The Leaflet

The Monthly Magazine of the Vallarta Botanical Garden
Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, México
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www.vbgardens.org
Dear Friends of the Garden,

This last month my dear mother Betty flew in to Puerto Vallarta in eager anticipation of our Curator’s Candlelight Dinner on February 19th. Sadly, she fell suddenly ill and passed away within days of her arrival. While I mourn her loss, I wish to share with you all her love for the Vallarta Botanical Garden and her gratitude to our generous family of members and supporters. To all of you who have showed your love and support to me and my family since her passing, Thank you.

As I reflect now on my mother’s life, I’m surrounded by new life here at the garden with springtime already upon us. While some are particularly drawn to the new plants and flowers now emerging, others are more inclined to observe animals. In March we especially celebrate birds—not just for their beautiful songs and splendid plumage—but also the important roles they play in our natural environment.

We could never pay birds back for the work they do in our Garden and the surrounding forest as they pollinate flowers, disperse seeds, control insect populations, and provide us with a constant delight.

Fortunately, our feathered friends ask for no reimbursements for their services, but nevertheless we feel compelled to show our appreciation by studying them and educating others about the importance of conserving their varied habitats. We at the Garden are proud to be a co-host of the annual Vallarta Bird Festival since its inception and scheduled this year for March 5-8th.

For those of you in Puerto Vallarta, please come up to the mountains and visit us soon; to those of you in other places, keep Mexico in your hearts!

Yours in friendship,
Bob Price, Curator and Founder, VBG
In Memory — Betty Ann Price

Betty Price, co-founder of the Vallarta Botanical Garden, passed away on February 17th, 2015. She is deeply missed and will be remembered forever by those who knew her and we continue to feel her warm presence here at the Garden she loved so dearly.

GOD, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.
Mexican Orchid of the Month — *Govenia jouyana*

*By Lizbeth Hernández Hernández, Biologist & Co-author of “Las orquídeas del occidente de México, Volumen 1”*

On this occasion we present a beautiful plant so far only known to one classic place in the State of Jalisco. It is found in rich, rocky volcanic soil in oak forests, 2,550 m above sea level. In general, *Govenia jouyana* is distinguished from *G. liliacea* (Lex.) Lindl. by leaves of unequal size, white ovules, immaculate petals, and tiny rusty spots on the underside of the Labellum numbering from 45 to 50.

As far as we know this plant is only encountered in the area of Tequila, so we can categorize it as a species in danger of extinction due to wildfires in the forests it inhabits, hikers who may inadvertently trample these delicate flowers on weekend hikes, and the intentions to exploit much of this land for cultivation.

I don’t want to miss the opportunity to mention that the Dr. Salvador Rosillo de Velasco is, to date, the orchidologist who has most thoroughly explored the hills of Tequila in his collection excursions measured best by his love of studying orchids.
The Vallarta Botanical Garden—Making a Tourism Difference in Puerto Vallarta

By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

In mid-March, the Canadian Garden Tourism council will host the North American Garden Tourism Conference in Toronto in conjunction with Canada’s premier annual floral festival, “Canada Blooms.” This year the newly formed International Garden Tourism Network will also act as a participating organization and bring in many new speakers through its wide and growing influence. Conference leaders asked the Vallarta Botanical Garden to participate by presenting how our garden has made a tourism difference in Puerto Vallarta.

From our perspective, we have served as a successful local model of sustainable eco-tourism while spotlighting our region’s abundance of truly incredible Mexican native plants. Nearly ten years after the Vallarta Botanical Garden opened to the public our work continues to inspire others to enjoy and care for their natural world. While our garden has enjoyed the benefits of increased recognition internationally and by our local community, we are helping our region as a whole become known as a world-class garden destination.

It is hard to calculate the overall results to our local economy from tourism generated by our Garden, the improved livelihoods of those who benefit from our thriving tourism industry, and increased quality of life to those who frequent the VBG. Quite clearly though, the VBG and our family of supporters is making an incredible positive difference here in Puerto Vallarta as is best evidenced by the ever-increasing flow of visitors to our Garden and their wonderful commentaries.

This month of March, the VBG’s Operations Director, Jesús Reyes, will be representing us at the upcoming North American Garden Tourism Conference. He will present to an international audience of leaders in the garden and tourism industries about the difference the Vallarta Botanical Garden has made in Puerto Vallarta and how our work continues to bring great benefits to our local communities and México in general.
The Vallarta Botanical Garden— A Popular Puerto Vallarta Attraction

As of this moment, the Vallarta Botanical Garden is listed in TripAdvisor.com as number 5 of 181 “Things To Do” in Puerto Vallarta with just shy of 1,000 incredibly complementary visitor commentaries.

Here is a sampling of comments from a few of our most recent 5 star TripAdvisor reviews:

“Beautiful change from the Beach”

“I am not a botanist, but this place is beautiful.”

“Awesome!”

“Must stop”

“A wonderful experience”

If you haven’t yet left a TripAdvisor review for the Vallarta Botanical Garden, please do so today.

Since I first visited the Vallarta Botanical Garden and learned about their project I loved it. Their team is working hard to protect the environment and teach kids how they can do something about it, besides that they bring more tourism. As a business owner this impacts my sales and is good for all who live in this beautiful place. Thanks amigos for your amazing work.

— Mario Jiménez, Puerto Vallarta Resident and Business Owner
The Case of the Missing Burrito
By Neil Gerlowski, Executive Director, VBG

Who says scientific names have to be difficult? A beautiful little succulent found within our collections and displays is officially known to botanists as *Sedum burrito* in reference to its pendulous branches that reach down like the tails of small donkeys. What botanists don’t yet know is just where this plant comes from.

A recent discovery in the wild of its closest relative, *Sedum morganianum* (known by the common name of burro’s tail), may now put botanical sleuths one step closer to honing down on the native range of *S. burrito* as well. Since the first documentation of *S. morganianum* in 1935 from plants in a Vera Cruz nursery, botanists have scoured nearby mountains and canyons for decades in search for a wild population of these fascinating plants. The secret has eluded them until 2010 when a Vera Cruz rancher took botanists to a canyon within his property with a healthy population of *S. morganianum*.

*Sedum burrito* (described in 1975) is now one of very few popular ornamentals whose place of origin remains a matter of conjecture and speculation. Hopefully, a diverse and wild population still exists for us to learn more about this plant and conserve its habitat.

For those of you who would like to have your own little burrito, we have a selection of *Sedum burrito* available for purchase in the Garden’s Nursery. Unlike its namesake animal that doesn’t make a great house-pet unless you own a ranch, *Sedum burrito* can grow from a small pot on your windowsill or as a hanging plant on your patio or balcony. For those who are reluctant to take on many plants because of travels that take them away from their homes or condos—have no fear—as a succulent, *Sedum burrito* is suited to enduring long dry spells without harm and will do just fine on its own until your return.
“Podrán cortar todas las flores, pero no podrán detener la primavera.”
(You can cut all the flowers, but can't hold back springtime.)
— Pablo Neruda
A Salute to Vallarta! Membership Appreciation Day 2015

Photo: Leo Campos
2015 Curator’s Candlelight Dinner

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Photo: Iván Jiménez
Learn to Sketch Birds
Free Artist Workshop
At the VALLARTA BOTANICAL GARDEN
Friday-Sunday, March 6-8
2-4 pm

Meet in the Hall of Flowers Ballroom in the Hacienda de Oro Visitor Center

Participants will learn a quick technique for capturing the essence of a bird on paper and have opportunities to practice under the instruction and coaching of Christine Elder, an experienced bird artist.

Adults and children of all ages and abilities are welcome.

Any one can learn to draw! Come join the fun!

Christine Elder is a professional artist & naturalist living in Oregon. She also co-leads birding tours with Paradise Birding.

Simply show up with pen/pencil and paper, and enjoy!
We have extra pencils and paper

This event is concurrent with the Vallarta Bird Festival (March 5-8), but participants are not required to register with the Bird Festival.

This workshop is complimentary with regular garden admission of just $80 MXN per adult or adolescent.
Mexican Bird of the Month — *Columbina inca*

The Inca dove, despite a name referring to the ancient empire that spread from what is now Columbia to Chile, has a natural range much farther to the north from the southwestern United States to Costa Rica. Along this range it is only found along the Pacific side including our state of Jalisco. Given their current rate of expansion to the south, their “empire” may one day include that once ruled by the Inca people.

Inca doves are a slender bird of 16.5-23 cm and covered in grayish brown feathers that form a distinctive scaled pattern. Their long rectangular tails are edged with white feathers.

“Early Bird” Opening at the Vallarta Botanical Garden every Thursday

For those who aren’t able to join us for the Vallarta Bird Festival, have no fear: all year long we offer an “early bird” opening every Thursday at 8:00 am at no additional cost to the standard Garden entry fee. We have binoculars available to rent each day and there are usually volunteers available to help with identification and pointing out special places to find particular species. Enjoy the Garden during the quiet morning hours for your best birding opportunities.

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4TH ANNUAL
VALLARTA BIRD FESTIVAL
MARCH 5 - 8 2014

- Islas Marietas “Mini Galapagos”
- Field trips to Mangroves, Coastal lagoons, Wetlands, Tropical forests, Jungles thorn forests, Pine & Oaks forests, Tropical ecotones, and pine evergreen forests
- Workshops: Birding by ear, Shorebirds Identification, & Bird Identification for KIDS
- Bird merchandise and Optics Expo
- Photo Exhibit

www.vallartabirdfestival.org
INFO OR CALL 322 293 7052

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Dedication of the Dick and Dee Daneri Vireya Rhododendron House

Saturday, March 14, 12:00 - 12:30 pm

Join Vallarta Botanical Garden Patron and former Executive Director of the American Rhododendron Society, Dee Daneri, for a dedication of the Dick and Dee Daneri Vireya Rhododendron House currently under construction. Scheduled for completion and a soft opening in June, this structure will soon host the only collection of Vireya Rhododendrons in Mexico as well as a lovely selection of accompanying plants. While work continues, the frame of this building’s roof is scheduled to be completed in time for our dedication.

Capomo Harvest Festival — Saturday, March 21

By Alan Heinze, Research Coordinator, VBG

Capomo, also known as breadnut, is both the name of a native tree (*Brosimum alicastrum*) and its fruit. Capomo berries are covered by a thin edible tissue which is an important source of food for a variety of wild animals like deer and bats. Cattle will also consume the fruits and local farmers are therefore keen to maintain capomo stands, generating multiple environmental services to all. The nutrient rich seeds are harvested, processed and comercialized by local families, who value these forests for their beauty and the livelihood they provide.

Come learn about this incredible native forest crop during our Capomo Harvest Festival on March 21st. Gather capomo from the forest floor and learn about nutricous and deliscious recipes that you can prepare at home to include this tropical superfood into your diet.
Palm Sunday Palm Walk
Sunday, March 29, 1:00 pm

Dr. Felix Montes of the Tropical America Nursery will lead us on a fact-filled exploratory walk of the VBG’s Palm Collection noting both native species of interest as well as exotics that make excellent landscaping choices. As a long-time contributing member of the International Palm Society, Dr. Montes is highly regarded for his tropical palm expertise by public garden staff throughout the US and Mexico as well as gardeners of private hotels and estates. On Palm Sunday, his palm growing advice and personal attention is complimentary to Garden visitors as part of his generous gift of time to our Puerto Vallarta gardening community.

VALLARTA BOTANICAL GARDEN
Saturday, April 18, 1:00 – 6:00 pm

Puerto Vallarta will now have its own version of an event that has become wildly popular in our Sister City of Santa Barbara—the annual Santa Barbara Botanical BEER Garden—pairing craft microbrews with special places within the garden. Los Muertos Brewing of Old Town Puerto Vallarta is sponsoring the Vallarta Botanical BEER Garden event with brew stations for participants to both learn about these tasty beverages and talk with Garden staff and volunteers.

Come participate in a “funraiser” and make new friends while supporting educational programs at the Garden with the proceeds of sales from this entertaining event.

Advanced Ticket Purchase Required. $500 MXN for non-members and $450 MXN for Garden members. Tickets are available at both the Vallarta Botanical Garden and Los Muertos Brewing starting on Friday, March 13th.

Please note: the Garden closes to public at 12:00 noon on the day of this event.
Fellow Garden volunteers and I have continued marching on with the VBG’s curatorial process and now have nearly 500 plants accessioned and linked to records in the Garden’s database. While the full database is a rather unwieldy beast with over 30 different fields of information, we are now working on a user-friendly binder for garden visitors that will at least link our accession numbers to each plant’s scientific name. From there, curious visitors can make their own take-home lists to research these plants online to their heart’s content. We’re certainly far from perfect in our identification so if you believe that we’ve misidentified any plants, please bring this to my attention!

For those who prefer less research and more time enjoying nature, we have some great activities for you this month including our Capomo Harvest Festival and Palm Sunday Palm Walk. Even if you only visit the garden to explore on your own, a new adventure of outdoors discovery always awaits for those whose hearts are open to the natural world.

**Monthly tally of visits, program participation, and volunteer service:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feb. 2015</th>
<th>Total member visits to the VBG: 290</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total non-member visits to the VBG: 4,674</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Complimentary entries for organized school groups*: 123</td>
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<td>Total participation in daily 1 pm tours: 265</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total participation in special events, classes, or workshops: 1,803</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total volunteer service hours: 260</td>
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*The VBG is happy to provide complimentary entries, guided tours, and educational programming for organized school groups with advanced reservations as one of our services to the Bahía de Banderas, Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo Corrientes communities. Reservation requests should be sent to educadorambiental@vbgardens.org at least 5 days before the requested date of your visit. Requests are granted first come, first served and are scheduled around other events and programs already on our calendar.
## Vallarta Botanical Garden’s Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>COST</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-8 MAR</td>
<td>Vallarta Bird Festival — More info at: <a href="http://www.vallartabirdconservancy.org">www.vallartabirdconservancy.org</a></td>
<td>See note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7 MAR</td>
<td>Free Workshops: Learn to Sketch Birds — 2:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Included with entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 MAR</td>
<td>Dedication of the Daneri Vireya Rhododendron House — 12:00 - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Included with entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 MAR</td>
<td>Curator’s Sunset Cocktail Social (Copa de Oro Members and above) — 6:00 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>See note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 MAR</td>
<td>Capomo Harvest Festival — Guided hike at 1:00 pm, info both with volunteer docents — 12:00 – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Included with entry</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 MAR</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Palm Walk — Walking tour at 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Included with entry</td>
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<td>5 APR</td>
<td>Easter — Garden remains open</td>
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<td>6 APR</td>
<td>GARDENS ARE CLOSED ON MONDAYS FROM APRIL UNTIL DECEMBER</td>
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<td>6 APR</td>
<td>Volunteer &amp; Staff Appreciation Day — Gardens closed, details to follow</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 APR</td>
<td>Vallarta Botanical Garden — Botanical Garden Special Event 12:00-6:00 pm Advanced Ticket Purchase Required (Available: VBG &amp; Los Muertos Brewing) Garden closes to public at 12:00 noon on the day of this event.</td>
<td>Non-members: $500 MXN Members: $450 MXN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 APR</td>
<td>Earth Day — Details to be announced</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-26 APR</td>
<td>Vanilla Blossom Expo at the VBG — Details to be announced</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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*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).**

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**Garden Hours**

- **Open 7 days/wk**
- **Open 6 days/wk**
- **Early “Bird” Opening** 8 am every Thursday
- **Daily Guided Tour** 1 pm (Offered for the months of Dec., Jan., Feb., & March)
- **Additional tours** can be reserved in advance [www.vbgardens.org/tours](http://www.vbgardens.org/tours)
From the Membership Desk

What a great time for all during our “Salute to Vallarta!” Membership Appreciation Day this February. It was a pleasure to have so many of you join us on this special day! For those who have yet to join us as a member, please consider doing so at this time.

While spring is in the air you can become part of the family that brings great beauty and joy to our beloved Puerto Vallarta community. Your membership not only provides great benefits including unlimited entry and discounts, but also provides the means by which we create positive change for the Vallarta Region!

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

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

Can you find your name on our Wall of Benefactors?

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:

GUARDIANS:

ALAN & PATRICIA BICKELL
DEANNA “DEE” DANERI
RICHARD DITTON
PAM GRISSOM
DAVID HALES & FRANK OSWALD
GEORGE HOLSTEIN
MARY ELLEN HOLSTEIN
ROBERT MAJOR & RUSSELL JONES
RALPH OSBORNE
ROBERT & BETTY PRICE
JOHN & SANDRA SWINMURN
BARBARITA & BOB SYPULT
MICHAEL TRUMBOLD
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<th>Trustees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joaquin Aja &amp; Dennis Owen</td>
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<td>Dr. George Argent</td>
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<td>Kimberly Bennett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Bernes</td>
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<td>George &amp; Katie Coleman</td>
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<td>Laura Cornell</td>
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<td>Ruben &amp; Michael Cota Schultz</td>
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<td>Samuel Cramer &amp; Michael Vitale</td>
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<td>Scott Elliot &amp; James Crank</td>
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<td>The Galeana Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Hickman</td>
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<td>Earl Hines &amp; Matthew Riley</td>
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<td>Soren &amp; Kimberly Kieler</td>
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<td>Duncan Kime &amp; Melinda McMullen</td>
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<td>Richard Lindstrom</td>
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<td>The McCall Family</td>
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<td>Buck &amp; Carol Lee Mills</td>
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<td>Dr. Nancy Morin</td>
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<td>David Muck &amp; Cole Martelli</td>
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<td>John Poole &amp; Kent Deleone</td>
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<td>Terence Riley &amp; David Schwendeman</td>
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<td>Dan Cristhian Rios</td>
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<td>Charles &amp; Judith Silberstein</td>
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<td>Roger &amp; Joana Smith</td>
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<td>Donna Snow &amp; Michael Robinoff</td>
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<td>David &amp; Pam Tomlin</td>
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Photo: Leo Campos

Photo: Iván Jiménez
COPA DE ORO MEMBERS:

CARLOS AGUILAR
ARCHIE’S WOK
BRUCE BECKLER
ADELAIDE BLOMFIELD
PAUL & WENDY BRISTOW
FAITH COLLECTIVA
FAYE CÁRDENAS & KEITH COWAN
CASAT DEL QUETZAL
CAS REDONDA
CAS LOS SUEÑOS
CASAVALLARTA INTERIORS
CRISTHIAN EVENT
CHARLENE BAILEY CROWE
CHRIS DANNER
ROBERT DIRSTEIN & ROBERT ARNDER
WILLIAM & LOIS ELLISON
JUAN ESPINOZA LOZANO
BETTY JEAN “BJ” ETCHEPARE
ROBERT & GAIL FARQUHARSON
RON GAUNY
BURI GRAY
POUL & JUDITH HANSEN
HARRINGTON LANDSCAPES
WALTER HAYES & BEN CAMACHO
ANNE-MARIE HAYES
HINES WARNER WEALTH MANAGEMENT

ELANE HODGSON
HOTEL MERCURIO
MARIO & ALECIKA JIMENEZ
RANDY & JANIS JONES
DR. JOHN & HELEN MANNE
ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ & DAVID ARPIN
ANISE MCARTHUR
IRVINE MCDANIEL
DR. FÉLIX MONTES
NO WAY JOSÉ! RESTAURANT – BAR
JANE PEABODY
PV MIRROR
BIJAN & SALLIE SALESS
THOMAS SCHIAVONE
KENNETH SHANOFF & STEVE YOUNG
ANNA SORTINO
TRAVEL DESIGNED BY STEPHANIE
VALLARTA LIFESTYLES
VILLA LOS ARCOS
VILLA SOLEADA
MATTHIAS VOOGT
WATERWISE GARDEN CENTER INC
BILL WILLIAMS & JUAN ALVARADO
DEVON & ELLEN ZAGORY
ANONYMOUS (4)
If your name is missing or you find an error, please alert the Membership Coordinator, Michaela Flores: memberships@vbgardens.org Thank you.

(S) = student  (I) = individual

We Also Thank the Following Foundations for Their Recent Support:

THE CALIBAN FOUNDATION
CHARLES H. STOUT FOUNDATION
MELINDA MCMULLEN CHARITABLE TRUST
OPTICS FOR THE TROPICS
SHIRLEY K. SCHLAFER FOUNDATION
STANLEY SMITH HORTICULTURAL TRUST

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Your Donations to the Vallarta Botanical Garden are Greatly Appreciated

**Mexico** - Cash, check, & credit card donations are accepted at the Vallarta Botanical Garden. Please visit!  
- Credit card payments may be made by phone: 322 223 6182 (10am – 6pm, closed Mon. in summer)  
- Direct Deposits: Banorte account # 0201383728 (account name: Vallarta Botanical Gardens A.C.)  
- For questions about tax-deductible giving in Mexico please contact us: info@vbgardens.org

**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](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:  
Friends of Vallarta Botanical Gardens, A.C.  
759 North Campus Way  
Davis, CA 95616

Wire transfers / direct deposits can be sent to:  
Routing number: 322271627  
[Your choice]  
General Fund Account: 0635607190  
Conservatory Account: 3310099857

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

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

Donations of stocks and IRA distributions:  
- Charles Schwab  
  Account #: 46789311 DTC  
  Clearing #: 164 Code: 40
- Chase Brokerage  
  DTC #: 0352  
  Account #: 7422361

Thank you for your generous contributions!

Vallarta Botanical Garden’s Contact Information:  
Phone: 01 52 322 223 6182 (international calls) or 223 6182 (local calls)  
Email: info@vbgardens.org  
Web: [www.vbgardens.org](http://www.vbgardens.org)

Free subscriptions to the Vallarta Botanical Garden’s monthly magazine, “The Leaflet,” are available at [www.vbgardens.org](http://www.vbgardens.org)