

THE LEAFLET

The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden

May 2018



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The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden

Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

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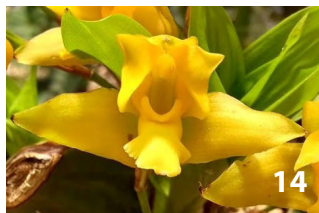
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Birds at the Vallarta Botanical Garden
Photo by Bob Price

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www.vbgardens.org

Curator's Corner

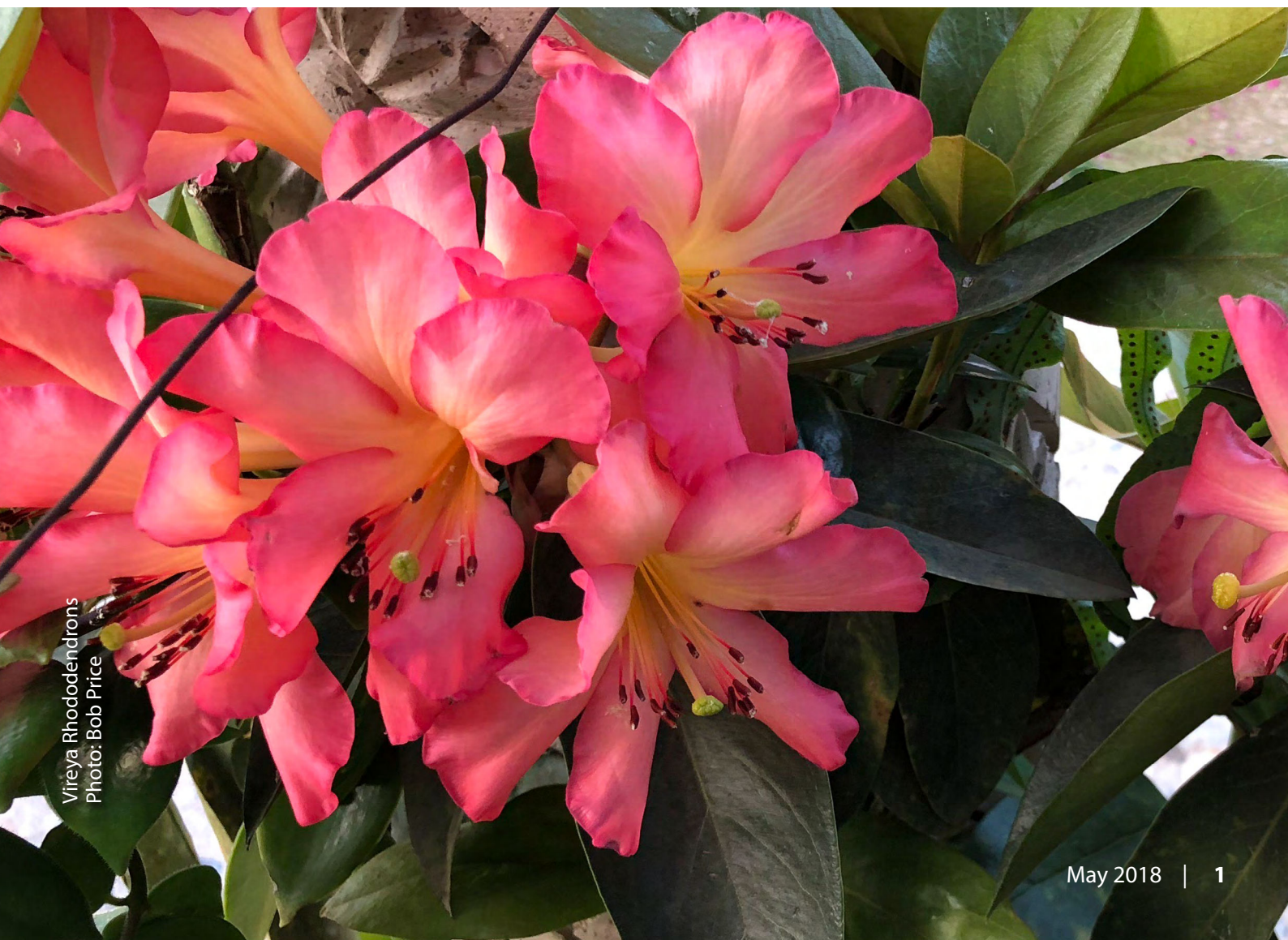
Dear Friends of the Vallarta Botanical Garden,

Your votes have paid off beyond our wildest expectations! This past month, we've called upon you as supporters to vote for the Vallarta Botanical Garden in a contest conducted by USA Today for their 2018 Top Ten List of the Best Botanical Gardens in North America. The results are in and we're now ranked number 4 on this prestigious list!

It is truly an honor and a privilege to achieve this distinction which we fully understand was only possible through the support of our community. The majority of nominees for this contest are massive organizations, several of which are over 100 years old and have over a million visitors per year. In comparison, the Vallarta Botanical Gardens is young and small, but has a large and rapidly growing impact that is not going unnoticed.

Your votes in this contest demonstrate to people near and far that Puerto Vallarta is a world-class botanical and horticultural destination deserving of their visits. And the impact of this contest on Garden visitation is already apparent. While we're entering a time of year that is traditionally slower than the busy winter season, we are still blessed with a steady stream of delighted guests with whom we may share the fruits of our labors. We hope to count you among those who visit us this spring, so please come out and spend a day in the Garden soon!

*In thanks and sincere appreciation,
Bob Price, Founder and Curator, VBG*



Vireya Rhododendrons
Photo: Bob Price



Fuente de la Torre de la Plancha
Fuente de la Torre de la Plancha
Fuente de la Torre de la Plancha

Fuente de la Torre de la Plancha
Fuente de la Torre de la Plancha
Fuente de la Torre de la Plancha

Botanical Wonder Awaits!
Photo: Bob Price

USA Today Announces the Vallarta Botanical Garden as #4 in the 2018 Top Ten List of the Best Botanical Gardens in North America
 See www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-botanical-garden
 for full contest details.

Rank	Garden	City & State or Province	Country
1	Longwood Gardens	Kennett Square, Pennsylvania	USA
2	Minnesota Landscape Arboretum	Chaska, Minnesota	USA
3	Missouri Botanical Garden	St. Louis, Missouri	USA
4	Vallarta Botanical Garden	Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco	Mexico
5	Denver Botanic Gardens	Denver, Colorado	USA
6	Atlanta Botanical Garden	Atlanta, Georgia	USA
7	Desert Botanical Garden	Phoenix, Arizona	USA
8	Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden	Coral Gables, Florida	USA
9	Brookgreen Gardens	Murrells Inlet, South Carolina	USA
10	Bloedel Reserve	Bainbridge Island, Washington	USA



Las Pozas
Photo: Bob Price



A Visit to Las Pozas

Mexico is a country full of many world-class garden destinations. Bob Price and Jesús Reyes of the Vallarta Botanical Garden had a recent opportunity to visit Las Pozas in Xilitla, San Luís Potosí, the surrealist sculpture garden built by Edward James and Plutarco Gastelum beginning in the 1940s. What was originally a private estate has today become one of Mexico's most-visited garden destinations filled with enormous imaginative concrete sculptures in the most improbable jungle setting.

Garden travel provides incredible opportunities for inspiration. We encourage you to plan your next garden vacation today!

Xochipilli

Estatua Azteca descubierta en el siglo XVII en el Volcán Popocatepetl cerca de Ciudad de México



Volcán Popocatepetl

Xochipilli

Aztec statue discovered in the 17th century on the Popocatepetl Volcano near Mexico City



Popocatepetl Volcano



Xochipilli

El “Señor de las Flores”, era considerado dios de la nobleza, de la música, de las flores y la encarnación del Sol del crepúsculo.

Xochipilli

The “Lord of Flowers” was considered the god of nobility, music, and flowers and was considered the incarnation of the sun and the god of twilight.

Photo Exhibit

Come to the Vallarta Botanical Garden this month to see “Sacred Plants of Mexico”, a series of images on display by Angélica López Toribio related to Mexican plants and culture.



Mujer Haciendo Tortillas

Las tortillas de maíz son especialmente importantes en la cocina mexicana, la importancia de la tortilla en México y Mesoamérica es tal, que se ha utilizado en la dieta diaria desde tiempos remotos. Ninguna comida mexicana está completa sin la tortilla.

Woman Making Corn Tortillas

Corn tortillas are especially important in Mexican cuisine, the importance of the tortilla in Mexico and Mesoamerica is such that it has been used in the daily diet since prehistoric times. No Mexican meal is complete without the tortilla.



Fruto de Cacao

Las vainas de semillas de la fruta fresca de cacao se recolectan, fermentan, luego se secan al sol y se tuestan para crear cacao, es el principal ingrediente en todo el chocolate. En la antigüedad, las semillas de cacao se usaban como monedas. La pulpa blanca solo está disponible cuando las vainas de cacao son frescas y tienen un sabor dulce a limón.

Cocoa Fruit

The seed pods of the fresh cacao fruit are collected, fermented, then sun dried and roasted to create cocoa, the base ingredient in all chocolate. In ancient times the cacao seed were used as money. The white pulp is only available when the cacao pods are fresh and has a sweet lemony taste.



VENDEMOS

Rhododendros Tropicales

WE SELL
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Cocoa Trees

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(When available)

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Garden Plants
(When available)

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Plantas Carnívoras

Árboles de Cacao

Guías de Vainilla

Codos
(Cuándo están disponibles)

Divisiones de
Nuestras Plantas
(Cuándo estan disponibles)

Vallarta Botanical Garden
Carretera Barra De Navidad Km. 24,
Las Juntas y los Veranos, c.p.48447
Jalisco, México.



Google
Reviews ★★★★★

Tel. 01 322 223 6182
www.vbgardens.org



A Special Thank-You to Casa Karma

The Vallarta Botanical Garden would like to recognize Gholi and Georgia Dareshori of Casa Karma for recently upgrading their Garden membership to the Guardian Level. Increased support from our members is always so encouraging to our team and absolutely necessary for us to continue advancing our mission and sustaining the improvements necessary to evolve the Garden to exceed the expectations of our visitors from throughout the world.

Casa Karma is a delightful boutique hotel and wonderful event venue along Puerto Vallarta's Costa Sur (South Coast) within easy access of both Old Town PV and the Vallarta Botanical Garden. It has our highest of recommendations!

Mexican Bird of the Month

Euphonia elegantissima – Elegant Euphonia

Article and photos by Greg R. Homel

www.birdinginpuertovallarta.com

birdingadventures@mac.com

The often colorful and always interesting euphonias form a subcategory of canopy-dwelling songbirds that for a long time were thought to be specialized, small tanagers. Today they are recognized as being more closely allied to finches and Hawaiian Honeycreepers with a few caveats, such as a diet consisting primarily of parasitic fruit and, in the case of the Elegant Euphonia, living in high to very high elevations.

Whether referred to by their current name, or their more descriptive older name—Blue-hooded Euphonia—this mountain dweller is not very well known to most Vallarta birders because they spend the majority of their time in the canopy of high altitude forests dominated by pines, oaks and even firs, especially those adorned with fruiting mistletoe. Rarely descending to lower elevations, this species of euphonia plays an important ecological role as a distributor of mistletoe, which hitches a ride in its gut, only to be deposited on trees far and wide in the form of sticky droppings.

Males (shown) are more colorful than their greenish female counterparts, though both show the telltale blue hooded effect on their head. On occasion, this species might reach the Vallarta Botanic Garden where its un-birdlike, bubbly vocals give its presence away to lucky birders who encounter it. For those who are willing to travel a little further in search of this species, the forests around San Sebastián del Oeste and Talpa de Allende would be excellent destinations of the region to begin.







Vallarta Botanical Garden Pet Cemetery



\$200 USD

Simple Burial (No Marker)

Burial in a place chosen by Garden management and a record of burial location.
NO MEMORIAL STONE. Includes 1 a year Individual Membership to the Garden.

\$600 USD

Bridge of Dreams Slope

Burial and memorial stone in a private part of pet cemetery and record of the burial location.
Includes a 1 year Sustaining Membership to the Garden.

\$1000 USD

Chapel Valley Slope

Burial and memorial stone on the hillside of the pet cemetery visible from the Peace Garden
and a record of the burial location. Includes a 1 year Sustaining Membership to the Garden.

All memorial stones in the Pet Cemetery are made of Cantera and a personalized message will
be presented on a 30x30 hand painted tile.

**For more information, please contact
Michaela Flores at:
memberships@vbgardens.org**

Become a Garden "GEM" by Giving Every Month

Dividing your contributions to the Vallarta Botanical Garden into monthly payments can help you better budget your annual giving while providing us with a dependable monthly income to carry the Garden through the slower times of the year. Learn more about this valuable opportunity by visiting the new Give Every Month "GEM" page on the Garden's website, www.vbgardens.org and 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 \$7,000 USD for a Banca Real (Regal Bench) and \$5,000 USD for a Banca Distintiva (Distinctive Bench). Dividing this amount into payments over the course of three years results in a commitment of only \$194 or \$139 USD per month. These gifts, along with other honorary/memorial gifts such as individual tiles and permanent memorial stones in the Garden of Memories, qualify for tax-deductible contributions in Mexico, the US, and Canada. For more information, 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.

We Cater Events!
...with many beautiful settings for your special day

Why not have your special event in one of the most beautiful places in the world?
There are many sites around the garden to set the stage for your fabulous event!
From a simple wedding with just a few friends, to a lavish party with all the trimmings.

 Consult the Vallarta Botanical Garden's wedding planner for more ideas.
Contact: Jesús Reyes
Office: +52 322 223 6182
WhatsApp: +52 1 322 105 8067
directorgeneral@vbgardens.org

  Vallarta Botanical Garden



Mexican Orchid of the Month

Lycaste consobrina – The Yellow Orchid

Article & photo by Centeotl Aragón, Staff Biologist

Lycaste consobrina is naturally distributed throughout the tropical forests of Puebla, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Chiapas and Guatemala. It is a medium-sized plant, growing as an epiphyte (upon trees) or lithophyte (upon rocks). Its pseudobulbs are quite striking—large, ovoid, wrinkled longitudinally, and when they lose their leaves (usually in the winter) small crowning thorns are revealed. Its leaves are long, thin, arched and pleated longitudinally. The species is very similar to *Lycaste aromatica* with the primary distinguishing difference being their fragrances. While *L. aromatica* smells like cinnamon, *L. consobrina* has a citrus-like aroma—and many visitors say it reminds them of an orange scent. Its flowers are first seen in the spring, with several distinct individual inflorescences emerging from vigorous pseudobulbs. These flowers are so intensely yellow that the plant is often simply called “orquídea amarilla” (yellow orchid). Come find this flower at the Garden today and take in its delightful aroma for yourself.

REFERENCE:

- Remolina, R. (April 12, 2018). *Lycaste consobrina*. En: orquídeas mexicanas. Asociación Mexicana de Orquideología. Referenced from amo.com.mx.



- World Famous Botanical Garden
- Hacienda de Oro Restaurant 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Bird Watching
- Shopping

- Swimming in the Horcones River
- Vallarta Conservatory of Orchids and Native Plants
- Cactus and Succulent Plant House

Carretera Barra de Navidad Km. 24, Las Juntas y los Veranos, C.P.48447 Jalisco, México.
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Education and Volunteer Report

By Centeotl Aragón, Vallarta Botanical Garden

This month we received a group of environmental engineering students from the Instituto Tecnológico de Bahía de Banderas accompanied by their professor, Adrián Maldonado Gasca. They showed great interest during their stay during which they were able to reinforce their knowledge on the subject of ecosystems. We were also visited by students from the Higher Technological Institute of Puerto Vallarta, a group led by Juana Tapia Ruelas, and students from the Universidad de la Vera-Cruz.

Monthly tally of visits, program participation, and volunteer service, April 2018:	
Total member visits to the VBG:	231
Total non member visits to the VBG:	3462
Total complimentary entries:*	64
Total participation in special events, classes & workshops:	60
Total participation in 1 pm tours:**	101
Total volunteer service hours:	63

* 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 escolar@vbgardens.org and should be sent at least five days prior to the requested visit date. 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.

Vallarta Botanical Garden's Calendar

DATE	EVENT	COST
	THE GARDEN IS CLOSED ON MONDAYS APRIL THROUGH DECEMBER	
1	May Labor Day (Mexico) — Garden remains open.	--
8	May Teacher's Day (USA) — Celebrate learning at the Garden!	--
10	May Mother's Day (Mexico) — Treat Mom to a visit and lunch at the Garden!	--
12	May International Migratory Bird Day (USA & Canada) — While the official International Migratory Bird Day in Mexico, Central and South America is the 2nd Saturday of October (Oct. 13 this year), our north of the border amigos celebrate this event in the mid-spring when birds are northward bound. So no matter which side of the border you are on, this is a great excuse to aim your binoculars to the skies and forest. Birding at the Vallarta Botanical Garden is a delight all year long!	--
13	May Mother's Day (USA & Canada) — Treat Mom to a visit and lunch at the Garden!	--
15	May Teacher's Day (Mexico) — Celebrate learning at the Garden!	
19	May Plant Sale — 20% discount for members. Not yet a member? Join today!	Discounts for members.

* 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

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

Daily Guided Tour

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



From the Membership Desk



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

What an exciting month for the Vallarta Botanical Garden! Our season of strong visitation has not tapered off and April brought a strong flow of smiling faces out to celebrate nature with us. The talk of the Garden this past month has certainly been USA Today's contest for the Top 10 Botanical Gardens in North America. Rarely does a Mexican garden even make the initial list of 20 nominees, but this year we have climbed to the number 4 spot thanks to everyone's support. ¡Muchas gracias!

Members: Please always wear your membership card while 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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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.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.

Credit Card Payments:

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

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- Charles Schwab Account # 46789311 DTC Clearing # 164 Code: 40
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