

# THE LEAFLET

The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden

**March 2017**



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The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden

Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

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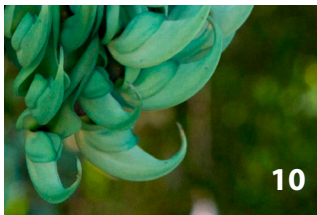
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[www.vbgardens.org](http://www.vbgardens.org)

## Curator's Corner

*Dear Friends of the Garden,*

This past month, in a beautiful and well-attended ceremony, the grounds leading up to the Garden's handsome interfaith chapel, *Nuestra Señora del Jardín*, were dedicated as the Cheryl L. Wheeler International Peace Garden of Mexico. Everyone present helped make this a special and memorable occasion. I'm especially grateful to all of our local community leaders, clergy, musicians and those who traveled far and wide to accompany us and demonstrate their commitment to peace which is so very much needed in our world.


Mother Teresa said that, "Peace begins with a smile." There was no shortage of smiling faces during our event, so the purpose of this garden within a garden is already being served: to inspire peace within and throughout. In the days succeeding the dedication, as I observed guests while gardening, it is obvious that this space has a powerful force to inspire. I witnessed individuals, couples, families, and groups of friends enjoying the area in quiet contemplation and silent marvel for the exquisite beauty and serenity that they discovered. The Chapel is also used for weddings and other events.

As a designed living landscape, any garden requires constant care and attention and the Cheryl L. Wheeler International Peace Garden of Mexico will change throughout the seasons (yes, there are seasons in the tropics!) and over time. As the continued work on this area shifts from construction to maintenance, there is never a dull moment at the Vallarta Botanical Garden and we're set to begin a new project to create the Cabo Corrientes Cactus and Succulent Plant House. Another exciting announcement is that we'll be receiving renowned international sculptor, Todd McGrain, to participate in this year's Vallarta Bird Festival (March 10 – 12). Please see page 4 for further details.

***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



Cheryl L. Wheeler International Peace Garden  
of Mexico at the Vallarta Botanical Garden  
Photo: Paul Desmond



**There is no path to peace.  
Peace is the path.  
— Mahatma Gandhi**

*Prosthechea cochleata*  
Photo: Mansur Kiadeh

## A Special Thank-You to those who Celebrated the Dedication of the Cheryl L. Wheeler International Peace Garden of Mexico

By Cheryl L. Wheeler

On behalf of the entire Vallarta Botanical Garden community, I would like to thank each and every lovely soul who attended the Dedication of the Cheryl L. Wheeler International Peace Garden of Mexico. Beyond those who gave a speech, blessing, prayer, poem, reflection, or musical performance, all who attended deserve to be praised. Everyone present at the dedication served as active participants essential to the extraordinary success of this event.

While there are far too many for me to mention each of you by name, I do wish to publicly acknowledge those who formally participated as part of the event itinerary with me. In their order during the ceremony these are:

- Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, Vallarta Botanical Garden
- Diego Mateo and Ignacio Flores, Moruno
- Ing. Prisciliano Ramírez Gordián, Mayor, *Municipio de Cabo Corrientes, Jalisco*
- Lic. Ma. Gerarda González Zuñiga, Presidente del Comisariado Ejidal, Las Juntas y Los Veranos
- Subinspector Rosalío Armando Ledón Espinoza, Chief of the Federal Police Station of Puerto Vallarta
- Ing. Emiliano Sánchez Martínez, President, *Asociación Mexicana de Jardines Botánicos*
- Robert Price, Founder & Curator, Vallarta Botanical Garden
- Marina de Los Santos, representing Dr. Marco Antonio Cortés Guardado, Rector, Universidad de Guadalajara, CuCosta
- Paula Savage, President, International Peace Garden Foundation
- Michel Gauthier, Director, International Peace Garden Foundation
- Milton Bogoch, representing Rabbi Schneur Hecht, Chabad Center of PV
- Padre Vicente Saúl Cortes Ibarra, Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Paz
- Gholi Darehshori, Representing the Ghashghai Tribe of Iran
- Victor Hugo "Tonatiuh" Ochoa Guadarrama, Representing the Wixárika (Huichol) community of Western Mexico
- Anka Rick Spencer, Centro Zen Puerto Compasivo
- Rebecca "Stolie" Stoelinga, Sheila Tequila, and Tomás



Plus I would like to thank my family and friends who were able to attend. During this powerful and heart-touching ceremony, there was a feeling of inspiration. I ask each of you to look into the depth of your beings to turn this inspiration into action first within, then those who form your immediate families and closest friends, and later to your communities and world. Each of you has the power to guide the future of the world and all who call it home. I realize the importance of the botanical gardens more and more. Having a sanctuary for everyone to enjoy is a huge inspiration and creates yet another powerful layer of tourism appeal to our town – anyone who loves beauty will appreciate the International Peace Garden of Mexico.

Thanks to all who attended the dedication ceremony, I am still celebrating and, in the words we sang together:

"I've got peace like a river,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got love like the ocean in my soul."

## 2017 Vallarta Bird Festival, March 10th-12th

By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

The Puerto Vallarta region is home to a host of bird diversity with over 300 species within just an hour or so from downtown Puerto Vallarta and over 500 species within a five-hour drive from here! Just within the Vallarta Botanical Garden alone, over 200 different species of birds have been observed and documented on [eBird.org](http://eBird.org), a citizen science project of the National Audubon Society and The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. During the annual Vallarta Bird Festival, this abundant avifauna is observed, studied, and celebrated by an enthusiastic group of local residents and international visitors.

This year, accomplished international sculptor and bird aficionado Todd McGrain will be the festival's guest of honor. He will present screenings of his documentary "The Lost Bird Project" at both the Juan Luis Cifuentes Auditorium of the University of Guadalajara's local "CUC" campus and at the Vallarta Botanical Garden. Todd's documentary covers his work in creating and installing enormous bronze masterpieces memorializing North American Birds that have sadly been driven to extinction by human error. The topic, while grim, can help raise awareness for those species that are now endangered and *will* go extinct if we don't do something to stop the threats against them and their critical habitats.

Mexico is the only country in North America not yet graced by one of Todd's evocative bird sculptures. Mexico's now extinct endemic Imperial Woodpecker (*Campephilus imperialis*) would be an excellent candidate for a memorial statue, and Jalisco's pine forests, such as those that begin along the fringes of the Vallarta Botanical Garden, were at the heart of this majestic bird's former range. With any luck, Todd will find sufficient inspiration to create a sculpture in coastal Jalisco and the Puerto Vallarta community will see the value in investing in such a memorial to nature.

### Agenda for the 2017 Vallarta Bird Festival

Date	Time	Activity	Location
March 10	8:00 am	Birding on Campus	UDG CUC (meet up at entry to the Reptilario)
	1:00 pm	Screening of "The Lost Bird Project"	Juan Luis Cifuentes Auditorium, UDG CUC
March 11	8:00 am	Birding in the Forest	VBG (meet up in parking lot at 8 am)
	11:00 am	Screening of "The Lost Bird Project"	VBG, Vallarta Conservatory of Orchids
	1:00 pm	Birding by Ear Workshop	VBG, Vallarta Conservatory of Orchids
March 12	8:00 am	Birding in the Forest	VBG (meet up in parking lot at 8 am)
	11:00 am	Presentation of Conservation Initiatives	VBG, Vallarta Conservatory of Orchids

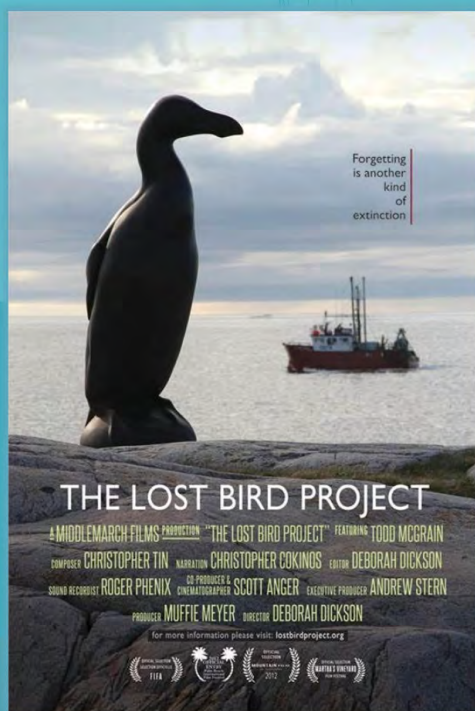
The Vallarta Botanical Garden thanks their colleagues at the UDG CUC, especially Dr. Jorge Téllez, Director of the campus' Division of Biological Sciences and Health, for their collaboration in the Festival. Equally, the Garden extends its gratitude to professional bird guides Alejandro "Alex" Martínez Rodríguez, Greg. R. Homel, Luis Morales, and Francisco García as well as volunteer birding coordinator Nancy Holland for their help with this and past festivals. There are still opportunities for helping create the 2017 Vallarta Bird Festival. Those interested in learning more and/or offering their assistance should contact [info@vbgardens.org](mailto:info@vbgardens.org) and/or [birdinginmexico@gmail.com](mailto:birdinginmexico@gmail.com).



UNIVERSIDAD DE GUADALAJARA  
CENTRO UNIVERSITARIO DE LA COSTA



Centro Universitario de la Costa  
Jardín Botánico Vallarta  
en el marco de **Cinema CUC**  
invitan a la proyección del documental



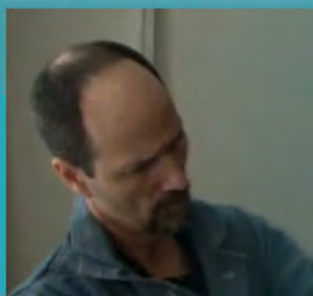
# El Proyecto de las Aves Perdidas

*The Lost Bird Project*

Estados Unidos, 2012

Director: Deborah Dickson

Con la presencia del protagonista,  
creador y escultor, **Todd McGrain**



## Sinopsis

Perdidos y casi olvidada su extinción, el pato de Labrador, el alca gigante, el urogallo de Martha's Vineyard, la cotorra de Carolina y la paloma migratoria, dejan huecos no sólo en el paisaje norteamericano, sino también en nuestros recuerdos. Conmovido por sus historias, el escultor Todd McGrain se dispuso a crear monumentos conmemorativos de las aves perdidas, instalados en los hábitats donde se extinguió cada una, para que a través de las esculturas, el público en general pueda tomar consciencia de dicha pérdida. Todd McGrain estará presente durante la premiere del documental en México, y participará en una sesión de preguntas y respuestas, para inspirar a la comunidad Vallartense.

**Viernes 10 de marzo de 2017 • 1:00 PM**

Mini Auditorio de Rectoría, CUCosta

**ENTRADA GRATUITA**



## Mexican Bird of the Month

*Cyanocorax yncas* - Green Jay - A Jay of a Different Color

Article and photo by Greg R. Homel [www.birdinginpuertovallarta.com/birdingadventures@mac.com](http://www.birdinginpuertovallarta.com/birdingadventures@mac.com)

Up until just a few years ago, very few birders ever saw anything more than a quick flash of yellow (actually the bird's striking outer tail feathers), when encountering Vallarta's spectacularly colorful, yet shy "Green Jay"... as the bird usually showed its pursuers just what it thought of them by hightailing it out of there!

Then along came the Vallarta Botanical Garden to the rescue! Each morning, the Garden provides a sumptuous platter of fresh fruit—papayas, bananas, and the like—fit for a king, with the hope of attracting a beautiful constellation of local neotropical birds for visitors to enjoy.

Among the flurries of less shy, endemic Yellow-winged Caciques, West Mexican Chachalacas, Golden-cheeked Woodpeckers, San Blas Jays and more widespread White-throated Thrushes, and a few beautiful Green Jays... all attracted to the tasty bounty!

Green Jays occur from South Texas to South America—with many geographic races—and are cooperative breeders, occurring in flocks that usually consist of a dominant breeding pair, their most recent offspring, and the offspring of the previous year's successful nesting endeavor. Together they all tend to the current year's nest, while defending their territories from competitors, both infraspecific and interspecific.

Our local green jays are attractively colored, being vivid grass-green above, bright yellow below and along the sides of their neck, with a powder-blue crown, a ruffed lazuli frontlet and blue malar marks, dark eyes with broken white eyerings, a bold black bib and "hidden" bright yellow outer tail feathers, often flared in flight.

Many international visitors come to the garden daily—the majority of which reside in the United States and Canada—where, depending on their origin, they may be more familiar with jays with names reflecting other colors: Such as the Blue Jay, from the eastern US, the Gray Jay from Canada and the Rocky Mountain States, and the Brown Jay, of South Texas into eastern Mexico, etc. Most are surprised to learn of the presence of Green Jays, as well, or the fact that three additional species of jays reside here in our local foothills and mountains.

At first they were shy, but the Garden's hitherto elusive Green Jays have become more confiding of late, allowing, often for the first time, birders and bird photographers to really enjoy satisfying and prolonged views of these very interesting and social *jays of a different color!*

Come take a look for yourself!

## Orchid of the Month

*Pleurothallis cardiothallis*

Article and photo by Marcos Gómez,

Propagation Coordinator, VBG

With more than 5,000 plants used for medicinal purposes in Mexico, as one might correctly guess the list includes members of the orchid family. This is the case of *Pleurothallis cardiothallis*, whose specific prefix comes from the Latin word for "heart", hence its common name in Spanish "*corazones*."

Scarlet red-petaled flowers emerge from the upper center of the plant's heart-shaped leaves in a stunning and rare combination of contrast, form, and arrangement.

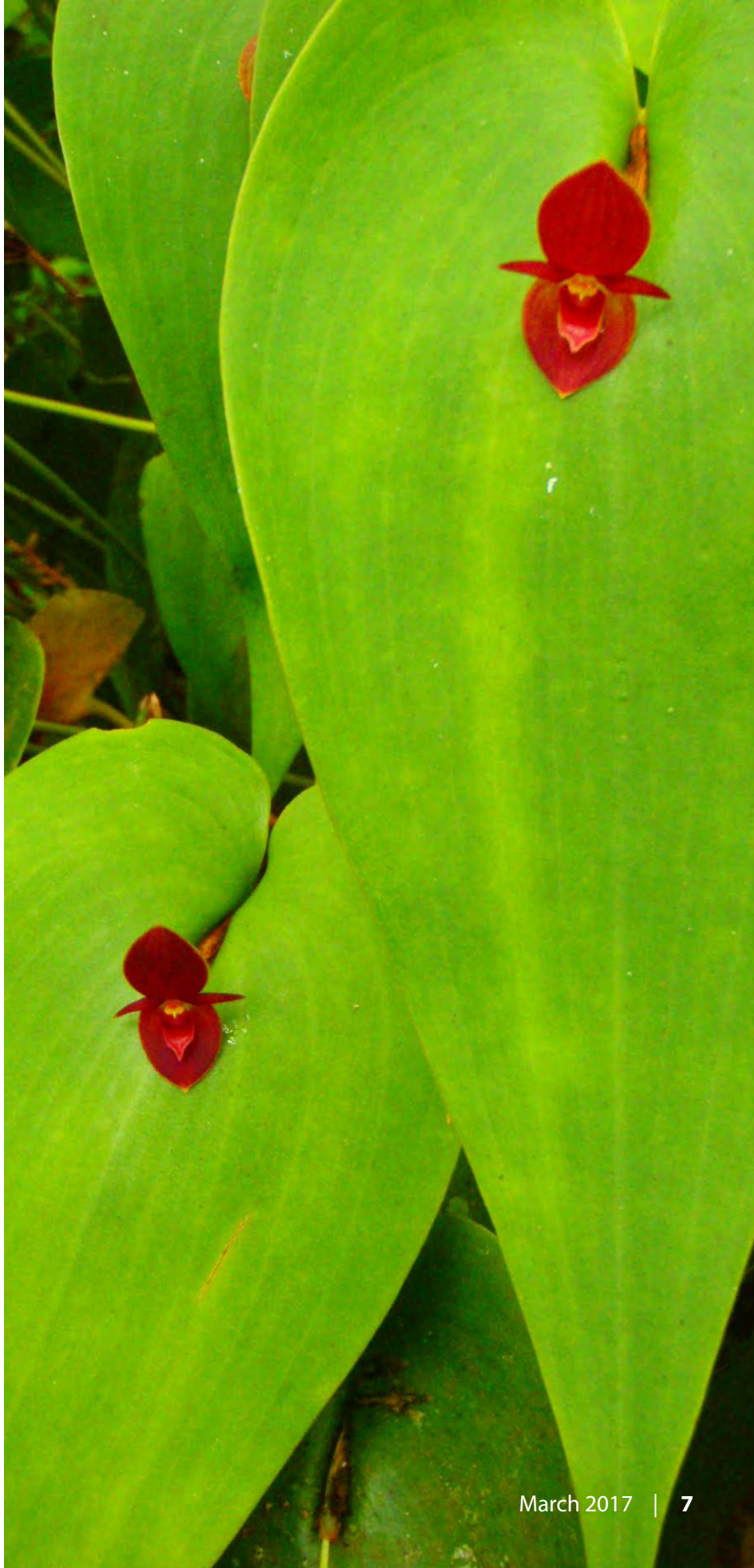
Curiously, the reported medicinal properties of *P. cardiothallis* are not for treatment of heart disease, but rather that the leaves, prepared as a tea, promote fertility.

This medical secret has been shared among indigenous groups of the cloud forests of Puebla and Oaxaca, where *corazones* blossom on the trees as epiphytic plants.

Although scientific research is still needed to verify the effects of this peculiar orchid, it's yet another native plant that should make Mexico proud and an example of the kinds of species that the Vallarta Botanical Garden's conservation programs seeks to protect.

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## VBG Executive Director Accepted for Longwood Gardens Fellowship

*Announcement shared by Bob Price, Founder and Curator, VBG (from Longwood Gardens Press Release)*

Continuing its influence on the future of public horticulture by nurturing and developing global horticultural leaders, Longwood Gardens just announced the five talented professionals selected for the prestigious Longwood Gardens Fellows Program. The Fellows Program focuses on building the leadership capacity of global public horticulture by ensuring a healthy pipeline of talent to be the next generation of industry leaders.

After a rigorous selection process, the Fellows chosen are Andrew Bell (Washington, DC); Kaslin Daniels (New York); Neil Gerlowski (Mexico); Patrick MacRae (New York) and Julia Thomé (Washington, DC).



Andrew Bell

Kaslin Daniels

Neil Gerlowski

Pat MacRae

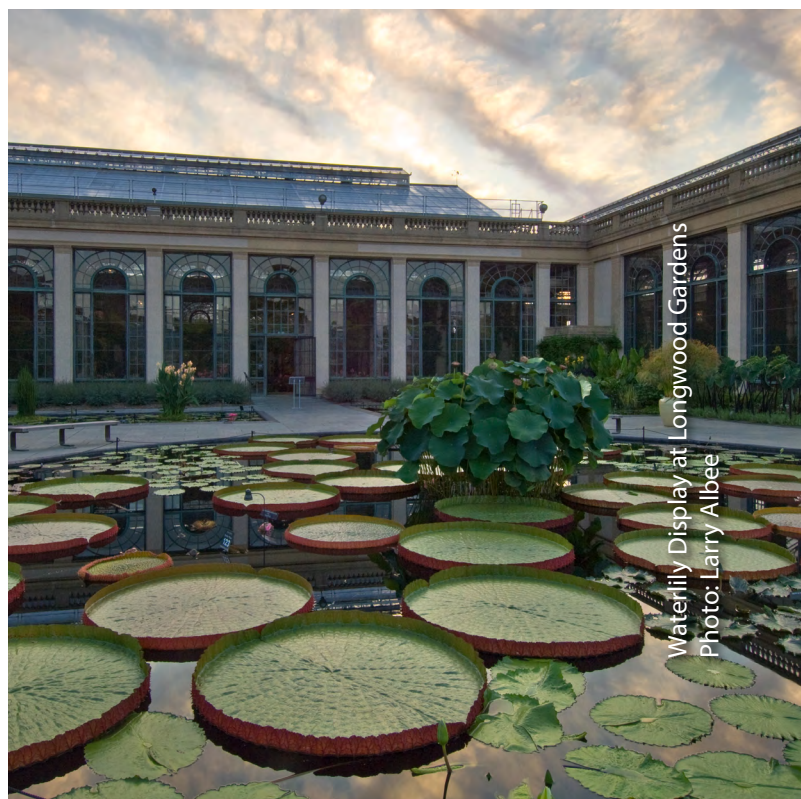
Julia Thome

"We are excited to welcome our cohort to the Longwood Gardens Fellows Program," said Paul B. Redman, President and CEO of Longwood Gardens. "The impressive qualifications of these talented professionals coupled with their passion for advancing public horticulture and a desire to lead, perfectly positions them to tackle the challenging and enriching opportunities awaiting them in the Fellows Program and in their future leadership roles," said Redman.

The Longwood Gardens Fellows Program focuses on grounding Fellows in leadership theory and practice through an immersive, flexible, concentrated program that draws on the experience and knowledge of multiple public horticultural organizations and academic thought leaders. The 13-month residential, tuition-free program honors the legacy of Longwood's founder by continuing its mission to educate and inspire.

The five Fellows were selected based on their commitment to professional excellence, deep intellectual curiosity, interest in serving in a leadership capacity within the public horticulture industry, while representing diverse perspectives and backgrounds. The Longwood Gardens Fellows Program received more than 200 online

application submissions; of those, 10 were chosen for in-person, two-day interviews at Longwood Gardens. The final selections were made by a distinguished panel of seven jurors that included executives of prominent public gardens from the U.S.A. and the U.K.





Bulb Display- Idea Garden  
at Longwood Gardens  
Photo: Larry Albee

## About Longwood Gardens

In 1906, industrialist Pierre du Pont (1870-1954) purchased a small farm near Kennett Square, PA, to save a collection of historic trees from being sold for lumber. Throughout his life, Mr. du Pont indulged his passion for gardening, turning his farm into a magnificent horticultural showplace. Today, Longwood Gardens is one of the world's great gardens, encompassing 1,077 acres of gardens, woodlands, meadows, fountains, a 10,010-pipe Aeolian organ and a 4-acre conservatory. Longwood continues the mission set forth by Mr. du Pont to inspire people through excellence in garden design, horticulture, education and the arts, through programming that includes exhibitions, musical performances by leading artists, renowned horticulture education programs, horticulture research, environmental stewardship and cultural and community engagement. Details at [www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org).

Source:

<https://longwoodgardens.org/news/press/2017-03-07t000000/longwood-gardens-selects-first-fellows-prestigious-new-leadership>

## New Employment Opportunity Opens During Transitional Period

The Longwood Fellowship will have Neil away from Puerto Vallarta from early June of 2017 to late June of 2018 with only an occasional visit or two. We will be treating his absence largely as a sabbatical, but hope to still receive his assistance with several key functions that can be accomplished remotely including: board service, program development, major donor relations, grant writing, grant reporting, and editing of El Papelillo / The Leaflet. As we approach this transitional period, we are preparing a job description for a bilingual Executive Assistant to serve the Garden while Neil is away. Inquiries may be sent to [info@vbgardens.org](mailto:info@vbgardens.org), subject "Asistente Ejecutivo."

## 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](http://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 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](mailto:info@vbgardens.org).



*Strongylodon macrobotrys*  
Photo: Paul Desmond

## Do you have a special flower that you feel connected to when you visit the Vallarta Botanical Garden?

How would you like to experience your connection in your home?

What if you could have a painting of your favorite flower and make a meaningful contribution to the Vallarta Botanical Garden at the same time?

I am a passionate believer in the importance of supporting the Vallarta Botanical Garden as a special sanctuary for all of us in Puerto Vallarta and our visitors.

In an effort to give back to the Vallarta Botanical Garden community I would offer 50% of the proceeds for up to 15 personalized custom floral paintings to help further the Garden's mission and vision.

If you would like to enjoy your special piece of the Garden in your home everyday please reach out soon!

Contact Cheryl at: [wheelercheryl@me.com](mailto:wheelercheryl@me.com)

Cheryl Wheeler  
ART



Blooming Waterlily  
Photo: Judy Krings



## From Mangroves to Maples — Marvels of Botanical Diversity in Western Jalisco

By Scott McMahan, Manager of International Plant Exploration, Atlanta Botanical Garden

As a candidate for the Vallarta Botanical Garden's Science Advisory Board, I was invited to attend a recent meeting at the Garden and a field excursion into the nearby mountains. While I have been to the Puerto Vallarta area several times prior, this was my first opportunity to study the plants in the surrounding highlands, part of the *Sierra Madre Occidental*. Since February is normally the dry season in western Mexico, at first glance one might get the impression that the predominantly brown forest with

many leafless deciduous trees is dead or dying and the overall diversity is low, but you couldn't be further from the truth.

After a day of meetings and planning for future projects, the group left Vallarta for the town of Mascota in the surrounding mountains just two hours away. As soon as we began climbing and leaving the bustling city behind, we started high speed botanizing through the windows of our Jeeps on our way to one of only six known sites of *Acer saccharum* ssp. *skutchii* found in the world (all in Mexico). Our primary destination, the Bosque de Arce "Forest of Maples" is a unique montane area "cloud forest" often dripping in moisture from persistent, low hanging clouds. The trail we set out on rambled through what struck me as a mindboggling hodgepodge of plants that just didn't seem as if they should be growing together. We saw very large specimens of American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), growing side-by-side with the Mexican mountain sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* ssp. *Skutchii*) AND beautiful specimens of Tree Fern (*Cyanthea* sp.). These along with spectacular specimens of *Magnolia pacifica*, Oyamel (*Abies* sp.), *Clusia*, *Podocarpus matudae* and more are enough to humble and even stupefy even the most accomplished of plantsmen. The fact that these were often cloaked with epiphytes including blooming orchids made



*Acer saccharum* ssp. *skutchii*  
Photo: Tim Thibault



Entering the Bosque de Arce  
Photo: Scott McMahan

it all the more surreal of an experience. Ecosystems containing such diverse and ancient flora are an extremely rare find not only in Mexico, but anywhere in the planet.

I send my thanks to the VBG's Executive Director, for the invitation to participate. I also thank our interpretive guide, Dr. Rafael Guzmán Mejía, Communications Officer for the VBG's Science Advisory Board and retired professor from the University of Guadalajara, whose list of botanical accomplishments include the discovery of *Zea diploperennis* (an ancestor of corn) in 1979. I wish the Vallarta Botanical Garden all the success in helping conserve these botanical treasures and share them with the world through their living collections and educational programs. An opportunity to be part of this process should be cherished.



VBG Science Advisors and Guests in the Bosque de Arce  
Photo: Wayne Johnson



Mountain view along approach to the Bosque de Arce  
Photo: Scott McMahan



*Magnolia vallartensis*  
Photo: Neil Gerlowski

## Out on a Limb for Magnolias

By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

*“El Resbaloso,”* I shout down to a group of botanists about 15 meters (50 feet) beneath me. They just asked what I’d like to name the tree I was climbing, a beautiful beast of a *Magnolia* encrusted with epiphytes and philodendrons. Alex Dahua, our primary botanist and tree climber for a yearlong phenology study of *Magnolia vallartensis*, is back in his hometown in Amazonian Ecuador for longer than expected. In an attempt to replace him, we were able to recruit a few other botanists from the *Universidad de Guadalajara* (UDG) to assist our current expedition, but none of them had any desire to climb more than a few meters up the trees that we’ve been studying. That left me by default as the only one to go, “out on a limb,” to thoroughly inspect these wondrous living relics of our forest for foliage, buds, and fruit at different stages of their growth.

Alex is working on a master’s program focused on Magnolias through the UDG’s Botanical Institute at their main science campus in Zapopan, Jalisco under the tutelage of Doctors José Antonio Vázquez García and Miguel Ángel Muñiz Castro. Growing up in the tradition of his indigenous Kichwa heritage, he started climbing tall trees long before he began studying Spanish, his second language. Apart from his impressive work as a botanist, he commands instant respect for his ease and grace moving about the canopy free of encumbrance from rope, harness, et cetera — much of the time without even shoes if he encounters an especially slippery tree.

Thanks in large part to funding from the Magnolia Society International and the Arboretum Wespelaar, we at the Vallarta Botanical Garden (VBG), have had the pleasure of working with Magnolia specialists and other botanists from the UDG Botanical Institute along with volunteers from all backgrounds, to develop what may be the most extensive living collection of Mexican magnolias yet assembled. Our direct work in both natural areas and our garden has garnered the respect of the Magnolia Society International who has invited me to serve a three year term on their Board of Directors and also deliver a presentation on Mexican Magnolias at their 2018 annual meeting in North Carolina. It’s my sincere pleasure to accept on both accounts!

By the way, if you don’t yet know Spanish, *“El Resbaloso”* means “The Slippery One” and yes, I ended up climbing that tree Alex Dahua style—without shoes. From my perspective, it’s never too late to learn Spanish or how to climb Magnolias.



Upward Direction  
Photo: Ana Nuño Rubio

## Vallarta Botanical Garden's Calendar

DATE	EVENT	COST
	<b>THE GARDEN IS CLOSED ON MONDAYS FROM APRIL UNTIL DECEMBER</b>	
10-12	<b>Mar</b> <b>Vallarta Bird Festival</b> – See page 12 for more details. (Note: On March 10th all activities are in Puerto Vallarta. Garden activities are on March 11th and 12th.)	Included with entry
21	<b>Mar</b> <b>Benito Juarez' Birthday</b> – Statutory holiday is the 20th. Garden remains open both days.	-
2	<b>Apr</b> <b>Garden Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Day</b> – Please write to Michaela Flores <a href="mailto:memberships@vbgardens.org">memberships@vbgardens.org</a> for more information.	-
3	<b>Apr</b> <b>Garden closed Mondays from April until December</b>	-
9	<b>Apr</b> <b>Palm Sunday Palm Walk</b>	Included with entry
16	<b>Apr</b> <b>Easter</b> (Garden remains open for all of Holy Week)	-
22	<b>Apr</b> <b>Earth Day</b>	Included with entry
30	<b>Apr</b> <b>Vanilla Blossom Expo at the VBG</b>	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](http://www.vbgardens.org/calendar).



Oncidium sp.  
Photo: Ulises Sánchez Mireles

### 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)



Hibiscus schitzapedalus  
Photo: Paul Ddesmond



## From the Membership Desk

*Michaela Flores,*

*Membership Coordinator, VBG*

[memberships@vbgardens.org](mailto:memberships@vbgardens.org)

What a blockbuster of a year it's been for Garden attendance! The record-breaking stream of visitors to Puerto Vallarta is certainly a large part of this, but it's certainly also in thanks to our members and other amigos who share about the beauty of the Garden by word of mouth and the power of the internet through TripAdvisor, Facebook, Instagram and other social media. We're all so very grateful to you for your incredible encouragement and support. The Garden's leadership would especially like to hear feedback from our members as they reflect upon their experiences over this past winter season. If there's anything you'd like to share with us, whether accolades or recommendations for improvement, please email those to me with the subject "Member Feedback." Sometime after our busiest season winds down a bit (usually after *Semana Santa*) we'll compile this feedback for review and consideration as we form our strategies for the second half of 2017 and beyond. Your recommendations will allow us to serve you and other visitors even better!

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](http://www.vbgardens.org/memberships)

A high resolution image of this photograph is available at [www.vbgardens.org/benefactors](http://www.vbgardens.org/benefactors)



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

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## 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](mailto:donaciones@fundacionpuntademita.org) **with a copy to** [info@vbgardens.org](mailto: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:

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

Alternatively, you may donate using a credit card through [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) (whose donation page is linked to the CCSHF website [www.ccs hf.ca](http://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:

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759 North Campus Way  
Davis, CA 95616

### Wire transfers / direct deposits are accepted:

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