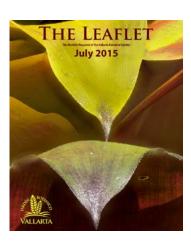


# THE LEAFLET









Cover photo: Mansur Kiadeh Bromeliad Leaves

# The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden

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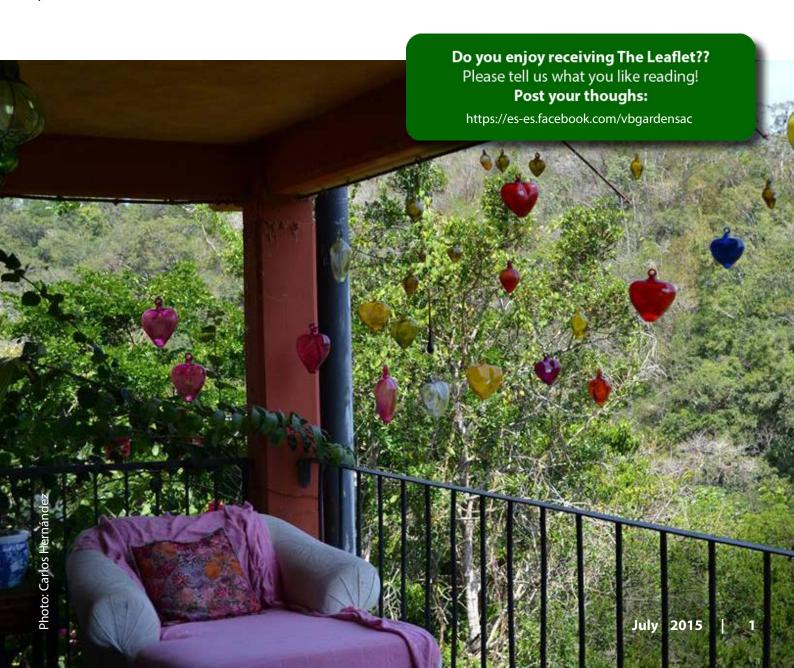
## **Curator's Corner**

# Dear Friends of the Garden,

This July is a wonderful time to rejoice in the diversity of Mexico's flora and the rich legacy of its horticultural heritage. Your celebration might start on July 2nd, the official national day of botanical gardens here in Mexico. Following this we have July 6th as the birthday of Frida Kahlo, a boldly unique artist and plant enthusiast whose home garden in Coyoacán has inspired the current feature attraction at the New York Botanical Garden. Next up, we have July 9th as Mexico's Arbor Day, an especially appropriate time for you to plant a tree and commit to its long-term care as a personal promise towards a healthy planet.

There is certainly no shortage of cause for nature-related celebration. While we'd of course love for you to celebrate with us at the Vallarta Botanical Garden, more importantly, we hope you take the time to renew your commitment to beautifying the planet and contributing to the stewardship of its bountiful yet finite resources.

In friendship, Bob Price, Founder and Curator, VBG



# Frida Kahlo Back in New York

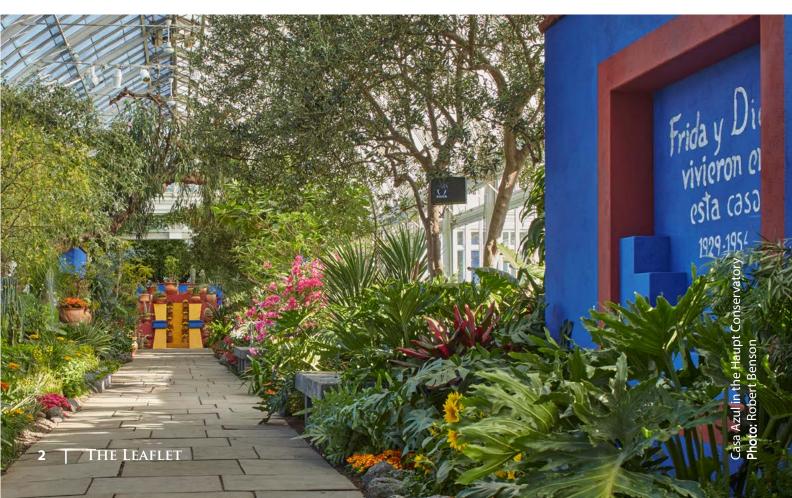
By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

With the detailed care that set artists employ in transforming Hollywood studios into historical landscapes for epic films, the exhibition team of the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) have recreated a fabled slice of early 20th century Mexico within their Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Their Frida Kahlo exhibit, on display until November 1st, transports guests back into the magical moments when this iconic artist was one of the country's most colorful celebrities.

Instead of the common focus on Kahlo's troubled life often examined through her sufferings, the NYBG team has shifted attention to her nature-based inspirations from the wilds of tropical Mexico and her living collections within her home garden at her lifelong residence, Casa Azul. Curious cactus, bursting blooms of marigolds,



Pyramid Detail in the Haupt Conservatory; Photo: Robert Benson



radiant palms, jacaranda, and luxuriant thick-leafed perennials from the jungle's understory bring a living connection to Kahlo's past that defy the limitations of a stagnant diorama. Here Kahlo's troubles are outshined by her keen appreciation for the glorious diversity of the natural world. Beyond a study of Kahlo as a painter, her passion as an amateur naturalist and plant aficionado are clearly evidenced in the NYBG exhibit.

For a fleeting moment, visitors to the NYBG can travel through Kahlo's world made all the brighter by a fresh botanical perspective into the beautiful mind of this widely influential artist and the ripe and fruitful lessons of her timeless garden.





# **Mexican Orchid Of the Month**

Hexalectris parviflora

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

This lovely orchid is considered saprotrophic, that is, it derives its energy not primarily through photosynthesis but rather through rotting organic material and its relationships with certain fungi. The genre *Hexalectris* has a total of eight species and two varieties. While five of these range into the US and two are found in Guatemala, here in Mexico you can find all of them!

Hexalectris parviflora was documented to science in 1938 after the botanist L. O. Williams located it in pine-oak

forest habitat in the state of Sonora. Here in Jalisco, it has been observed in the forests around Talpa de Allende and Mascota.

Until now, no one has been successful at breeding this species. So keep in mind that the peak time for finding this plant in bloom with its gorgeous white, red, and purple-streaked flowers is the month of March. Plan your calendars ahead of time for a hike high in the mountains to experience these gems in all of their natural splendor.



# **Mexican Bird of the Month**

If our July "Mexican Bird of the Month" photo looks quite a bit like last month's bird to you, don't worry, you're probably not alone. The Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes* similis) and the Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus* sulphuratus) are commonly confused by novice birders.

To help differentiate the Social Flycatcher from the Great Kiskadee, and a few other local birds of similar appearance, pay particular attention to a few of its notable characteristics. For starts, Social Flycathers are on the smaller side, measuring in at only 16-18 cm

(6 to 7 inches) versus the robust 26 cm (10 inch) length of the Great Kiskadees. Social Flycatchers have short downward-curved bills, dark grey to black heads with white eye stripes and a vermillion crown stripe, although the later is often concealed.

These birds are far from shy, and their loud and frequent vocalizations give them away quite easily. In fact, any doubt to this bird's identification can be put to rest by learning its calls and that of its similarly appearing distant relatives.



# Pine-Oak Project Update By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

We send our thanks to the Brooklyn Bird Club (BBC) for their success in raising \$2,537.50 USD towards the VBG's Pine-Oak Restoration Project. Likewise, we thank the Environment for the Americas, organizers of International Migratory Bird Day, for introducing our project to the BBC and for sending an additional \$130 USD donated to our project through them. We're now over half way to our

total project fundraising goal of \$5,000 USD and the local Punta de Mita Foundation has stated a goal of raising funds equal to \$2,000 USD towards the project. Should you like to contribute, please reference the various options for sending your tax-deductible donations listed on the back page of *The Leaflet*.

# In Good Company: Jardín Botánico Culiacán

# 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. July 2nd is Mexico's "Día Nacional de Jardínes Botánicos" (National Botanical Gardens Day) and this is an especially appropriate time to share information about the Culiacan Botanical Garden (JBC for its acronym in Spanish) as a fellow Mexican garden.

In 1986, Carlos Murillo Depraect, a civil engineer by profession and plant aficionado by passion, was granted use of a 10-hectare tract of land by the Sinaloa state government to begin a botanical garden using plants from his own personal collection. The care of this garden has since been passed on to his son Carlos Murillo Michel and is generously supported by their community and a very active board of directors including Francisco Agustín Coppel Luken, CEO of the multi-billion-dollar Mexican department store giant, Coppel.

# 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

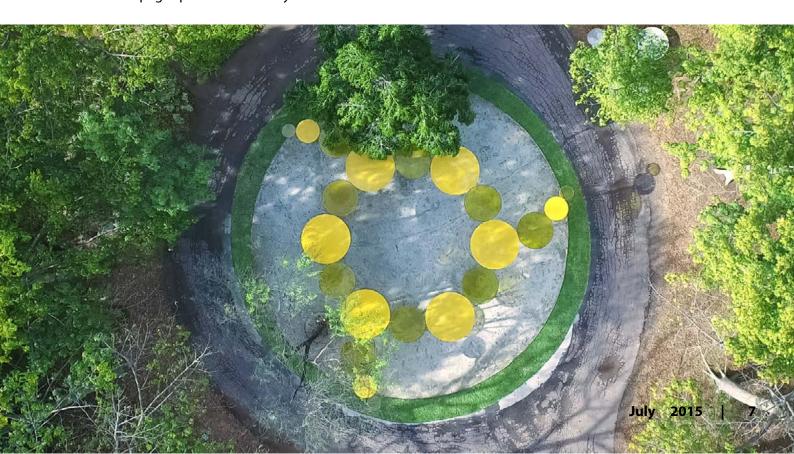


This garden's mission includes inspiring a harmonic relation between the community and nature. A sense of harmony ties together the JBC while one can't help but also note the careful design of each constituent area as individual artistic expressions. Here, over 1,000 curated plants from over 100 plant families are living elements of precisely orchestrated landscapes each with their own themes, morals, and personality. Walking through these grounds compels you to think differently about the mysteries of nature and your footprint upon the planet.

From the Jurassic vibration of the JBC's palm garden (the official national collection of this important plant family), to the contemporary and even futuristic energy in works such as "Estella Rota" (Broken Star), it is hard not to feel the manipulation of masterful creators who use plants as medium for their art or carefully selected settings in which to place them. The fantastic, plant-focused world of the Culiacan Botanical Garden gives birth to an intensely impactful visitor experience that can and does change lives... we hope that your life will become one of them!



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





# 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 complimentary 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	
2	JUL	<b>National Botanical Gardens Day</b> — Our celebration of this event will include guided hikes and workshops starting at 8 am. See pages 8 through 9 for full details.	Included with entry
5	JUL	<b>Frida Kahlo Birthday Celebration</b> — Dress-up like Frida Kahlo or Diego Rivera to receive a complementary entry to the Garden. Whoever is judged the best look-a-like will receive a tropical floral bouquet for their creativity. Note: the Garden is closed on Monday (the actual day of Frida's birthday) so we're celebrating her life the day before.	Included with entry
9	JUL	<b>Mexican National Arbor Day</b> — Looking for a native tree to plant on your special day? Check out our ever-changing selections in the Garden's plant sales nursery.	Included with entry

<sup>\*</sup> Some activities subject to change. The most current calendar, often with links to further event information, can be viewed at <a href="https://www.vbgardens.org/calendar">www.vbgardens.org/calendar</a>.

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 Tour**1 pm (Offered for the months of Dec., Jan., Feb., & March)
can be reserved in advance www.vbgardens.org/tours

# From the Membership Desk

I'll be away from the Garden for the next few months spending some time with family and traveling, but I'm still just an email away if any of you would like to contact me. Giovanni and Luis will work at the front desk in my absence and have been well trained to welcome you as a member to the Garden or process your renewal.

I hope during this summer season the Garden grows in your hearts as it continues to grow in mine.

**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.

Leave a living legacy by remembering the Vallarta Botanical Garden in your estate planning.

Michaela Flores, Membership Coordinator, VBG

memberships@vbgardens.org

# 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

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following supporters:

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**BRYAN SMITH & SUZANNE FRENCH-SMITH** 

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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).
- -Please provide FPM with confirmation (copy of check) for tracking.

Wire transfers: Bank: Banamex

Account in Mexican Pesos (MXN): Account in US Dollars (USD):

SWIFT CODE: BNMXMXMM

09840115760 CLABE 002375098401157608 09849002101 CLABE 002375098490021017

Paypal: www.fundacionpuntademita.org/en/how-to-help



**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

#### Donations of stocks and IRA distributions:

- Charles Schwab Account # 46789311 DTC

Clearing # 164 Code: 40

- Chase Brokerage DTC # 0352

Account # 7422361



# Thank you for your generous contributions!

**Phone:** 01 52 322 223 6182 (international calls) **or** 223 6182 (local calls)

**Email:** info@vbgardens.org **Web:** www.vbgardens.org