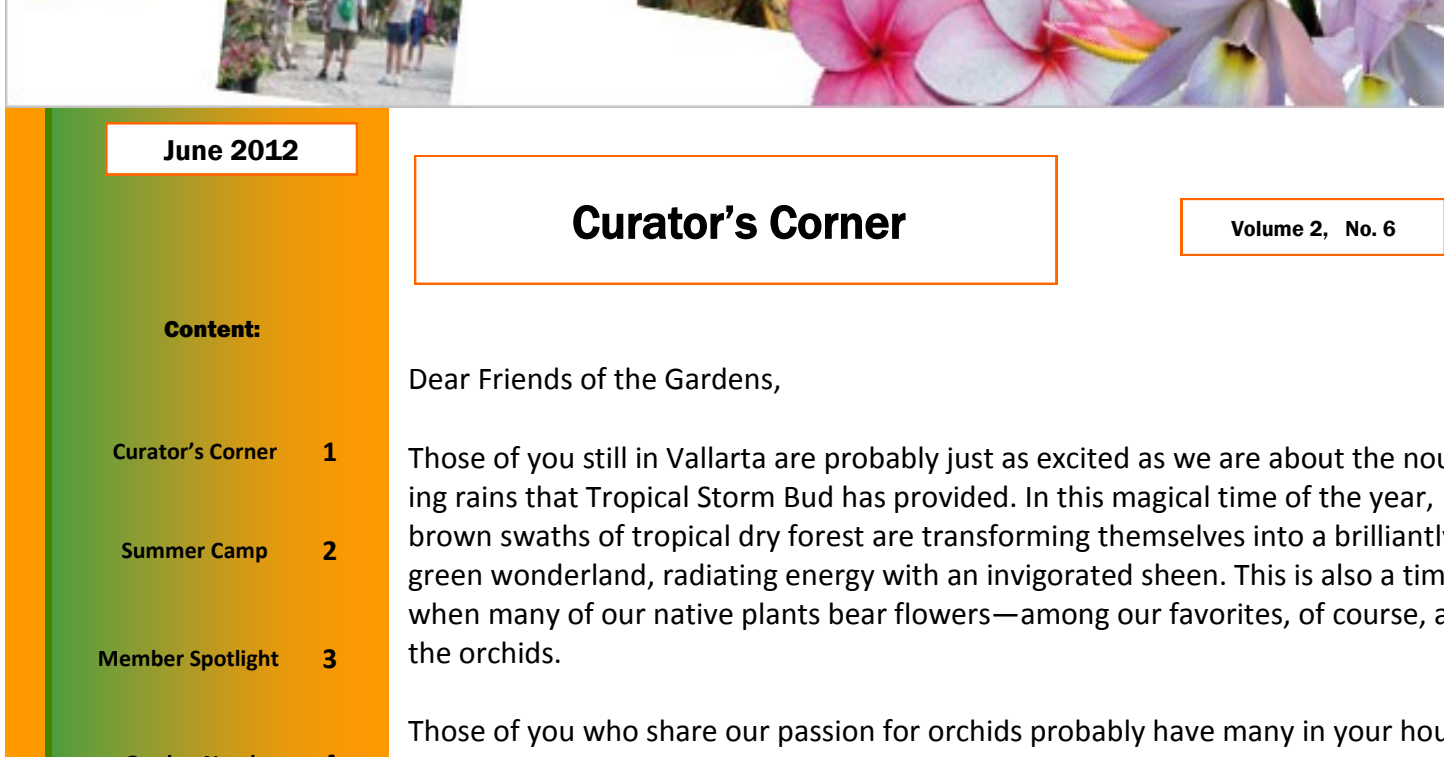


The Leaflet

Vallarta Botanical Gardens A.C.



June 2012

Curator's Corner

Volume 2, No. 6

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Dear Friends of the Gardens,

Those of you still in Vallarta are probably just as excited as we are about the nourishing rains that Tropical Storm Bud has provided. In this magical time of the year, brown swaths of tropical dry forest are transforming themselves into a brilliantly green wonderland, radiating energy with an invigorated sheen. This is also a time when many of our native plants bear flowers—among our favorites, of course, are the orchids.

Those of you who share our passion for orchids probably have many in your houses, patios or gardens. While maintaining your own collection is highly encouraged, it is important to know your orchids' origins and natural habitats so the status of these important plants can remain secure in the wilds of our forests. Unfortunately, orchid poaching has become a serious problem—and by poaching, we don't mean serving them with Canadian bacon and hollandaise sauce! To supply the demand for these exquisite plants, many people illegally collect wild orchids from our local forests, sometimes felling large trees to reach plants growing high up on their branches.

This illegal trade has had a large impact on wild orchid populations, but it is within our power to stem the trend. Federal and international laws (CITES, for instance) already prohibit wild collecting, but we as consumers wield the most power to save orchids in the wild. By purchasing only from responsible sources subject to management plans approved by government agencies following international plant trade guidelines, you decrease the demand for wild-harvested orchids. The garden shop of the Vallarta Botanical Gardens is one of very few venues in the Bay of Banderas region licensed to manage and sell these plants. The majority of sales sites around town are unlicensed, and the source of their plants should be suspect. Privately owned nurseries and door-to-door vendors are usually offering contraband, contributing to the extinction of orchids in our local forests.

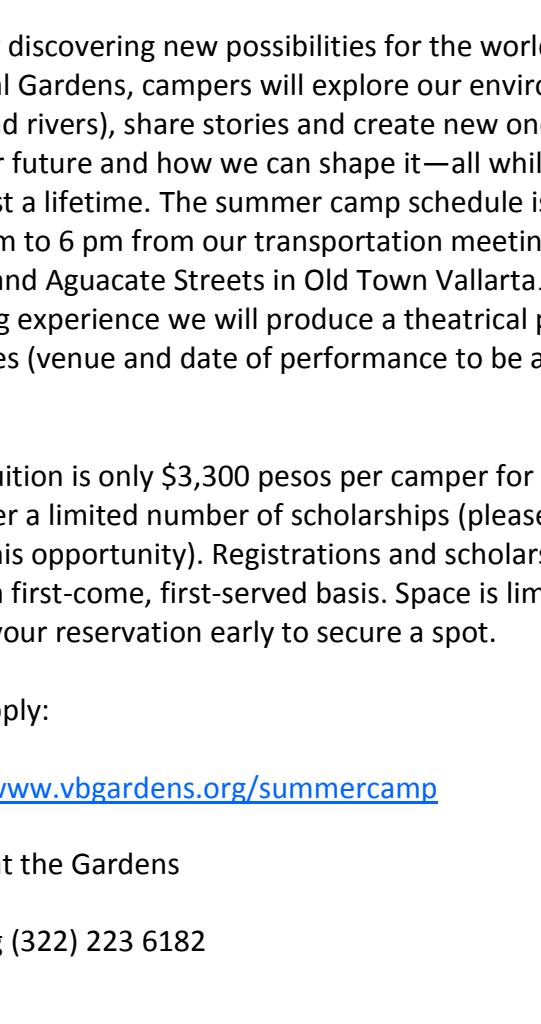
VBG's orchids are either purchased through licensed and regulated distributors or have been grown from seed here in our state-of-the-art orchid propagation laboratory. The process isn't easy, but we are very proud of our work and happy to provide this source of beauty to the community at no expense to our forests. Please visit us and take one of these unique natural treasures home with you.

Trip Advisor 2012 just named Puerto Vallarta Mexico's favorite vacation destination! Remember that tropical dry forest is the lifeblood of Vallarta. Our Gardens are a powerful "tourism generator," attracting tourists for the benefit of the entire region.

Despite sensationalist media reports to the contrary, Mexico remains a safe and beautiful country to visit. To those of you in Puerto Vallarta, please come up and visit us soon; to those of you in other places, keep Mexico in your hearts.

From the Gardens,

Bob Price Curator & Founder



Fern

Summer Camp

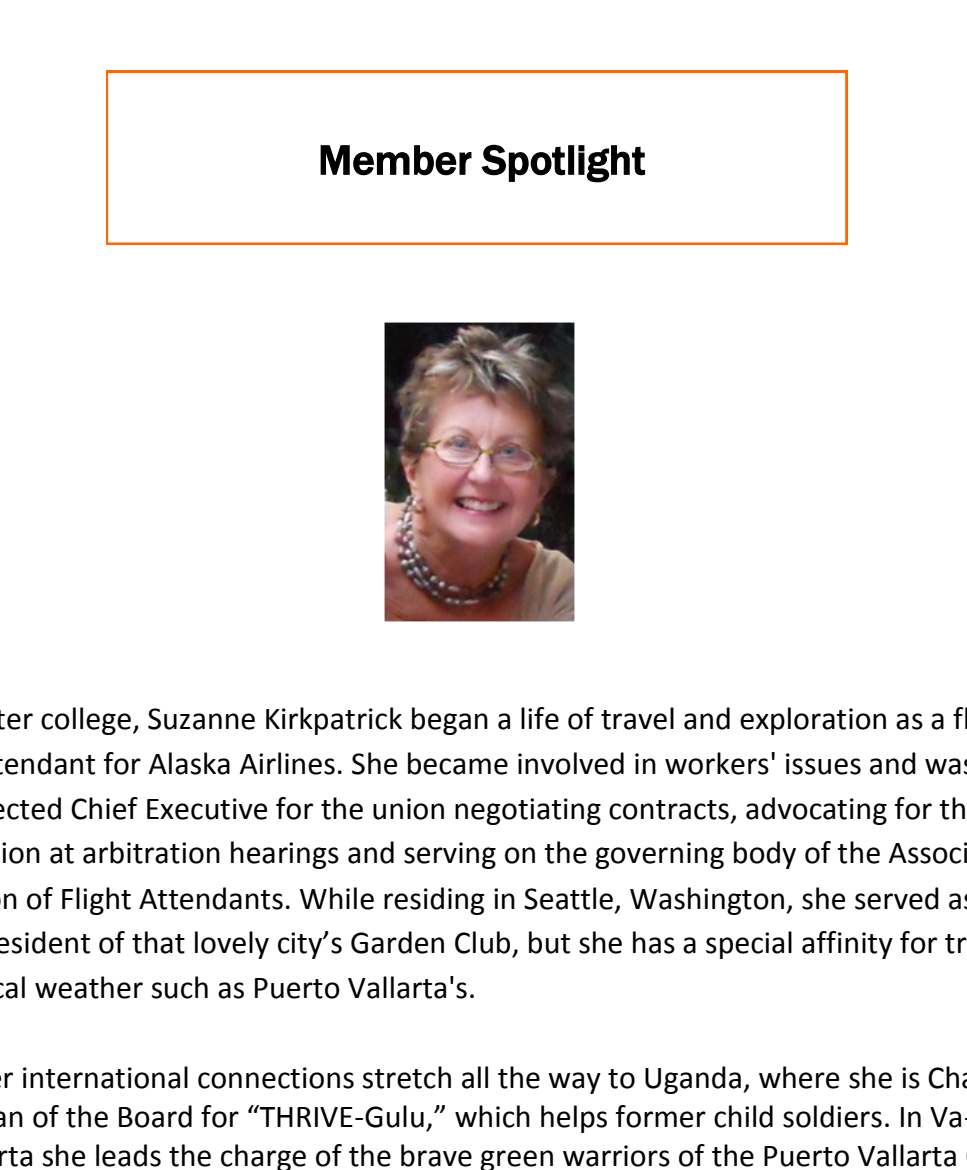
Terra Firma Summer Camp at The Vallarta Botanical Gardens

July 16th - August 10th 2012
Ages 13 - 17

Are you ready to change the world?

Our World - Our Hands - Our Hearts - Our Voices

Eco-Science - Theater - Leadership



Spend a summer discovering new possibilities for the world we live in. At the Vallarta Botanical Gardens, campers will explore our environment (plants, insects, animals and rivers), share stories and create new ones, learn about the challenges of our future and how we can shape it—all while building friendships that will last a lifetime. The summer camp schedule is from Mondays to Fridays from 9 am to 6 pm from our transportation meeting point at the corner of Carranza and Aguacate Streets in Old Town Vallarta. As part of this interactive learning experience we will produce a theatrical performance based on our discoveries (venue and date of performance to be announced during camp).

Summer camp tuition is only \$3,300 pesos per camper for 4 weeks of fun and learning. We offer a limited number of scholarships (please contact the camp director about this opportunity). Registrations and scholarship applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited to 20 campers, so please make your reservation early to secure a spot.

Here's how to apply:

1. Online at www.vbgardens.org/summercamp
2. In person at the Gardens
3. By phoning (322) 223 6182

To donate to the Camp Fund or to sponsor an individual camper, please click [here](#).

Please forward any questions to our Summer Camp Director, Stephanie Bratnick, at yourtpscams@vbgardens.org.

Please visit our camp fundraising campaign at
<http://www.indiegogo.com/terrafirma>

The more "likes" the page gets the more people will hear about us and hopefully contribute to our cause.

This can help make camp scholarships available to many deserving Puerto Vallarta youths!



"Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has!"

Margaret Mead

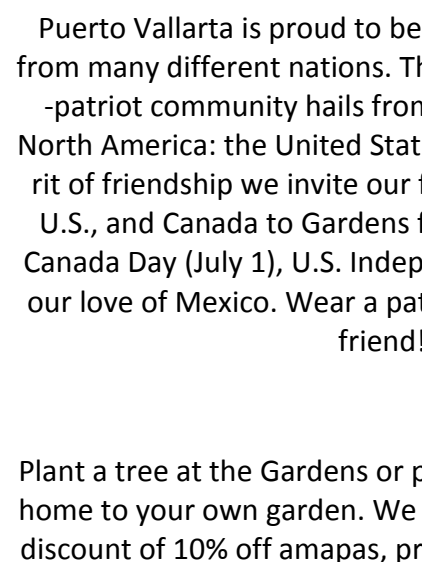
Member Spotlight



After college, Suzanne Kirkpatrick began a life of travel and exploration as a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines. She became involved in workers' issues and was elected Chief Executive for the union negotiating contracts, advocating for the union at arbitration hearings and serving on the governing body of the Association of Flight Attendants. While residing in Seattle, Washington, she served as president of that lovely city's Garden Club, but she has a special affinity for tropical weather such as Puerto Vallarta's.

Her international connections stretch all the way to Uganda, where she is Chairman of the Board for "THRIVE-Gulu," which helps former child soldiers. In Vallarta she leads the charge of the brave green warriors of the Puerto Vallarta Garden Club (www.puertovallartagc.org), who are transforming our city through urban reforestation and beautification.

Married to Jack, she is the mother of three children and is a new grandmother. Please join us in congratulating her on her new post with the PVGC! Any of you who wish to know more about the PVGC should contact Suzanne at suzkirk66@gmail.com.



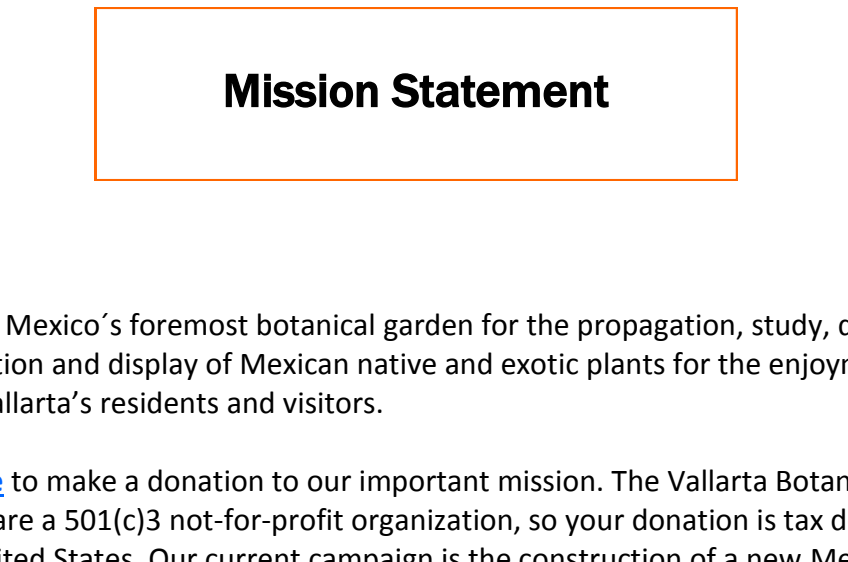
Shaving Brush Tree, *Pseudobombax ellipticum*

Garden Needs

We at the Gardens are very grateful for the volunteers who help us in so many ways—from getting their hands dirty caring for plants to helping with membership drives and other fundraising. One of our ever-present needs is for volunteer translators who can translate Gardens texts from English to Spanish or vice versa. Of course, such volunteers need to have a command of both languages (Google Translate is not an option!). If you have the skills, interest and time to help with these projects, we would be very interested in talking with you! Please call the Gardens at (322) 223-6182 and ask to speak with Bob Price, or e-mail us at info@vbgardens.org.

We also have a paid position available for an administrative assistant. Like all of our jobs here, the pay is great, and the environment is perfect! For details, please click [here](#).

In the Garden



Tillandsia funkiana by Luis Inzunza



Theobroma cacao by Luis Inzunza



Vireya rhododendron by Luis Inzunza

Upcoming Events

June 5	World Environment Day	Join us for our 11 am "environmental awareness photo scavenger hunt hike," bringing your camera. You are also welcome to celebrate with us by planting a tree on our grounds
June 9	Entrepreneurs' Day	Bring your business cards and brochures! This is a great opportunity to connect with other small-business owners from the area. Everyone who arrives before 11 am will be treated to one free cup of coffee in our restaurant.
June 16	Mango Madness	The cultivated mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>), a native of India, is one of the world's largest fruit trees, reaching a height of up to 100 feet. The trees are xerophytic, or drought tolerant; once established, they survive in dry forests awaiting the rainy season. We are celebrating the flavor of this sensational fruit with a special mango menu in our restaurant and bar: mango salsas, frozen mango drinks (daiquiris, mojitos, and margaritas) and our very favorite—mango ice cream.
June 16	PVGC Work Party	The Puerto Vallarta Garden Club is partnering with a local neighborhood association and the city's Parks Department to renovate a neglected park in the heart of the Romantic Zone. This is one of many events that the Club will host in anticipation of the First Annual Bougainvillea Festival, to be held a year from now. Music, food and beverages—and a feeling of accomplishment—are all part of what's in store. Please bring your gardening gloves to Lázaro Cárdenas Park at 9 am. This is a full-day event.
June 17	Father's Day (Mex&US)	The VBG staff would like to greet all of the proud fathers out there. We're treating each dad who visits on Father's Day to one free beer in the Hacienda de Oro Restaurant and Bar.
June 24	Singles' Day	Join us at 11 am to go on a nature hike with a new group of friends!
First week of July	North American Friendship Week	Puerto Vallarta is proud to be a melting pot of people from many different nations. The majority of our local expatriot community hails from the other countries of North America: the United States and Canada. In the spirit of friendship we invite our friends from Mexico, the U.S., and Canada to Gardens festivities that celebrate Canada Day (July 1), U.S. Independence Day (July 4) and our love of Mexico. Wear a patriotic T-shirt and make a friend!
July 12	Arbor Day (Mex)	Plant a tree at the Gardens or purchase one here to take home to your own garden. We are running an Arbor Day discount of 10% off amapigs, primavera and other native trees from our nursery. You may also consider honoring Arbor Day by helping the PV Garden Club with their urban reforestation and beautification program (www.puertovallartagc.org).

Our staff and volunteers offer complimentary 1 pm tours in Spanish or English every day that the Gardens are open.



Mangos

"We are all related. That's what my people understood from earliest times. At the core of us all is the creative energy of the universe. Every being and every form shares that kinetic, world building energy, and that makes us brothers, sisters, kin, family"

OJIBWAY WISDOM

Mission Statement

To create Mexico's foremost botanical garden for the propagation, study, discovery, conservation and display of Mexican native and exotic plants for the enjoyment of Puerto Vallarta's residents and visitors.

Click [here](#) to make a donation to our important mission. The Vallarta Botanical Gardens are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, so your donation is tax deductible in the United States. Our current campaign is the construction of a new Mexican orchid conservatory.

Become part of the family that preserves this important sanctuary forever!
Become a member today! Click [here](#) for more information.
www.vbgardens.org

We would like to thank our **Copa de Oro Sponsors** for their ongoing support of the Vallarta Botanical Gardens:

- The McCall Family—Villa Los Arcos
- Michael Ricks—Windermere Real Estate
- Xocodiva Artisan Chocolates
- Carl Timothy Real Estate Group
- Marcelo Mico Pilates
- The Galeana Family
- Ralph Osborne
- No Way José! Restaurant-Bar
- Archie's Wok Restaurant-Bar
- Ron Morgan Real Estate
- Adelaide Blomfield
- Hotelito Jardín del Tuito
- Pam Grissom
- Des Daneri
- Paul Harrington—Harrington Landscapes
- Mexico PV Fun.biz
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- Alan & Patricia Brickell
- Bob & Barbara Sympult
- The McBride Family
- Ken Plant
- Andrew Briskin
- The Holstein Family
- Darrell Rumsey
- Burri Gray
- Charles & Judith Silberstein
- Dr. Justin Williams
- Richard & Char Main

We appreciate your feedback!

We encourage you to write about your visit here on [TripAdvisor](#), to friend us on [Facebook](#), and to follow us on [Twitter](#). Please support the Puerto Vallarta Garden Club by sponsoring a planter! Click here to go to the organization's website.

**Vallarta Botanical Gardens
Your Best Vacation Value!**
Spend the day in the Gardens for only \$60 pesos.

**The VBG are located 30 minutes south of Old Town, Puerto Vallarta, on Carrera a Barra Navidad at km 24, just past Las Juntas y Los Veranos.
Telephone (322)223-6182
Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m**

Vallarta Botanical Gardens A.C.

"La Joya de Vallarta"

"The Crown Jewel of Vallarta"

¡Visitenos a 30 minutos del Viejo Puerto Vallarta!

Visit us, 30 minutes from old Puerto Vallarta!

