

THE LEAFLET

The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden

December 2016



**Happy
Holidays!**



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The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden

Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, México

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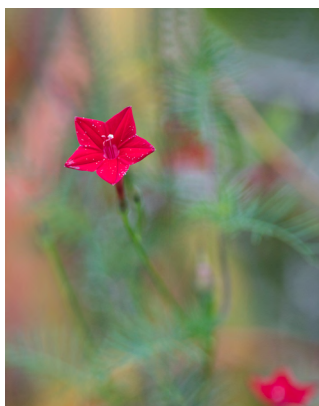
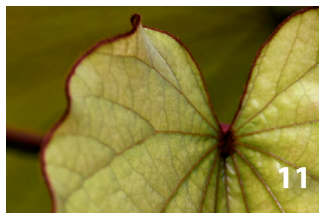
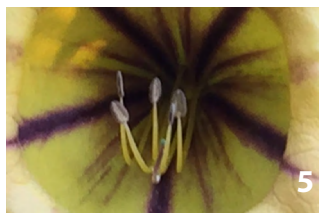
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Contents

- 1** Curator's Corner
- 3** Mexico's International Peace Garden
- 4** Garden Giving
- 5** Garden Encouraged by Recent Estate Gift
- 6** Mexican Bird of the Month
- 8** Internationally Renowned Sculptor to Consider the Vallarta Botanical Garden as a Site for an Art Installation
- 11** *Bauhinia aureifolia*—As Good as Gold
- 12** Enthusiastic Reception of Art Exhibition at the VBG
- 14** VBG Receives Award Toward the Cacti and Succulent Plant House!
- 15** Monthly Reports

Features

- 16** Vallarta Botanical Garden's Calendar
- 17** From the Membership Desk
- 22** Donation Information



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Curator's Corner

Dear Friends of the Garden,

Recent political events throughout the world have gone a long way to drawing attention towards differences between communities, cultures, and countries. Those of us who stay attuned to nature however know that what unites all living creatures on this planet is of infinitely more importance.

Noting the differences that make us all unique is a captivating study. For naturalists it's incredibly rewarding to discern those sometimes-subtle differences that separate one species or variety from another. Yet as spectacular as these differences can be, it is even more fascinating to explore how communities of diverse life forms function collectively as whole ecosystems.

Let's use this study of ecosystems and their constituents as an analogy about our global community of human beings. There's much reward in learning about the differences that make us unique and special as cultures, nations, races and so forth, yet of greater importance is how we can celebrate the diversity of life and facilitate its harmony for a peaceful and sustainable world.

Yes, crisis abounds throughout our planet, yet so does peace, love, and the opportunity for healing, renewal, and creative solutions for our problems. Real and lasting peace is possible and we are the ones responsible for working towards it through our intentions, words, and actions.


The Vallarta Botanical Garden and its dedicated team of staff and volunteers are doing our part to work for peace, conservation, education, and beautification. We're currently focusing much of our energy and resources into building Mexico's International Peace Garden. So please visit the Garden soon to see the International Peace Garden and set your intentions as a vote for peace on earth. Here, you can make a difference and your vote counts!

With unyielding resolve to pursue a peaceful future for both our local community and our friends throughout the world,

Bob Price, Founder and Curator, VBG

"Red Shield" Annual Hibiscus
Photo: Mansur Kiadeh





**Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
– Saint Francis of Assisi**

Big Garden Sky
Photo: Leonardo Montes

The Garden's chapel may be rented for weddings, vow-renewals, celebrations of life and other events. Please write to hillary@vbgardens.org for more info.



International Peace Garden under construction
Photo: Mansur Kladen

PEACE IS ON THE WAY!

Announcement: Change of Venue for “Gift of Peace” Event on January 16th, 2017

Thanks to the recent pledge for funds for the International Peace Garden, the fundraiser that the Casa Karma so graciously offered to host for us is no longer necessary. Instead, we're planning a daytime event at the Garden for January 16th called "Sharing Peace" for us to all come together and set our intentions for peace and understanding for 2017 and beyond. If you were looking forward to contributing to the International Peace Garden project, you may still do so toward an endowment for this project or for one of the new projects we are taking on such as the Cactus House or existing programs including public horticulture and education.

Funding for Completing Mexico's International Peace Garden Pledged by Generous Canadian Couple

By Robert Price, Founder and Curator, VBG

Faith is a powerful force that often brings amazing results. With relatively few donations and pledges yet in place for the new International Peace Garden at the Vallarta Botanical Garden, we began work anyway in faith that the exciting nature of this project would attract the support necessary to see it through. Our prayers were answered by a generous pledge for the remaining funding of this project by a beautiful member couple.

Work is continuing full force with incredible results and we're now placing orders for the remaining supplies, materials, and plants we will need to complete it. This space is intentionally designed to inspire peaceful reflection, resolution, and action. On February 16th, both the President and the Executive Director of the International Peace Garden Foundation will join local

governmental representatives and Garden leaders in a dedication ceremony to make this Mexico's International Peace Garden. Please save the date and join us for this important event!

The Vallarta Botanical Garden's new International Peace Garden will adorn the slope that rises toward the entrance to the recently completed multi-faith chapel, *Nuestra Señora del Jardín* (Our Lady of the Garden). It will feature plants of the Mediterranean and the Holy Land along with Mexican wildflowers. The intention is to use plants to acknowledge the geographical region that gave birth to several of the leading world religions and to grow these together in harmony with each other and with Mexico's lovely native species as well.

Give Every Month – Become a Garden “GEM”

Dividing your contributions to the Vallarta Botanical Garden into monthly payments can help you better budget your annual giving and allows us a dependable monthly income to carry the Garden through the slower times of the year. A new Give Every Month “GEM” page is now up on the Garden’s website www.vbgardens.org for you to begin this kind of contribution today.

Commemorative Cantera Benches

Would you like to honor or memorialize someone with a permanent cantera bench at the Vallarta Botanical Garden? Benches are finished with beautiful hand-painted ceramic tiles. We can help you create a custom design with text and images of your choice. Prices are at \$7,000 USD for a *Banca Real* (Regal Bench) and \$5,000 USD for a *Banca Distintiva* (Distinctive Bench). Dividing this up into payments over the course of three years is a commitment of only \$194 or \$139 USD per month. These gifts qualify for tax-deductible contributions in Mexico, the US, and Canada. Interested? Great! Please visit our website or call 322 223 6182 and ask to speak to the Garden’s Executive Director, Neil Gerlowski or Membership Coordinator, Michaela Flores.

Your Legacy Lives on at the VBG

Including the Vallarta Botanical Garden in your wills, trusts, and estate planning is an investment in the long-term viability of this important natural sanctuary for Puerto Vallarta and the exquisite flora of Mexico and world tropics. A member of the Garden’s Legacy Committee would be happy to talk to you about the best options for optimizing your philanthropic potential and further blessing a community. Please write to info@vbgardens.org.



Cyrtostachys renda
Photo: Leonardo Montes



Garden Encouraged by Recent Estate Gift

To encourage someone is to enable them to be courageous—to allow them to pursue their dreams and visions fearlessly and tirelessly and surmount all and every obstacle in their path. Our team of staff and volunteers at the Vallarta Botanical Garden is constantly encouraged by the faith and generosity of our community of supporters from throughout the world. We’ve most recently felt this encouragement quite strongly when a member couple of the Garden shared with us that they will be leaving a third of their potentially substantial estate to the Vallarta Botanical Garden. When we thanked these kind and generous members, they chuckled and replied, “Don’t thank us yet, we still hope to live for quite a while!” We laughed with them but let them know what an incredible encouragement and vote of approval this is for our Garden.

Physically, none of us will live forever, but our words and actions collectively form our legacy which can live indefinitely! Memberships and donations have allowed the VBG to advance admirably during our formative years. This new gift is the first to be formally set aside to help develop an endowment for the Garden’s future. Now that this has begun, other contributions can keep it continuing along with accumulating size and strength for transformative effects on our organization and community. You are all invited to be part of the family that makes this dream into reality.

Mexican Bird of the Month

Campephilus imperialis - Imperial Woodpecker

By Greg R. Homel www.birdinginpuertovallarta.com/birdingadventures@mac.com

The name *Sierra Madre Occidental* holds a special meaning in my mind. Ever since I was a young child innocently thumbing through the inspiring color plates of Roger Tory Peterson's 1973 *A Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico*, this mountain range has drawn me to it and inspired me—largely because of an unimaginably impressive bird *I saw* depicted on one of those plates!

To this day, every time I hear the name, visit the place, view it on a map, fly over it in an aircraft or explore it on foot, I can't help thinking about what once was... and what may still be. I think about hope, and a childhood dream.

When I think of the Sierra Madre Occidental, I think of descriptions I've read of majestic, uncut coniferous mesa forests where the first gnarled branches don't even appear on towering trunks until more than 60' above ground level. I think of a former wilderness alive with the sounds of *Mexican Wolves*, lumbering *Mexican Grizzlies*, chattering flocks of *Thick-billed Parrots* numbering in their thousands, and, perhaps the most spectacular of all... a Mexican endemic that is all but forgotten—the largest, most powerful woodpecker the world has ever known—the 23" Imperial Woodpecker (*Campephilus imperialis*).

I'm not the only one to be haunted and impressed by Mexico's lovely Imperial Woodpecker. These birds were big, vocal, strikingly patterned, purportedly unafraid of people, and congregated in groups up to 20-strong! People throughout the ages have been captivated by them. Perhaps you're among them?

The indigenous Tepheuana and Huichol used these woodpecker's bills and crest feathering for ceremonial and medicinal uses. The logging industry—once it had devastated most of Mexico's virgin highland conifers—blamed this bird for their industry's decline, even going so far as to place a bounty on its head and using poison to kill them—all in a fruitless effort to bring back their boom years which never returned.

Believable but unconfirmed sightings persisted into the mid 1990s and even the early 2000s.

Imperial Woodpeckers, if they really are still extant, only

occur in high altitude (1,920-3,050m) pine forests cloaking Mexico's Sierra Madre Occidental, though all known specimens are held in museums outside the country.

The male is, or was, a striking, glossy black bird with an impressive, peaked scarlet crest, an enormous ivory-colored bill which it used to slash bark flakes off mature pines, white braces streaming up his back and bold white wing patches visible both at rest and in flight. The female may have presented an even more impressive sight than her male counterpart—though *I wouldn't know from first-hand experience*—for she had a stunning, recurved black crest that recoiled like a spring while working the lofty trunks of her high-altitude, forested realm.

Try, for a moment, to imagine what it would have been like to see this species in life. I bet you can't, but against all odds, an actual color film surfaced in 2010 showing this bird in flight and foraging on a giant, mature pine. You can see it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0OCd6b1aXU>.

2016 marks the 60th anniversary of the last proven sighting of this iconic, little-known and little-remembered Mexican endemic, also referred to as "*La Pitorreal*", "the Grand Whistler". Most birders aren't even aware of the Sierra Madre Occidental or its giant woodpeckers. Those that are, are reminded of the massif's ornithological glory, when they are fortunate enough to glass such keystone *Sierra Madrean* endemics as *Thick-billed Parrot*, *Eared Quetzal*, *Tufted Jay*, *Green-striped Brush-Finch* and *Sierra Madre Sparrow*, most now threatened, limited range or endangered species.

The State of Jalisco is the type locality where the Imperial Woodpecker was first described to science, and, interestingly, it supports the Sierra Madre Occidental's sole remaining virgin mesa forest at El Carricito del Huichol, now a reserve.

Superstition, logging on a massive scale, poisoning, geopolitical turmoil, the quirky nuances of birders themselves, in combination with the species' social habits, great size and striking appearance may have all conspired against the majestic Imperial Woodpecker—which, begs the question.... Do any still exist? The child inside me would like to think so!



Internationally Renowned Sculptor to Consider the Vallarta Botanical Garden As a Site for an Art Installation

By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

Todd McGrain is a sculptor perhaps best noted for his larger-than-life bronze abstracts commemorating some of the magnificent bird species of North America that have been driven to extinction by human causes. These works have permanent installations throughout the US and Canada at locations relevant to the birds' former ranges or last inhabited environs, along with a series of traveling pieces to bring these sculptures to a greater audience to admire and inspire.

The Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), one of Todd's muses, was formerly the most abundant bird in North America with a population of several billion. During their migrations, flocks would take days to pass over an area in such density that they would obscure the sun like an eclipse and their excrement would cover an area like a blanket of snow. Beginning in the early 1800's commercial hunting of these birds began a steady supply of meat to the big cities. By 1900 the last wild bird was documented to be shot dead and a few years later the last captive bird died as well. To think that a bird of such bountiful numbers could be completely exterminated by humans within a century is alarming. The fact that most people are entirely ignorant of its former existence is just as frightening. Learning about what we've lost through our past mistakes means we still have a chance to save of what still remains.

Mexico is also part of North America (all of it politically and most of it geographically) and was once home to an endemic bird, the Imperial Woodpecker, which was the largest species of woodpecker in the world. Considering that it hasn't received an observation with photographic documentation in over 60 years, the general consensus among birders and ornithologists is that it has also gone extinct. As sad as this might be, it's sadder still to know that very few people are even aware of its relatively recent extinction. Memorializing it can serve as a rallying point for saving Mexican bird species that are now under threat of extinction.

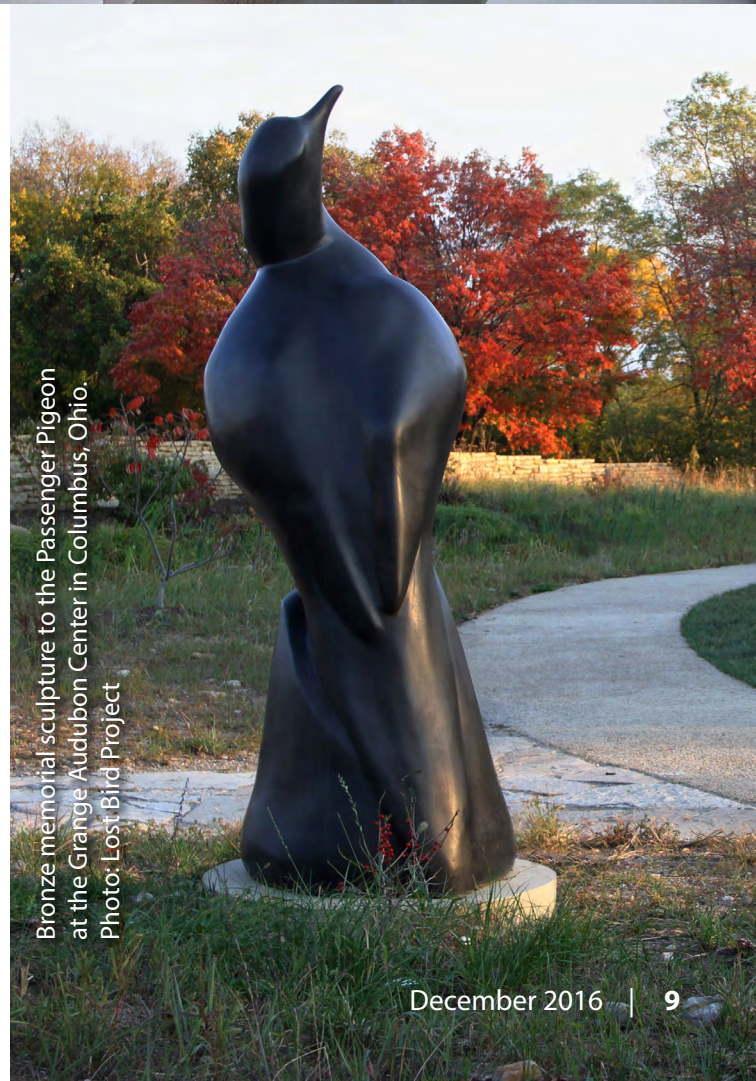


Artist Todd McGrain and cinematographer Scott Anger scouting the Carolina Parakeet habitat. Photo: Lost Bird Project



To this end, I connected with Todd several years ago in a pitch for him to visit and consider creating an Imperial Woodpecker statue and installing it here. Todd's busy schedule of international travel and art hasn't permitted him to plan a trip to Puerto Vallarta until now, but this March he'll attend our Vallarta Bird Festival and provide personal introductions to two screenings of his documentary, "The Lost Bird Project." The first will be in the 650 person Juan Luis Cifuentes Lemus Auditorium at the University de Guadalajara's Centro Universitario de la Costa on Friday, March 10, 2017 beginning at 1:00 pm. The second will be in the Vallarta Botanical Garden's Hall of Flowers Ballroom on Saturday, March 11, 2017 beginning at 6:00 pm.

During the course of the Vallarta Bird Festival, Todd will have an opportunity to get to know our city of Puerto Vallarta, the Vallarta Botanical Garden, our surrounding wild areas, the rich avifauna of our region, and our community. We hope to inspire Todd with a location for one of his exquisite and thought provoking sculptures so he, in turn, can help inspire conservation action for our local wildlife and their habitats. Please help us show Todd a warm Puerto Vallarta welcome and demonstrate that one of his works of art would be very well received here. The best way to do so is to reserve your participation in the 2017 Vallarta Bird Festival by sending an email to eventos@vbgardens.org.

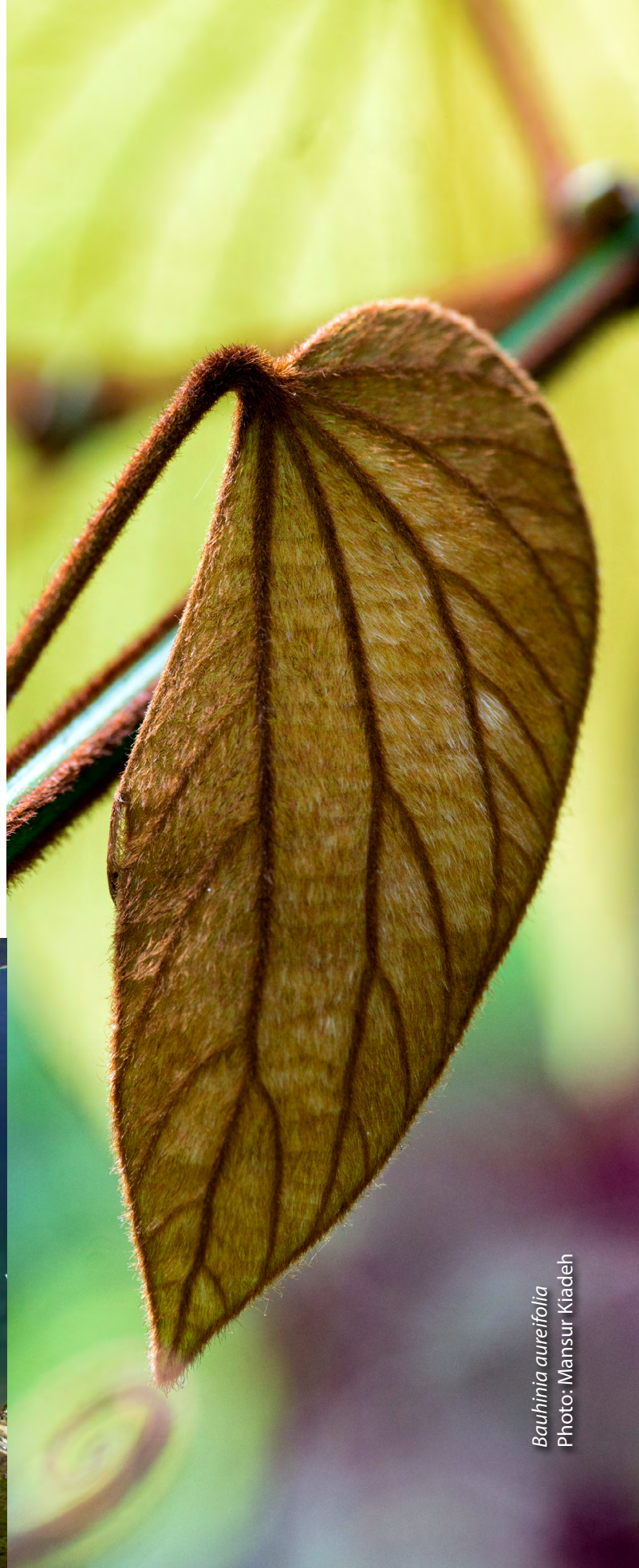


Bronze memorial sculpture to the Passenger Pigeon
at the Grange Audubon Center in Columbus, Ohio.
Photo: Lost Bird Project

Would you like to make birding history in Puerto Vallarta and the Banderas Bay?

The Vallarta Botanical Garden is just one of dozens of amazing local birding hotspots within the count circle of the annual Puerto Vallarta / Bahía de Banderas Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This project, organized by the Audubon Society, is the longest running and most important citizen science project in the world. **Now is not too early to schedule your participation for the 2016 Christmas Bird Count scheduled for December 17th.** Just beforehand, on December 10th, the VBG will hold their Crash Course on Birding in Tropical Western Mexico for participants to prepare for their adventures in scouting and observations the following week.

Over 200 species have been counted within the Puerto Vallarta CBC in past events, but over 100 additional species are documented to occur at this time within our region. That means participants are so far only documenting about two-thirds of the avian diversity that abounds during the day of the count. Additional prepared participants and a better coordination of efforts could result in placing Puerto Vallarta as a top contender for the number one CBC circle in North America. These efforts will not only boost the ecotourism appeal of Puerto Vallarta, but also serve to better document and protect our rich natural biodiversity. **Interested? Please write to birdingadventures@mac.com or educadorambiental@vbgardens.org for more information.**



Bauhinia aureifolia
Photo: Mansur Kiadeh



Bauhinia aureifolia
Photo: Mansur Kladeh



Bauhinia aureifolia
Photo: Dr. Felix Montes

***Bauhinia aureifolia*— As Good as Gold**

Occasionally, even the most knowledgeable and well-studied plant enthusiasts will discover a new botanical treasure so beautiful and bizarre that it knocks their socks off. Such is the case with the otherworldly *Bauhinia aureifolia* whose species name is Latin for “golden-foliaged.” Like its namesake precious mineral, Gold Leaf Bauhinia shines with metallic brilliance. Under the right light conditions, its hues change from bright yellow to reddish. Even a single branch of this plant can have dozens of leaves of different stages of maturity and therefore different sizes and thicknesses resulting in varying levels of opacity and color tones. Plant admirers and anyone with an eye for beauty can stare at this plant indefinitely like one captivated in front of a gleaming campfire or chest of pirate gold.

Bauhinia is a genus in the Fabaceae, or bean family, with pan-tropical distribution including here in Mexico. The most commonly cultivated species and hybrids are the so-called “Orchid Trees” for the superficial resemblance of their flowers to many colorful and showy orchids. Closer study quickly reveals a differing number of petals and from there the differences grow even greater. While the majority of popularly cultivated Bauhinias are trees, the Gold Leaf Bauhinia is a climbing vine that becomes woody as it matures allowing it to scale giant trees of its native range of southern Thailand. The pubescence, or fine hairs on the undersides of these leaves are what give this plant its beautiful coloration. The leaves emerge folded so while they are young they shine from every angle of observation.

You can find *Bauhinia aureifolia* at the Vallarta Botanical Garden at the uphill side of the Daneri Vireya Rhododendron House. This delightful part of our collection is a generous gift of our amigo Dr. Felix Montes, co-owner of the Nayartit-based nursery, Tropical America. Gracias Dr. Felix!

Enthusiastic Reception of Art Exhibition At the Vallarta Botanical Garden

Late last month, a crowd of visitors to the Vallarta Botanical Garden, including tourists from all over the world, attended the inauguration of the final installation of the popular exhibition, “Aves y Sus Hábitats” (Birds and Their Habitats). Some of the most spectacular bird species to be found in and around Puerto Vallarta are showcased and interpreted through artwork including photos, paintings and sculpture.

The range in scale and focus of the art reflects both the tremendous diversity of Western Mexico’s avifauna (with several hundreds of species documented to make this their native range) and the beautiful diversity of participating artists. Czech-Mexican nature photographer Petr Myska, for example, has contributed enormous prints of native parrots to the exhibit. The larger-than-life scale of these pieces and their impressively bold colors command attention even from the first glance from afar. Other works of art in the exhibit are so tiny and intricate that they require close up inspection to appreciate fully. “Nidation,” the nest sculptures of Canadian artist Monique Martin, are fine examples with their miniature scale and fine precision that demand an immediate respect for the meticulous and disciplined work of their creator. These pieces reflect her obvious passionate attentiveness to the natural world. Textures are also an essential element of the exhibit and are masterfully attended to in the piece “Carpinteros” (Carpenters) by Sinaloan artist Antonio Velázquez, better known locally by his artistic name “Abdallahy.” His plastified painting technique brings such depth and dimension to the eye that one forgets they are applied to a two dimensional canvas.

The Vallarta Botanical Garden itself is a living work of art with flowering plants as its paint and the landscape as its canvas. To enjoy nature-inspired art within such an environment is a very special treat. Even the display stands crafted with colorful green and yellow bamboo surfaces bring the focus back to nature and the magnificence of our living world. As summed up by Iranian-Mexican artist Mansur Kiadeh, “The bamboo is beautiful. I want to touch it. Not only is this an art exhibition—the exhibit itself is a work of art.”

Susana Mendoza Carreño, the director of the radio station for the University of Guadalajara’s “Centro Universitario de

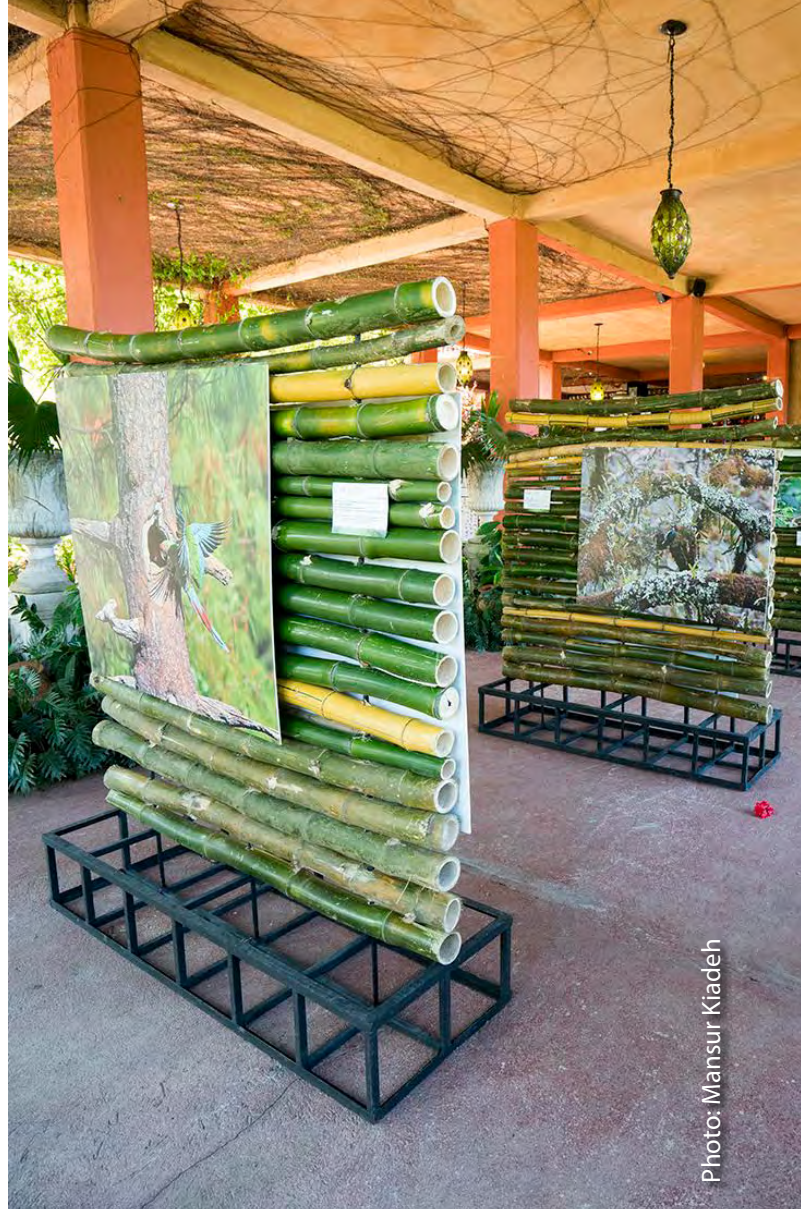


Photo: Mansur Kiadeh

la Costa,” joined the Vallarta Botanical Garden’s Executive Director Neil Gerlowski and attending artists in the exhibit introduction and ribbon cutting. Other special guests included officers and members of the Puerto Vallarta Garden Club, Pilar Pérez, curator of Puerto Vallarta’s “Oficina de Proyectos Culturales” (Cultural Projects Office), and film producer Niki Bhattacharya.

The exhibition “Aves y Sus Hábitats” (Birds and Their Habitats) is on display at the Vallarta Botanical Garden until the end of December. Access to the exhibition is included with Garden entry of only \$150 pesos per person. The exhibition “Aves y Sus Hábitats” (Birds and Their Habitats) is a collaborative project between the Vallarta Botanical Garden, the Peter Gray Art Museum of the University of Guadalajara’s “Centro Universitario de la Costa” and the Galerías Vallarta Shopping Mall.



VBG Recieves Award Toward the Cacti and Succulent Plant House!

The Vallarta Botanical Garden's application for funds toward its 2017 Cacti and Succulent Plant Project was answered with a favorable response from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and an award of \$15,000 USD towards the project. The central component of this project is a new Cacti and Succulent Plant House which will be located in the Galeana Family Desert Plant Garden. The new building will be an open-air structure with a vaulted polycarbonate roof set with cantera stone columns and adornment. After construction, excavated areas will be filled with loads of tezontle—a volcanic rock from eastern Jalisco that provides an excellent semi-porous high-drainage medium perfect for growing succulents. This will then be landscaped with loads of new cactus, many of which we would never have hoped to grow here in the coastal region of Jalisco without this new facility designed specifically for these plants to thrive.

The funds from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust are a big help, but additional funds are still needed to complete this project. Please contact Garden management in how you can become involved in this exciting new project.



Nopales
Photo: Mansur Kiadeh

Monthly tally of visits, program participation, and volunteer service:	September	October	November
Total member visits to the VBG:	73	114	181
Total non-member visits to the VBG:	1073	1527	2552
Total complimentary entries*:	15	229	115
Total participation in 1 pm tours**:	n/a	81	84
Total participation in special events, classes, & workshops:	n/a	n/a	42
Total volunteer service hours:	48	136	152.5

* The Vallarta Botanical Garden is pleased to provide complimentary entry for educational programs for school groups with advanced reservations. Currently, these are only offered on Wednesdays. Requests for reservations may be delivered by email to educadorambiental@vbgardens.org and should be sent at least five days prior to the requested date of visitation. Requests for reservations are granted on a first come, first served basis and are subject to scheduling restrictions.

**1 pm tours are offered daily from December through March and otherwise only when volunteers are available.



Student Field Trip from:
Escuela Preparatoria Regional de Puerto Vallarta
Photo: Leonardo Montes

Vallarta Botanical Garden's Calendar

DATE		EVENT	COST
		GARDENS ARE CLOSED ON MONDAYS FROM APRIL UNTIL DECEMBER	
3	Dec	Volunteer Training — Join the team! Pre-registration required. Send an email of your interest to eventos@vbgardens.org by Dec. 1.	Free w/ prior registration
10	Dec	Tropical Bird ID Crash Course — Need to study up for the big count on Dec. 17th? Join us for some early morning birding (8 am to 11 am) followed by a presentation by expert birders on how to maximize your efforts during “count week.”	Included with entry
17	Dec	Christmas Bird Count (CBC) — The VBG is a regional leader in the world's longest running and most significant citizen science project. Public CBC participation in the Garden is welcome on the 17th from 8 am to 6 pm. Special overnight options (extra cost) are also available. For more info, please write to educadorambiental@vbgardens.org .	Included with entry
17	Dec	Photography Workshop — Come learn about topics including fundamentals of exposure, depth of field, and closeup photography with instructor Mansur Kiadeh. 10 am to 3 pm. RSVP: photos@vbgardens.org .	Included with entry
7	Jan	Volunteer Training — Join the team! Pre-registration required. Send an email of your interest to eventos@vbgardens.org by January 5th.	Free w/ prior registration
16	Jan	“Sharing Peace” — Set your intentions for better peace and understanding for 2017 and beyond. See page 3 for more information.	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.



Photo: Mansur Kiadeh

Garden Hours

Open 7 days/wk

Open 6 days/wk

Early “Bird” Opening

Daily Guided Tour

9 am – 6 pm

for the months of Dec., Jan., Feb., & March (except Christmas & New Year's Day)
(Closed Mondays) April, May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., & Nov.

8 am every Thursday (Offered for the months of Dec., Jan., Feb., & March)

1 pm (Offered for the months of Dec., Jan., Feb., & March)



Michaela Flores,

Membership Coordinator, VBG

memberships@vbgardens.org

From the Membership Desk

We've got a brand new "WALL OF PATRONS" up at the Garden's entry. Please stop there and look for your name during your next visit. If you don't find your name up there, then please stop by my Membership Desk for a little visit. Gracias!

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

Can you find your name on our WALL OF PATRONS?

**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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(S) = student (I) = individual ☼ = deceased

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Your Donations to the Vallarta Botanical Garden are Greatly Appreciated

México



- **Tax-deduction receipts** are available 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@vbgardens.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 (which will be sent by email).
- Please provide FPM with confirmation (copy of check) for tracking.

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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.ccs hf.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 are accepted:

Please write to treasurer@vbgardens.org for routing and account numbers.

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