

The Leaflet



On-line Newsletter of the Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens

Summer 2007

Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens AC.

Volumen 2 No. 1



**Garden Founder & Director Robert Price
With blooming *Tillandsia jaliscomonticola***

*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,

We hope this finds the members of our extended botanical family happy and healthy wherever you are this time of year. The Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens have been closed for maintenance and vacation since July 29th 2007, and will re-open October 2nd, 2007. During these two months, incredible things have happened. Most importantly, culminating over a year's worth of work and preparation, we are officially registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 c3 non-profit organization. This means that all memberships and donations are now fully tax deductible in the United States. Our new legal name which is registered in the US is "Friends of Vallarta Botanical Gardens AC". The Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens are also a registered charity here in Mexico. Your memberships and donations allow us to continue our important work in conservation, education, expand our

collections, improve infrastructure, and make new discoveries. The Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens are registered members of BGCI www.bgci.org, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, as well as members of The American Orchid Society, The American Rhododendron Society, and the Asociación Mexicana de Orquideología.

Summertime in Jalisco

It's always beautiful here at the Vallarta Botanical Gardens. The rains arrived on June 29th this year, and the storms have been coming in regular intervals with showers of life-giving water. The garden is growing before our very eyes! Growing, too, are the weeds, which our dedicated horticultural staff is engaged in removing for what seems like hours on end. To date, we have received 64 cm of rain, 7cm shy of last year's measurement thus far. Therefore, we are saying we have had an average rainy season so far. September usually marks the month of the increase of tropical cyclones, originating off the pacific coast of central America, which rotate to the north and can cause massive rainstorms. Though not in the direct path of most hurricanes, PV's weather can certainly be influenced by a passing tropical storm. Also, as a reminder, is especially careful driving in Mexico this time of year, as potholes are numerous, and dangers from landslides are quite common.



Fabulous native orchids blooming in the Orchid House

And speaking of landslides...

The highway to the gardens has been closed twice so far this season due to massive landslides between Boca De Tomatlan and Las Juntas y Los Veranos. In all it's drama, the landslide twice called upon highway maintenance crews, large machinery, the local police, the army, and many curious on-lookers to witness and ultimately clear the road for waiting traffic. Thus, reestablishing our connection with the outside world.

Coming this season, Hiking and Birding in the Gardens.



Hike through the Indian Rock Carvings as you search for rare birds.



Just a short walk from our main entrance, the creators of these carvings remain a mystery

The botanical gardens has expanded its roster of activities to include hiking and bird watching in the adjoining 100 hectare private forest reserve. Private guided tours are available for groups or individuals, cost is \$85 USD per person, which includes your native guide, and a gourmet box lunch to take with you. You will see many species of birds, amazing scenery, mountain vistas and streams, as well as Indian pictographs. Horseback riding is also available. Please call us to reserve your guide. From the US 011 52 322 223 6182

Grants and funding...

Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens Fund Developer and Yelapa resident, Cody Sontag, has applied for grants from the following organizations:

- *Orchid Conservation International/\$9,000USD/Orchid Propagation Lab Equipment
- *San Diego Orchid Society Conservation Committee/\$2,500USD/Endangered Orchid Field Study
- *Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust/\$20,000USD/Garden Trails and Interpretive Signage
- *American Orchid Society/\$15,000USD/Plant Laboratory Research

A special thanks to Cody for her dedication and hard work to the PVBG; we appreciate her outstanding efforts and professionalism. Cody has also been able to acquire many *in kind* contributions for our orchid lab, for which we are most grateful. We also thank board of director member Pam Grissom for funding Cody's important work **THANK YOU PAM!**

All tax deductible grants and donations may be sent to "Friends of Vallarta Botanical Gardens AC" C/O Dee Daneri, 11 Pinecrest Drive, Fortuna, CA We thank Dee for her untiring work and generosity getting "Friends" up and running. **THANK YOU DEE!**

Founder's Circle Bench program...

We are pleased to announce of our Founder's Circle Bench Program, with a limited addition of 20 benches to be sold. Those wishing to participate in the Founder's Circle bench program will have the opportunity to personalize their bench with customized engraving. Each bench is approximately 150cm long by 40cm wide; photos of several styles are available upon request via email. The price for each bench is a tax deductible gift of \$5,000 USD, and will be placed, when possible, in the garden at the location of your choice. To purchase your bench please contact



Cantera Benches for the Founder's Circle Bench program

us at info@vallartabotanicalgardensac.org.

A Garden of Earthly Delights, The Chocolate, Coffee and Vanilla Garden

Our Chocolate, Coffee, and Vanilla Garden is home to the world's three most valuable shade crops. Cocoa is native to Mexico, and was cultivated by the Aztecs and Mayans who considered it sacred. This "food of the gods" was also used as currency by the ancient peoples of Mexico, and today is a 14 billion dollar a year industry. Coffee is native to tropical Africa, and is now grown around the world in many tropical countries. A very labor intensive crop, coffee beans are individually hand-picked, spread to dry in the sun for several weeks, and finally roasted and ground. Annual commerce in this crop is well into the billions. A lot of folks don't know that vanilla is actually an orchid; vanilla was found originally in Mexico and is now known to occur worldwide in tropical regions with over 100 known species. Vanilla was then "discovered" by the Europeans and brought back to the Old World and revered for its unique flavor and versatility. You can find vanilla in just about everything, from ice cream to toothpaste. Come enjoy, and learn more about the Chocolate (*Theobroma cacao*), Coffee (*Coffea arabica*), and Vanilla (*Vanilla planifolia*) Garden, these fascinating and ever so delicious botanical treasures.



A yet to be identified Vanilla species, blooming in the Botanical Garden.



Our most common local Vanilla species



Military Macaws do not make good pets and have caused damage to our botanical collections.

Macaws forever....

PVBG is proud to be a supporter of a very important local conservation group, Macaws Forever. The goal of Macaws Forever is planning long term survival strategies and recovery efforts for the Mexican Military Macaw. Once common in our area, the local population has dwindled in recent years due to poaching of nestlings for the illegal pet trade. Macaws Forever highly advises against purchasing baby Military Macaws or keeping Macaws as pets. These majestic birds can live to be 70 years old, and do not make good pets. Anyone wishing to become involved in this important program, contact Robert Price at: bobinpvmex@yahoo.com

Kids in the garden...

The Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens is a great place to spend time with your children and groups from local schools are always most welcome. To arrange a field trip and guided tour of the garden for your child's school, simply contact us at: 322-223-6182.

Some special rules do apply for children and children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. Special visiting times for field trips are scheduled in the morning from 9am until 12:30pm. There is no entrance charge for field trips for students or their teachers.

Our new entrance fee...

Our general admission fee for adults is a \$30 Pesos donation per person; kids under 12 are always free. Your PVBG membership entitles you to unlimited admission to the gardens, as well as 2 guests. Members arriving with more than 2 guests are asked to pay the \$30 Pesos per person donation at the Welcome Center.

Setting goals for our future...

Besides our ongoing goals regarding our improvement of infrastructure and facilities, PVBG has set forth some important goals which we will initiate, beginning this season. Some of our goals are:

- *The National Collection of Mexican Orchids-Mexico's most complete collection of native Mexican orchid species displayed in a world class setting in our new conservatory

- *The new Vanilla House-specially constructed conservatory area with interceptive displays highlighting and showcasing this most important plant group

- *The layout and design work of a new trail system in our currently undeveloped 6 acre parcel of tropical dry forest ecosystem

Here at PVBG, we are currently seeking funding for these projects and will keep everyone posted as progress is made towards these important goals and everyone is invited to participate.

Volunteer opportunities...

Why not become a PVBG volunteer today? Volunteers are needed to man the Welcome Center, and are provided with lunch daily, volunteers who commit to at least one day a week, will receive a free seasonal membership. Volunteers are also needed in the area of tour guides and docents. We are also seeking persons who are adept at labeling plants. Contact us at: 322-223-6182

Happening at the Plantation House...

Our culinary staff have designed a new fall menu guaranteed to tempt the taste buds! Those returning to the restaurant will enjoy our newly expanded coffee and dessert menu, as well as new salad presentations and our famous firewood oven baked pizza. The Plantation House is available for private events. Please contact our Guest Services Director, Liana Turner 222-5133, cell 044-322-135-0929, email lianadea@msn.com, website www.vallartacatering.com for weddings or events.

Presenting our Board of Directors for "Friends of Vallarta Botanical Gardens AC"

Kim Roberts/Secretary San Francisco CA, Fund Raiser and Garden Advocate
Pam Grissom/ Tucson, AZ Philanthropist and Fund Raiser
Ellen Zagory, Davis, CA/Director of Horticulture, University of CA. Davis
Dr. Michele Zjhra Statesboro, GA/Director of Herbarium, Georgia Southern University
Dr. Nancy Morin, Point Arena, CA/Editor of "Flora of North America", Author, Botanic Garden Advisor
Dr. George Argent, Edinburgh, Scotland /World Expert in Vireya Rhododendrons and Tropical Plants, Author,
Curator of Edinburgh Botanical Gardens, Retired
Deanna Daneri, Fotuna, CA/Advisor to Botanic Gardens on Ericaceous Plants, retired ED, American
Rhododendron Society Acting administrator, oversees management of donations and dispersals funds working
closely with accountant for FVBG
Robert Kopfstein San Diego, CA/ Author, Board of Trustees, Quail Botanical Gardens 1994/2002 International
Bromiliad Judge and International Member of the South African Cycad Society.
George and Mary Ellen Holstien, Chicago, IL, Garden Advocates and fundraising.
Donna Snow, Winter Park, FL Marketing and Editorial Liaison for Saveur Magazine and Spa Magazine,
Fundraising and Garden Advocate
Ken Godin, Glastonbury, Conn National Sales Manager Flight Design USA, Godin Marketing, Garden Advocate
and Fundraising.

Our Board of Directors serving here in Mexico for "Vallarta Botanical Gardens AC"

TJ Hartung, Author and President of PV Orchid Society
Anna Riesman, Editor, Vallarta Tribune, Advisory Board
Casey Lumpton, Garden Advocate, Advisory Board
Paul Sander, Author, retired horticulturalist and Garden Advocate
Charlene Noel, Garden Advocate and Biologist.

We thank the member of our Mexican Board for their service to the garden.

We will see everyone starting October 2nd! We thank the following members for their loyal and generous support
of the Vallarta Botanical Gardens AC

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

Our Regular and/or Senior Members:

Alejandro Mondria, 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, Bucerus
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
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 Platzer, 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
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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
Permilla 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