

The Leaflet

On-line Newsletter of the Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens



Spring 2007

Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens AC.

Volume 1, No. 1



DEDICATED to those who work to preserve the beauty of the earth and those who labor to teach others the value and wonder of their environment.

Dear Friends of the Garden,

The Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens began construction in January of 2005, and opened to the public on November 15th 2005 with great community support and is now being visited by thousands of people each month. The local tourist economy is booming in Puerto Vallarta and with more and more international travelers vacationing here every year we are excited about our possibilities for growth. We now have over 20 employees. Our gardens cover 25 acres that encompass areas of intact virgin tropical dry forest, streams and waterfalls high in the Sierra Madre Mountains, just outside the city limits of Puerto Vallarta. We are an internationally registered and officially recognized botanical institution, and are registered with Botanical Gardens Conservation International in Surry, England. We are a nonprofit charitable organization registered here in Mexico, and

soon we will be a 501C3 nonprofit charity in the U.S. Our goal is working to help preserve the beauty of the Earth, and teach others the value and wonder of their environment. November 15th 2006 was our first anniversary. In one short year, many important and exciting things have happened that surpassed even our own expectations.

Spring aka Primavera, is in the air!

It's always beautiful here at the Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens, this time of year, especially so. We've been busy increasing and expanding our collections of native trees, orchids and cactus. After many failed attempts we have sprouted a tray full of *Crescentia cujete*. This beautiful tree, known in Mexico as Jicara or Cuastecomate, has been used by rural folk for centuries as a medical plant and its fruits are often dried for use as canteens and musical

instruments, most notably maracas. These incredible trees, which are important host trees to many species of orchids and other epiphytes, will become part of our reforestation project and will be set out in June as we eagerly await the summer rains. Over 1,000 amapas, primavera, native pine, and mahogany were planted during our first year.

The Vanilla House

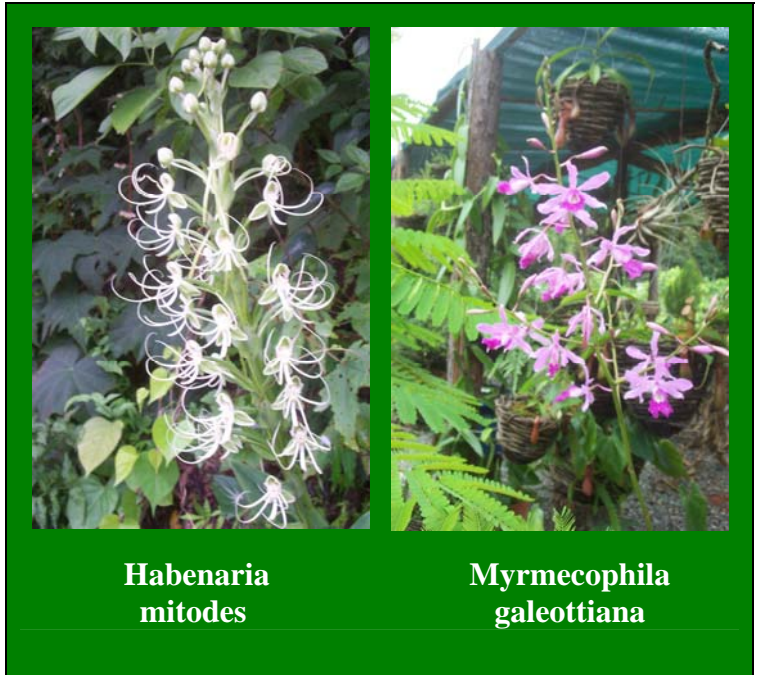
Our current project in development is the redesign and rebuilding of our Vanilla House. The vanilla orchid always attracts attention, and we have decided to devote a special growing area exclusively to this species. Our plans include interpretive displays to showcase vanilla culture, as well as to promote education about vanilla, in a world-class botanical garden setting. We have a large collection of different species of vanilla orchids that we will showcase in the new conservatory. Our horticultural staff is perfecting hand pollination techniques to assure a constant display of vanilla beans.

The National Collection

A broader project we are spearheading is The National Collection of Mexican Orchids. The Puerto Vallarta area is a wonderland of native orchid species. Although orchids are protected by law in Mexico, wild orchids are being over harvested to sell door-to-door or in local markets. Currently there are no orchid growing facilities anywhere within 200 miles of Puerto Vallarta. The population of Puerto Vallarta is increasing rapidly, and urban sprawl has enveloped formally pristine outlying areas of our city. With this urbanization have come all of the associated problems of overdevelopment. Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens' mission is the preservation, conservation, education, promotion and enjoyment of Mexican plants, especially orchids. Currently we have youth programs and local initiatives in place to attract people and get them interested in orchid growing and in conservation. We want to institute conservation through nursery grown Mexican orchid species, and re-establish colonies of them inside the botanical gardens,

and outside in protected areas.

We are seeking funds for tissue culture and a micro propagation laboratory planned for The National Collection.



Puerto Vallarta Orchid Society

This past year saw the creation of the Puerto Vallarta Orchid Society. The Society has over 50 members and meets here at the garden's Visitors Center the last Sunday of each month at 1:00 pm. You do not need to be a PVBG member to join. Please email Mary Hess, Assistant Director, PVBG at mahess9@yahoo.com. for details.

Friends of the Guacamaya



**Military Macaw
Help Prevent My Extinction!**

A new environmental group has been formed, "Friends of the Guacamaya" to help prevent the extinction of the Military Macaw. In 1990 the estimated population of Macaws in Mexico was over 50,000 breeding pairs. Recent bird counts estimate current populations at less than 10,000 birds and declining. Poachers are robbing the nests of the Military Macaw to sell the babies each spring, and many birds die before being sold.

Please do not buy these birds—they do not make good pets. Friends of the Guacamaya will discuss the long term conservation strategies needed to prevent the inevitable extinction of the Military Macaw which will occur sometime within the next 15 years if this unscrupulous nest robbing and selling continues. This group meets the last Saturday of each month in the Visitors Center from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. You do not need to be a PVBG member to join Friends of the Guacamaya and membership is free. Please email Mary Hess, Assistant Director, PVBG at mahess9@yahoo.com for details.

Official Botanist Comes on Board

Our botanical collections are literally growing everyday, with thousands of trees and palms of many kinds having been added over the last 2 years. Our garden displays about 250 different orchid species and more than 3,000 individual plants. We now have an official botanist, Professor Raymundo Ramirez Delgadillo from the University of Guadalajara. He is a world renown expert in Mexican plants. We welcome Raymundo and look forward to increasing our knowledge through study and new discoveries.

Ongoing Projects

An ongoing project is the botanizing, labeling, classification and cataloging of all plants. PVBG will be improving and expanding our irrigation system and walking trails. More handrails and handicapped accessibility are being planned. Also plans to finish paving and reconfiguring the parking lot are being worked on. Happening soon will be the opening of the new Welcome Center reception area at the front gate.

Families with Children

Families with children are encouraged and always welcome at the PVBG. This is an interactive learning experience and quality time for families with children. However, due to unseen dangers that can cause injury to small children, Special Rules for Families with Children have been established. The rule form must be signed by the responsible adult. Special designated play areas have been established for children. The PVBG is a sanctuary of tranquility and peace for everyone, and is a living museum. Therefore special rules of conduct must apply here. Children must be supervised by a responsible adult and stay with their family group at all times. We also promote scholastic

programs and have school field trips, with special children's visiting hours.

Governor of Jalisco Visits PVBG

Friday, April 13, 2007 was a special "Governor's Day Breakfast" at PVBG. Emilio Gonzalez Marquez, Governor of Jalisco, and Carlos Madrigal Orozco, Presidente of El Tuito, were here to discuss tourism and development in the Puerto Vallarta area. They enjoyed breakfast and a view of the grounds, along with 40 other guests. While the stay lasted only a few hours, all were impressed with their surroundings. The governor's visit was arranged by Dr Armando Soltero Matias of Prepa Vallarta, who is working to save the sea turtles in Mayto.



Emilio Gonzalez Marquez, Governor of Jalisco (front-with folder) and guests viewing PVBG grounds

PVBG Membership Drive Huge Success!

Our high season PVBG membership drive was overwhelmingly successful and support from the local community in Puerto Vallarta was inspiring. We would like to thank all of you for joining Puerto Vallarta's new botanical family. Think of what we can accomplish working together! Over 200 members are on board sharing the vision of creating Mexico's finest botanical garden, here in PV. Following is a list of members; for any omissions, changes or updates email Mary Hess, Assistant Director, PVBG at mahess9@yahoo.com.

Sustaining Members:

Paul Harrington & Cheryl Chesson, Granby, CO
 Peter & Buri Gray, Puerto Vallarta
 Dee Daneri, Fortuna, CA
 Pam Grissom, Tucson, AZ
 Kim Roberts, San Francisco, CA

Family Members:

Dr. Wayne, Monique, Spencer & Josh Kawalek,
 Puerto Vallarta

Regular or Senior Members:

Alejandro Modria, Las Juntas y Los Veranos
 Wendy & Jeffrey Armstrong, Las Juntas y Los Veranos
 Barbarita Topete, Puerto Vallarta
 Penny Franklin, Puerto Vallarta
 Brian Johnston, Puerto Vallarta
 Brian (Buck) Pugh, Las Juntas y Los Veranos
 Carmina Martinez de Guillen, Puerto Vallarta
 Casey Lupton and Kieth Lupton, Puerto Vallarta
 David Lyons, Puerto Vallarta
 Diane & Ken Grobman, Puerto Vallarta
 Dr. William & Pauline Trachtenberg, Puerto Vallarta
 Dr. Charles & Judith Silberstein, Puerto Vallarta
 Dr. Heinz & Renata Scholz, Punta Penila
 Francisco Samuel, Puerto Vallarta
 Gary & Susan Adamsom Sr., Toronto, ONT
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Austin Peiterson, Puerto Vallarta
 Henry Anthony Warnars, Puerto Vallarta
 Herschel Allan Weisfeld, Dallas, TX & Puerto Vallarta
 Margo Jodyne (Jodi) Dills, Puerto Vallarta
 Joyce & Michael Richker, Sarasota, FL
 Judith Daugherty, Puerto Vallarta
 Kai Doyle, El Tuito and Puerto Vallarta
 Keith May & Sid Goodman, Puerto Vallarta
 Larry & Linda Palmquist, Bucierus
 Leon & Charlene Noel, Puerto Vallarta
 Liana Turner, Puerto Vallarta
 Dr. Manuel Carlos, Nuevo Vallarta
 Marco & Dru Anderegg, Puerto Vallarta
 Margaret Tolton, Puerto Vallarta
 Michael Shaffer, Las Juntas y Los Veranos
 Miriam Dinethe, Puerto Vallarta
 Nick & Paddy Rouse, Puerto Vallarta
 Norma Molinar & Yordi Meza, Puerto Vallarta
 Paco Ojeda, Puerto Vallarta
 Pamela Arthur, Yelapa-Puerto Vallarta & Fort Langley, BC
 Polly & Hubert Vicars, Puerto Vallarta
 Ralph Osborne, Mismaloya-Puerto Vallarta
 Rene Franco & Patrick De Coursey, Puerto Vallarta
 Richard & Katharine Owens, Puerto Vallarta
 Rita Antonia Kunz, Puerto Vallarta
 Robbin Richardson, Puerto Vallarta
 Rodolfo Zagarena Zarate, Puerto Vallarta
 Ross & April Klatte, Nelson, CO
 Suzanne Robinson, Puerto Vallarta
 T.J. & Helen Hartung, Puerto Vallarta

Regular or Senior Members:

Toody Walton Pilon & Paco Pilon, Puerto Vallarta
 Tom & Michelle Schmitt, Puerto Vallarta
 Verónica Hernandez Corthes, Puerto Vallarta
 Volkhard H. Bongers, Cabo Corrientes
 William & Michelle Aguilar, Puerto Vallarta
 Rossy & Ibarra Range, Boca de Tomatlan
 Tom & Patty Clarkson, Puerto Vallarta
 Terry & Edwige Pelletier, Puerto Vallarta
 Arturo & Marisol Jaramillo, Puerto Vallarta
 Josef Kandoll W. & Cergio Gonzalez V., Puerto Vallarta
 Doreza & Gregg Molly, Fontane, WI
 Nance & Steven Gayland, Puerto Vallarta
 Fred Brown & Myrna Morton-Brown, Puerto Vallarta
 Pepe and Marita Avion, Puerto Vallarta
 Thomas & Caryl Carota, Puerto Vallarta
 Lulu Dykstra, Punta de Mita
 Bill & Mary Platzter, Sedona, AZ
 Douglas Cox, Puerto Vallarta
 Rodelinda Rofler Macedo & Gabriela Sanchez, Boca De Tomatlan
 Virginia & Andrew Sall, No. Oaks, MN
 Andrea Jupina & Alvaro Gutierrez, Puerto Vallarta
 Yves & Danielle Trudeau, Ste-AdelL, QC
 Dorothy Thompson, El Tuito and Puerto Vallarta
 Greg & Joni Neutra, El Tuito
 Betty Jean (B.J.) Etchepare, Puerto Vallarta
 Bob Bruneau & Gerardo Lugo V., Puerto Vallarta
 Dr. Jorge G. & Leticia Chavez Paez FACC., Puerto Vallarta
 Garin Bakel & Liunel Cunningham, Puerto Vallarta
 Margaret L'Ecuyer, Puerto Vallarta
 Philippa Vernon-Powell, El Pitillal
 Margaret Smith & Judy Williams, Burlington, ONT
 Bruce & Gale Hinton, Puerto Vallarta
 Angelyn Forbes-Freeze & George Freeze, Cortlandt Manor, NY
 Orestes Gorrin & Jennifer Stephenson, St.Catherine, ONT
 Debra Old, Puerto Vallarta
 Ken Hayes & Eric Lagasca, Puerto Vallarta
 Bill Becker, Puerto Vallarta
 Elizabeth Kokes, Kingsville, MD
 Charles Stanford & Robert Messerly, Chicago, IL
 Harriet C. Murray & Susan Austin, Puerto Vallarta
 Shiela Paterson & Dilys Evan, Puerto Vallarta
 James E. & Yvonne H. Miller, Puerto Vallarta
 Carlos & Bonnie Jáuregui, El Tuito
 Silvia Mendez Snyder, Puerto Vallarta
 Patricia Marchak & Todd Melchor, Fullerton, CA
 Pablo Ortiz Sanchez, Puerta Vallarta
 Harlan & Frances Chapman, Vermilion
 Manuel Munoz Viveros, Puerto Vallarta
 Anna Riesman, Puerto Vallarta
 Joan & Joseph Santana, La Manzanilla
 Patricia Morrow, El Tuito
 Charles H. & Jo A. Hellinger, Puerto Vallarta
 Samuel & Gloria Pena, Puerto Vallarta
 Permillia Holbrook, Puerto Vallarta
 Mary Hess, Green Bay, WI & Puerto Vallarta
 George & Mary Ellen Holstein, Puerto Vallarta.
 Greg & Joni Nutra, Santa Fe, NM and El Tuito
 Cody Sontag & Judith Roth, Yelapa

Members Appreciation Night

March 3, 2007 was the first Members Appreciation Night for the PVBG. A special thanks to the Puerto Vallarta Chamber Orchestra and The Quesadivas for performing at Noche de las Luminaras. They made our night extra-special. This event will be repeated next year—date to be announced. Special thanks to DJ Pepe for a night of dancing to our favorite oldies and contemporary favorites.

Fund Raising and Fund Development

PVBG has established fund raising and fund development through grants, donations and improved membership. A current fund raising project now being offered and selling for \$5,000.00 US each is a limited edition of 20 Cantera benches, 50cm x 100cm, inscribed with the donors name on them. Three of these have been sold already, and a very special thanks to these donors for helping us with our goals.

We are always seeking new members at all levels. Also volunteers are needed and welcomed. We are in need of volunteers for tour guides, and the Welcome Center. Memberships for volunteers are free, and entitle you to valuable discounts while helping to support our important work. Please email Mary Hess, Assistant Director, PVBG at mahess9@yahoo.com. for details for membership or volunteering information.

Contact and Hours

For weddings and events please contact Liana Turner, Guest Services Director. Tel: 222-5133 or cell: 044 (322) 135-0929 Email: lianasea@msn.com Website: www.vallartacatering.com.

Mary Hess is now the Assistant Director at PVBG. Please email her at mahess9@yahoo.com regarding information for the Puerto Vallarta Orchid Society, Friends of the Guacamaya, our membership program or volunteering opportunities.

Our operating hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. The PVBG is closed Mondays, Christmas Day, New Years Day, and the months of September and October. We will reopen again November 1, 2007 to begin our new season.

Visit us on the Internet at:

www.vallartabotanicalgardensac.org.

Please do come for a visit during these more relaxing summer months. The rainy season is a magical time here with life renewing itself before our very eyes. As we like to say, “COME WATCH US GROW”.

Also please kindly forward The Leaflet to your friends.