THE Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden

November 2017



THE LEAFLET



The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico November 2017 Vol. 7, No. 11

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Cover: Autumn Butterflies Photo: Jesús Reyes

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Curator's Corner

Dear Friends of the Vallarta Botanical Garden, we need your help!

If you already read this message posted last month, please skip ahead to our other exciting content of this month's edition of The Leaflet. If this is your first time seeing our news about TripAdvisor though, please take a moment to read this brief article and help the Vallarta Botanical Garden get back up the list of ratings to the spot where we recently were...

The Vallarta Botanical Garden was unexpectedly removed from the Puerto Vallarta TripAdvisor page. After 10+ years of working our listing with TripAdvisor, the Vallarta Botanical Garden had grown to earn the Number 3 TripAdvisor attraction spot in all of Puerto Vallarta. The reason TripAdvisor has given us for our removal is that we are outside the greater Puerto Vallarta Area.

However, we believe this not to be the real reason, as we are not in violation of any TripAdvisor rules available on their website. TripAdvisor singled out the botanical garden for removal and placed us on our own page in Cabo Corrientes. However, none of the other Puerto Vallarta attractions which are also located in Cabo Corrientes have been removed from the Puerto Vallarta Page—only the Vallarta Botanical Garden. All of Vallarta Adventures tourism offerings in Cabo Corrientes, including Rhythms of the Night and Outdoor Adventure were not removed from the Puerto Vallarta page. Canopy Tour Los Veranos and many other major tourism companies doing business in Cabo Corrientes have not been removed.

While we wish no fellow businesses to be removed from the Puerto Vallarta TripAdvisor Page, it seems completely unfair that we would be the only business removed from the Puerto Vallarta page. Something fishy is going on! Please write and ask TripAdvisor why all other Cabo Corrientes attractions are still on the Puerto Vallarta page while only the Garden was removed, as well as asking for the Garden to be reinstated on their Puerto Vallarta Page, and for more than 2,400 favorable reviews to be restored.

To support the Garden on this quest, please visit https:// www.tripadvisor.com/GeneralSupport.



When you click on this link you will be asked for a password and to sign in on Facebook, Google or Email. If you don't have a TripAdvisor account, sign in with Facebook.

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO TRIPADVISOR:

- 1. SELECT "Report a Business" inside the green icon with the exclamation point inside the triangle. NEXT,
- 2. SELECT "update business information" option. NEXT,
- 3. WRITE your comments to TripAdvisor inside the blue box AND
- 4. On your written comments inside the blue box, please add the link to VALLARTA BOTANICAL GARDEN TripAdvisor Listing (please see below) to your comments inside the blue box.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g4004460d657304-Reviews-Vallarta_Botanical_Gardens-Cabo_ Corrientes.html

Thank you for taking action to support the Vallarta Botanical Garden!

Bob Price, Founder and Curator, VBG

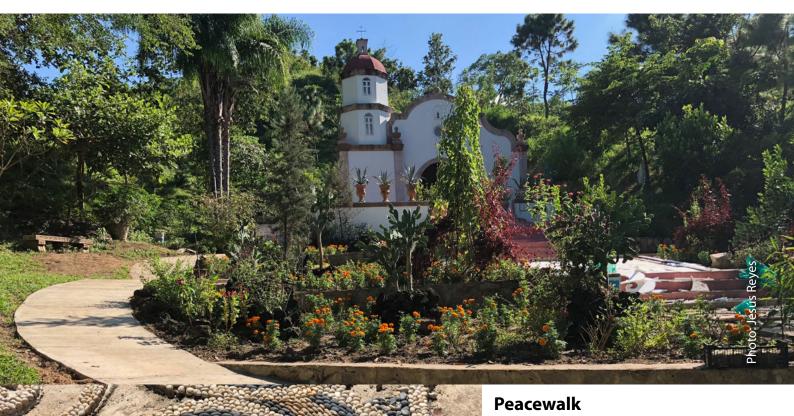
Guacamaya Update

The Vallarta Botanical Garden has now sponsored four nest boxes for wild Military Macaws, the largest and most colorful parrots of our region. The latest boxes that we sponsored were just installed in the Emiliano Zapata Ejido, just a few kilometers from the Garden. By doing our little part, we can help improve the chances that these magnificent birds will remain wild in our region and grace our skies with their beauty for many years to come.

THE LEAFLET



Additional nest box sponsorship opportunities along with guided tours of these birds in their habitat are available through El Rancho el Santuario, a local natural bird sanctuary. If you're interested, please contact our friend Jorge from El Rancho el Santuario via phone or email: (322) 2236234 or novoapv@hotmail.com.



The Garden thanks Cheryl L. Wheeler for her generosity in funding the new Peacewalk through the Cheryl L. Wheeler International Peace Garden of Mexico. Construction is underway now and scheduled for completion soon.

El Puente de Los Sueños— The Bridge of Dreams Project Completed

The Garden thanks Guardian Members Ken Shanoff and Steve Young for their generosity in funding construction of the recently completed El Puente de Los Sueños (The Bridge of Dreams), and is open to the public for your enjoyment upon your next visit to the Garden. We thank all of those who dream with us and create bridges—both literal and figurative—to the bright future we envision.



Live hummingbird webcam at the Vallarta Botanical Garden!

Were you captivated by your experiences watching the fast-paced action and drama of hummingbirds during your last visit to the Garden? Now you can view these live online and share the spectacle with your friends and family.

The webcam is programed for 24/7 streaming for your viewing pleasure:



http://bit.ly/2zQiSYw

Construction Continues on the Cactus and Succulent Plant Project

Mexico leads the world in cactus and agave diversity and is home to a wealth of other succulents. The state of Jalisco is home to a vast number of these incredible plants. Upon successful completion of the Cactus and Succulent Plant Project, we will cultivate these plants to their full potential to create inspirational displays for our visitors to enjoy.

In late 2016 the Vallarta Botanical Garden received a grant of \$15,000 USD from the Stanely Smith Horticultural Trust (SSHT) to begin this project. Since then, the scope and grandeur of the project have grown with our vision for what we can do in this area.

We invite you to join us as one of the first visionary contributors toward the Cactus and Succulent Plant **Project.** Your tax-deductible gift will create a legacy of cactus and succulent plant cultivation and display at the Vallarta Botanical Garden. Together we will also create a powerful new attraction for our visitors.









We are delighted to inform you there will be a volunteer training day and breakfast at the Vallarta Botanical Garden on Saturday, December 2, 2017 starting at 9AM and lasting until 2PM. In addition to inviting new volunteers, all past volunteers are also welcome and encouraged to attend. Starting with a complimentary orientation breakfast (preregistration requested), we'll share knowledge of the Garden and present opportunities for service toward our mission and vision.

Please contact me by email at: educadorambiental@vbgardens.org.

Also, new volunteers are asked to please read over our information for volunteers on our website. Click on the "GET INVOLVED" pull-down menu and then click "VOLUNTEER".

Keith Richert, VBG Volunteer Coordinator

2016

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2018

sooner than you think.

Write to: development@vbgardens.org





Come celebrate a Thanksgiving Feast in the Country at Vallarta Botanical Garden! Thursday, November 23th 2017

A Traditional Thanksgiving Feast will be served from 11 am until 6 pm. Reservations are highly recommended. Info at *admon@vbgardens.org* or call +52 (322) 223 6182.

Thanksgiving at the Garden

First Course Hot rolls and butter Puréed sweet potato soup or Seasonal Garden Salad

The Feast Stuffed Roast Turkey with homemade gravy, mashed potatoes, Artisanal stuffing, ginger glazed carrots, stewed fresh cranberries and green bean casserole.

> Dessert Choice of pumpkin pie or pecan pie with vanilla ice cream Coffee (cafe de olla)

Beverages. Choose from: 1 Cocktail, 1 glass of wine, 1 soft drink or 1 agua fresca

\$500 MXN per person (approx. 28 USD) Tip not included. Members entry is free, general admision \$150 pesos per person, for non members. Corkage fee of \$350 MXN per bottle for those who bring their own wine.

The Vallarta Botanical Garden's Membership Drive (Nov. 1 - Dec. 31)

Starting November 1st and continuing through the end of the year, the Vallarta Botanical Garden would like to honor our members. We're extending special offers to encourage membership renewals and upgrades, so please feel free to invite your family and friends to join the Garden. As 501(c)3 nonprofit, memberships to the Vallarta Botanical Garden qualify for tax-deductible receipts in Mexico, the US, and Canada. Our membership staff and volunteers are happy to share with you how to make your membership payments, to qualify for tax-deductible receipts. Most importantly, our members collectively help the Garden to continue flourishing and continue achieving its mission here in our Puerto Vallarta community and beyond.

Special Offers (From Nov. 1 - Dec. 31):		W	Who:			
•	2 free months of membership & a gift certificate (good towards purchases in the gift shop, nursery or restaurant.	•	Renewals at either of Individual Level Sustaining Level	the following leve 1,200 MXN 1,900 MXN	els: 60 USD 95 USD	
•	2 free months of membership & a complimentary commemorative tile	•	Membership upgrade Copa de Oro Level Board of Trustees Guardian Level	es to any of the fol 12,000 MXN 30,000 MXN 100,000 MXN	lowing levels: 600 USD 1,500 USD 5,000 USD	

This is an exciting time of year, when we at the Vallarta Botanical Garden welcome back our friends and members. It is also one of the best times to grow and cultivate the support base necessary to continue a pathway to botanical garden excellence for the benefit of Vallartenses and our visitors from around the world. Please partner with us on achieving excellence together.

Benefactor Level

200,000 MXN

10,000 USD



2018 Vallarta Bird Festival, March 9 – 11

Article and photo by Nancy Holland

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Vallarta Bird Festival, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 9, 10, and 11, hosted by the beautiful Vallarta Botanical Garden.

The Vallarta Botanical Garden is situated on 64-acres at 1,300 ft above sea level in bird-rich Cabo Corrientes, just a short drive from Puerto Vallarta.

With excellent birding opportunities, guided birding tours in the Garden will be offered each morning along with guided tours every afternoon of the Garden's incredible array of native Mexican flora and exotic delights. Within the Garden alone over 200 different species of birds have been observed and documented by enthusiastic local residents and international visitors.

Bird photography workshops and educational seminars will be offered, along with exhibits, music, native dancers, and fun, all included with a daily general admission of 150 pesos or with a 3 day Happy Wren Pass (price to be determined).

For an additional cost, professional birding tours will venture from the coastal habitats to the upper elevation

forest habitats in search of endemic specialties among the over 400 bird species found in this diverse region of Jalisco. There is no registration required for Garden activities but we would love to hear from you if you plan on coming. The professional birding tours do require advance registration.

The festival does not provide transportation but there are buses and taxis available in Puerto Vallarta that can take you directly to and from the Garden. The Hacienda de Oro Restaurant, on site, is open from 9am to 5pm serving breakfast and more, including oak-wood-fired brick-oven pizza and authentic Mexican cuisine.

Bring water, sunscreen, insect repellant, binoculars, and if you want to take a swim in the river, then bring a bathing suit and towel.

Contact us by email: nancycholland@gmail.com info@vbgardens.org

Facebook: Vallarta Birders Vallarta Botanical Gardens AC





Mexican Bird of the Month Pachyramphus aglaiae — Rose-throated Becard

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

For most of my birding life, the striking Rose-throated Becard and its relatives, the tityras, were a bit of an enigma in the birding world. Ornithologists weren't all that sure of its taxonomic affiliations. Was the becard a flycatcher, a cotinga, a tityra, or something else altogether? Nobody knew!

With its powerful, logger-headed appearance, it resembles a kingbird—one of the Tyrant flycatchers (Tyrannidae) in many respects, but its huge, globular nest and the unusual splash of rosy blush on its throat wasn't very consistent with this that affiliation.

Some authorities placed the Rose-throated Becard with the cotingas (Cotingidae), because of its more stolid behavior, but its vocal characteristics and somber plumage wasn't quite right; although the cotingas are indeed one of the most diverse neotropical families, which includes the spectacularly colorful true cotingas, animated cock-of-the-rocks, inflatable umbrellabirds, the bizarre capuchinbird, and the lilliputian Kinglet Calyptura, within their ranks.

Most recently, the Rose-throated Becard was placed in its own family, the Tityridae, along with the namesake tityras. This seems only fitting, since most of the 20 species of beards and 5 species of tityras are fairly uniform in their coloration, have logger-headed appearances, are arboreal, and fairly omnivorous in their dietary preferences—which not only includes insects, but a wide variety of fruit, etc.

Tityras are almost unknown north of the Mexican border, where the Masked Tityra has been recorded accidentally in Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley, but the becards are more familiar, with the Rose-throated Becard occurring regularly, albeit in small numbers, during the spring and summer months, mostly in riparian woodlands within the borderland regions of southeastern Arizona and Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley. There is one fairly recent record for the Gray-collared Becard in southeastern Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains.

Where the Rose-throated Becard is concerned, its range extends south to Panama, and it occurs from sea level up to 2700 m (8856') in places—so in the Vallarta region it's actually possible to sight this lovely species from the tree-lined Rio Cuale in the Zona Romantica, all of Cabo Corrientes, and even at the summit of Cerro La Bufa near San Sebastian del Oeste.

Perhaps the most conspicuous indication of the presence of Rose-throated Becards is their remarkably large, hollow, globular nest, with its entrance near the bottom. One or two of these unusual structures can be seen conspicuously hanging from large branches canopying sinuous Carretera 200, southbound, en route between Boca Tomatlan and the Vallarta Botanical Garden.

Their nesting season takes place during the spring and summer, when several males may vie for the attention of the somberly plumed female—though she will pick only one to join her in seasonal monogamy.

Keep your eyes in the canopy if you want to see this wonderful bird on your next visit to the Vallarta Botanical Garden, for the Rose-throated Becard may reveal itself at any time to the most observant watchers.



Become a Garden "GEM" by Giving Every Month

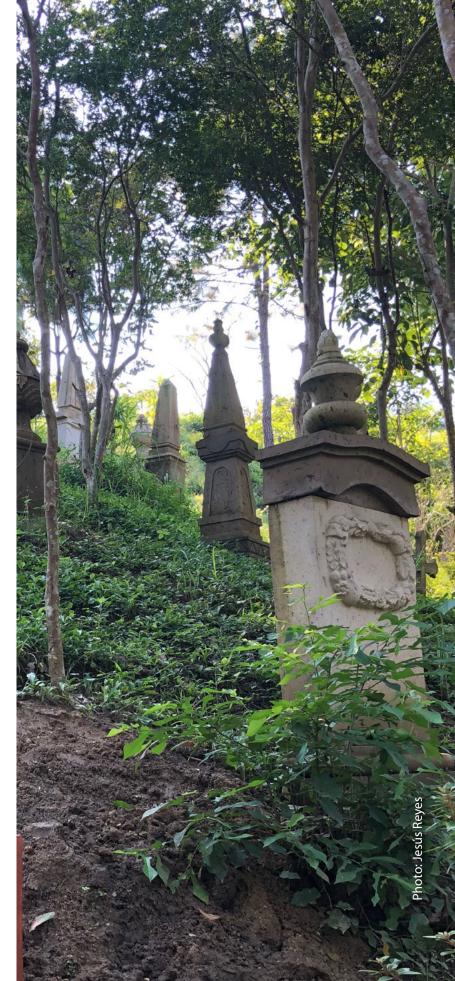
Dividing your contributions to the Vallarta Botanical Garden into monthly payments can help you better budget your annual giving while providing us with a dependable monthly income to carry the Garden through the slower times of the year. Learn more about this valuable opportunity by visiting the new 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 at \$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, gualify 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 inthelong-termviability 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.



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





Bouquets to Banquets ... and many beautiful settings for your special day



Why not have your special day in one of the most beautiful places in the world? There are many sites around the gardens where a wedding can be performed. From a simple wedding with just a few friends, to a lavish event with all the trimmings.

> Consult the Vallarta Botanical Gardens wedding planner for more ideas. +52 (322) 223 6182 or (322) 223 6184 eventos@vbgardens.org

Mexican Orchid of the Month Catasetum pendulum Dodson

Article & photo by Centeotl Aragón, Staff Biologist

This mexican epiphytic orchid has a very distinctive structure. It is quickly recognized by its onion-shaped pseudobulbs and pointed leaves that resemble a small fan, and by its tangled ariel roots. It is of interest that the flowers can be male or female. This orchid is easily cultivated in a mixed collection but does not like to be watered during its resting period. We invite you to discover the wonderful world of native mexican orchids at the Vallarta Botanical Garden.

REFERENCES:

 Hágsater, E., Soto A., M. A., Salazar C., G. A., Jiménez M., R., López R., M. A., y Dressler, R. L. 2005. Las orquídeas de México. Instituto Chinoín. México, D.F. 304 pp.





Education and Volunteer Report By Centeotl Aragón, Vallarta Botanical Garden

The first group of young scholars whom we received in October was a visit coordinated by a couple of enthusiastic students, Libia and Paola, tourism majors at the Centro Universitario de la Costa, the local campus of the Universidad de Guadalajara. Their professor, Juanita Correa, accompanied the group. It was a distinct pleasure to receive such polite, interested students committed to learning about their environment. A second group of students visited from the Universidad de Especialidades. Our third group were charges of professor Gabriela Guzmán who brought students of the regional high school of Puerto Vallarta and exchange students in the care of the young, dynamic biology teacher, Abraham Meza of El Colegio Alfred Nobel. October was a really productive month, leaving us feeling happy and satisfied with our work of serving as a center of conservation, education and the diffusion of scientific knowledge for students in Puerto Vallarta and beyond.

Monthly tally of visits, program participation, and volunteer service, October 2017:				
Total member visits to the VBG:	88			
Total non member visits to the VBG:	1410			
Total complimentary entries:*	117			
Total participation in special events, classes & workshops:	0			
Total participation in 1 pm tours:**	70			
Total volunteer service hours:	84			

* 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	Nov	Beginning of the VBG's Membership Drive	
2	Nov	Day of the Dead Celebration at the VBG	
2	Nov	Curator's Sunset Cocktail Social	Copa de Oro Members and Higher
11	Nov	Plant Sale for Garden Members Only - 20% off	
15	Nov	12th Anniversary of the Vallarta Botanical Garden – Slice of cake for guests	Included with entry
20	Nov	Anniversary of the Mexican Revolution (Garden closed Mondays)	
23	Nov	Thanksgiving (US) – Special Thanksgiving menu, reservation recommended (see page 7)	\$500 MXN
9	Dec	Crash Course on Birding in tropical western Mexico	Included with entry
16	Dec	Christmas bird count in Puerto Vallarta	Included with entry
21	Dec	Curator's Sunset Cocktail Social	Copa de Oro Members and Higher
25	Dec	Merry Christmas! – Garden Closed	

* 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)





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

From the Membership Desk Día de Muertos at the Vallarta Botanical Garden

The Day of the Dead is one of the most unique and colorful Mexican holidays of our calendar year. It's also one that spectacularly showcases Mexican native plants, in this case marigolds, through memorial displays at altars and graves throughout the country. All are welcome to enjoy this colorful occasion during regular Garden hours. For our Copa de Oro members and above, we also have an additional after hours Día de Los Muertos event for an after hours Curator's Sunset Cocktail. Please call me, for prices.

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



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