta Botanical Garden)	Mexico
Longwood Gardens	USA
Montreal Botanical Garden	Canada

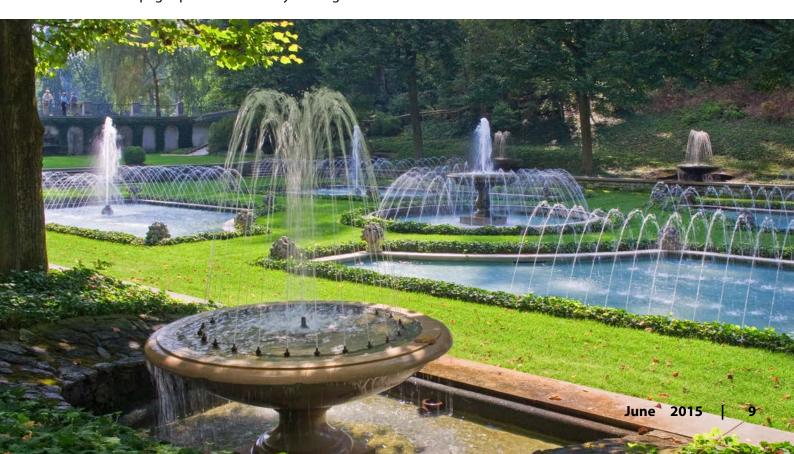


Perhaps the first move towards this course was when the Peirces began planting an arboretum on the farm 100 years later. Then, in 1906, the industrialist Pierre S. du Pont purchased this arboretum to save its fine collection of trees from the jaws of a lumber mill. Pierre invested into the property from the fortunes of his corporate chemical empire. His travels to France and Italy proved particularly inspirational and heavily guided the development of the grounds.

These developments continue at Longwood through the unceasing efforts of their team of public garden professionals. Here, horticulture becomes fine art and even the most common of plants are grown for extraordinary effect. But many of these are far from common considering Longwood's vast collection of over 11,000 types of plants throughout its 1,077 acre (over 435 hectare) property. Splashes of vibrant vegetative color abound here in brilliant coordination through bold design. Flowers and foliage aren't the only things making a splash at Longwood though—its vast array of fountains are more plentiful than those at any other US garden. Even the smallest of details bear witness to the success of this garden in living its vision—to become a world apart, a place accessible to all.



* As declared at the North American Garden Tourism Conference in Toronto, Canada March, 2015 Photos on these pages provided courtesy of Longwood Gardens.



A Mother with 41 Children Honored at the Garden By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

This past Mother's Day we were happy to receive dozens of happy families visiting the Garden with their mothers as our guests of honor. One special mom, Melissa Cañez, visited along with 41 of her children. Melissa is the founder and "house mom" of the local orphanage, Corazón de Niña (heart of the girl).

Three years ago Melissa witnessed the physical abuse of a mother and her daughters by their father and was compelled to seek some kind of help. When law enforcement authorities did not intervene, she visited a local orphanage and soon found herself deeply involved there as a volunteer. Months later, the orphanage was dismantled by government officials and the girls were destined to be dispersed throughout Mexico to a combination of orphanages. The girls at this orphanage had developed such a strong connection that they unanimously asked officials if they could live with Melissa. Melissa and her partner Juan Meza were aghast at the impending plight of these girls, who have already been through so much as orphans, facing separation yet again from those they have learned to love and trust. At that point they committed to a huge leap of faith and took in thirteen girls ranging from age nine to 21 to their own home.

Now, as of June 2015, Juan and Melissa have a total of 41 children in their care, expanding their home to accommodate them and utilizing an adjacent revenue property to house the boys who have joined their family. Theirs is the only home in the entire Bahia de Banderas area accepting adolescent girls.



Their profile includes victims of abuse and abandonment. They are leaders in sibling reunification having brought and/or kept together a total of 10 families who would have otherwise been separated due to the age restrictions of most orphanages. Corazón has recently been recognized as a Foundation by Government officials having demonstrated that they are much more than an orphanage.

On their visit here to the VBG, the Corazón de Nina family was thrilled to experience the Garden's trails, facilities, and plants with long-time VBG docent and Corazón volunteer English teacher Lynnette Fairclough. They were particularly captivated to see chocolate fruit maturing on our cacao trees and have asked to start growing this botanical delight to the taste buds in the garden at Corazón.

The VBG provided complimentary entry to the Corazón family as we are happy to do for all organized educational

visits with advanced reservations. Additionally, thanks to a recent gift toward our Garden's educational programs by the International Friendship Club, we were able to provide the entire group with lunch and transportation reimbursement.

An intense fire of botanical interest was inspired during this visit and Corazón de Niña students are eager to come back in August during the Garden's cacao and vanilla celebration to learn about some harvestable native Mexican plants they are hoping to grow at their casa. These particular plants are only two of many possibilities for cultivation at their home, especially once they start using their roof as a growing field. We at the VBG look forward to helping these budding horticulturalists with the design and creation of their green roof that will help deliver fresh ingredients to their plates, splashes of color to their centerpieces, and that special connection to nature that only comes through caring for your own plants.



Dick and Dee Daneri Vireya Rhododendron House Soft Opening — Friday, June 5th at 12 pm

The beautiful new Dick and Dee Daneri Vireya Rhododendron House has been completed and our gardeners are busy transplanting our stunning vireya collections there now. A soft opening of this new garden attraction is scheduled for noon of Friday, June 5th at 12 pm.

More lovely vireyas are currently in cultivation and will be transferred to the Dick and Dee Daneri Vireya Rhododendron House in the winter when we will hold a grand opening event to celebrate the completion of this project in its full glory.

Vireyas, formerly referred to as Malesian Rhododendrons in respect to where they were first discovered, has a range extending as far north as Taiwan, south to northern Australia, and east to the Solomon Islands.



10th National Botanical Gardens Day

"THE EX SITU CONSERVATION AND IT'S INCLUSION WITH IN SITU CONSERVATION, TWO FUNDAMENTAL SUPPORTS FOR THE BIOLOGIC DIVERSITY CONTINUITY OF MEXICO"

Mexico's National Association of Botanical Gardens (AMJB for its abbreviation in Spanish) and each of its 43 member gardens are celebrating our country's 10th National Botanical Gardens Day. This year the AMJB's council has chosen the theme "Ex situ conservation and its integration with in situ conservation, two fundamental pillars for continuing the continuation of Mexico's biological diversity." Ex situ conservation is the cultivation and care of species outside of their native habitat and the mainstay of nearly every botanical garden's role in protecting plant diversity for the future. This year's National Botanical Gardens Day theme draws attention to the fact that this work needs to always link back to in situ conservation—maintaining healthy and diverse populations of species in the wild.



The Vallarta Botanical Garden is celebrating National Botanical Gardens Day by offering a morning of complementary activities on July 2, 2015 beginning at 8 am:

Guided birding and epiphyte discovery hike 8:00 to 10:00 am There's a hidden world up above our heads that few beyond the birds ever get to observe. In our tropical forests the upper reaches of the canopy can be filled with fascinating epiphytes (air plants) including orchids, bromeliads, ferns, and even cacti! Learn about these plants through your binoculars in the early morning light and experience our avian fauna during their most active time of the day. Binoculars are available for rent if you don't have your own.

Orchid Care Workshop 10:00 to 11:00 am Whether getting into orchid care for the first time or just hoping to deepen the shade of green on your thumb, join us in repotting orchids and learn some tricks of the trade from our horticultural staff and volunteers.

Tour of the Vallarta Conservatory of Orchids and Native Plants 11:00 to 11:45 am

Here's a great opportunity to learn more about the incredible collections of the Garden's most popular attraction. This facility was awarded the "Initiative of the Year" last fall at the conference Jardins San Limits (Gardens Without Limits) in Metz, France by an international panel of garden experts. But don't just take it from the experts— experience it yourself!





AMJB
CONSEJO BIRECTIVO
-2013-2015-



Thursday 2nd, July 2015

Vallarta Botanical Garden's Calendar

ı	DATE	EVENT	COST
		GARDENS ARE CLOSED ON MONDAYS FROM APRIL UNTIL DECEMBER	
MAY & JUN		Peak Hummingbird Season — Best time of the year to observe and identify hummingbirds. To date, 13 different hummingbird species have been noted at the VBG.	Included with entry
5	MAY	World Environment Day — The Garden will celebrate this day by the soft opening of the new Dick and Dee Daneri Vireya Rhododendron House at 12 pm. A grand opening of this structure when it is more fully stocked with plants will be scheduled for the winter.	Included with entry
21	JUN	Father's Day — Invite dear old dad for a day at the Garden.	Included with entry
2	JUL	National Botanical Gardens Day — Our celebration of this event will include guided hikes and workshops starting at 8 am. See pages 12 – 13 for full details.	Included with entry

^{*} Some activities subject to change. The most current calendar, often with links to further event information, can be viewed at www.vbgardens.org/calendar.



Garden Hours 10 am – 6 pm

Open 7 days/wk for the months of Dec., Jan., Feb., & March (except Christmas & New Year's Day)

Open 6 days/wk (Closed Mondays) April, May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., & Nov

Early "Bird" Opening 8 am every Thursday

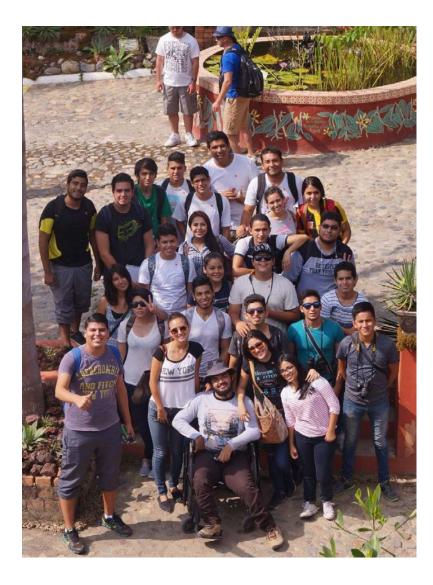
Daily Guided Tour1 pm (Offered for the months of Dec., Jan., Feb., & March)
can be reserved in advance www.vbgardens.org/tours

VBG Education & Volunteer Program Report

Our volunteer who has been helping us with plant curation and educational programs has been reassigned by her host organization and is no longer available at the Vallarta Botanical Garden. Our volume of educational visits from local schools is increasing though, so there is a very real community need for more volunteer support of these projects at this time.

The ideal candidate profile is a long-term bilingual volunteer who can commit to at least one day a week of service at the Garden, respond to inquiries regarding educational visits, and coordinate coverage of these visits.

Those interested are encouraged to please write to educadorambiental@vbgardens.org.



Students visitors from the *Preparatoria Regional de Puerto Vallarta:*

Monthly tally of visits, program participation, and volunteer service: May 2015 Total member visits to the VBG: 109 Total non-member visits to the VBG: 2,334 Complimentary entries for organized school groups*: 149 Total participation in daily 1 pm tours: 0 (suspended until December) Total participation in special events, classes, or workshops: 149 Total volunteer service hours: 114

^{*}The VBG is happy to provide complimentary entries, guided tours, and educational programming for organized school groups with advanced reservations as one of our services to the Bahía de Banderas, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo Corrientes communities. Reservation requests should be sent to educadorambiental@vbgardens.org at least 5 days before the requested date of your visit. Requests are granted first come, first served and are scheduled around other events and programs already on our calendar.





Michaela Flores, Membership Coordinator, VBG memberships@vbgardens.org

From the Membership Desk

So maybe the spring solstice isn't officially upon us until June 21st, but here in the coastal tropics you'd hardly know it. Our days have turned from warm to hot and the sun's intensity is at nearly full blast. Those of you who are feeling a little too hot should remember to come up to the Garden and visit us. Our higher elevation keeps us several degrees cooler than in Vallarta and our fresh mountain breeze is nearly a constant companion. To cool off even more you can always take a delightful swim in the refreshing waters of the Los Horcones River at the border of our property.

If this proves habit-forming, you may choose to join us as a member for unlimited access to this mountain retreat and relaxing oasis. If you have any questions, please find me at the membership desk. We're always here to help!

Members: please always wear your membership card when visiting the Garden. This helps our staff and volunteers recognize you as members and offer discounts on your Garden purchases.

Can you find your name on our WALL OF BENEFACTORS?

If you're not yet "on the wall" we invite you to join the family that preserves the Garden forever!

Becoming a member is easy & provides great benefits:

www.vbgardens.org/memberships

A high resolution image of this photograph is available at www.vbgardens.org/benefactors

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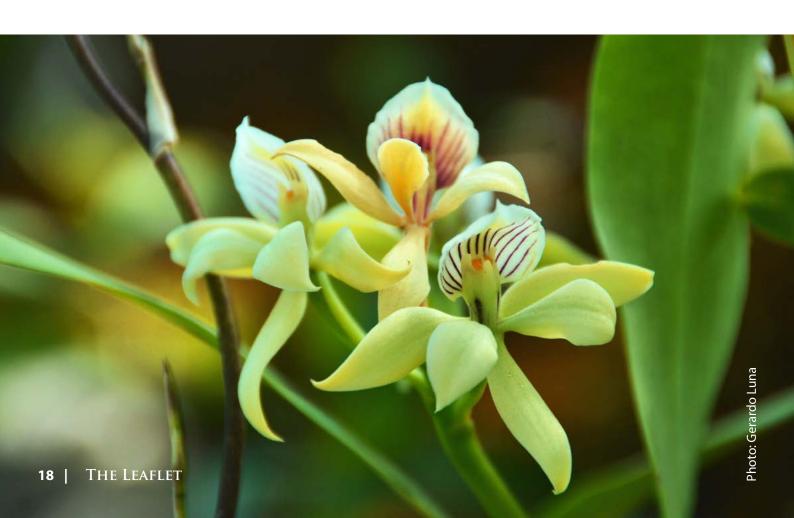
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(S) = student (I) = individual ⊗ = deceased

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Your Donations to the Vallarta Botanical Garden are Greatly Appreciated

México



- Tax-deduction receipts are avaiable for donations to the Vallarta Botanical Garden made through the Fundación Punta de Mita (FPM).
- Please send an email earmarking your gift for the Vallarta Botanical Garden to donaciones@fundacionpuntademita.org with a copy to info@vbgardems.org
- -In this email please include your name, the date your gift was sent, and the amount of your gift.

Checks may be mailed to:

Fundación Punta de Mita, A.C. Carretera Federal Libre 200 Km 18.05 Punta Mita, Nayarit, C.P. 63734 México.

- -Please provide FPM with your email and information to be included in the tax-deductible receipt (wich will be sent by email).
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Account in Mexican Pesos (MXN): Account in US Dollars (USD):

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Canada - Our educational programs qualify for tax-deduction receipts provided by The Canadian Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation (CCSHF)

Cheques may be mailed to:

Canadian Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation 87 Lavinia Ave Toronto, ON, M6S 3H9 Canada

Please write "VBG" for "Vallarta Botanical Gardens" on your cheques.

Alternatively, you may donate using a credit card through CanadaHelps.org (whose donation page is linked to the CCSHF website www.ccshf.ca) selecting the "Vallarta Botanical Gardens Fund."

USA



- Our direct support 501(c)3, "Friends of Vallarta Botanical Gardens, A.C." issues tax-deduction receipts:

Checks may be mailed to:

Friends of Vallarta Botanical Gardens, A.C. 759 North Campus Way Davis, CA 95616

Wire transfers / direct deposits can be sent to:

Routing number: 322271627 Your **General Fund Account: 0635607190** choice Conservatory Account: 3310099857

Credit Card Payments:

Call us w/ your card info: +52 322 223 6182

PayPal: www.vbgardens.org/fvbg

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