

QuailTracks

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July, August, September 2018

San Diego
BOTANIC
GARDEN

San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN

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MISSION STATEMENT: *To inspire people of all ages to connect with plants and nature.*

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN SDBGarden.org



230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024 • 760/ 436-3036 (phone) 760/ 632-0917 (fax) • Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM

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The Garden Shops

Open 10 am – 4 pm daily (Closed on Christmas Day)

Membership Discounts:

10% to Family, Individual and Steward level members
 20% to Patron and higher level members

Summer is in full bloom in the Garden's Plant Shop! This popular nursery offers a beautiful variety of blooming plants, unique succulent wreaths and potted succulent arrangements. All make perfect gifts to give or keep for yourself and your garden!




Look for a nice variety of drought-tolerant plants, including California natives such as Galvezias, several varieties of Ceanothus and numerous varieties of Salvias. While visiting, check out our broad selection of perennials that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. These are a must for California gardens!

Want to try something new or different? See our 'Grown in the Garden' section. Our volunteers and garden staff have propagated many of these unusual plants!

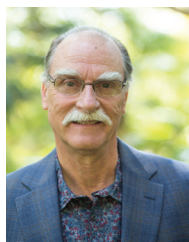
And, of course, our Gift Shop is brimming with summer accessories and garden-themed treasures. You will find unique items to enhance summer fun for you and your garden!

U.S. Military Personnel and Families Admitted FREE

Now through Labor Day, September 3rd

Simply show one of the following active military I.D. cards at Admissions:  Blue Star Museums Army • Navy • Air Force • Marines • Coast Guard • National Guard and Reserve.

The Purpose of the San Diego Botanic Garden



Message from the President

Julian Duval
President/CEO

Over the years I have shared some of the exciting new developments that have made the Garden become more popular. In fact by end of the last calendar year, we had record attendance of just under 270,000 visits to the Garden.

We are headed toward another record attendance year for 2018. This is assured with the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory expected to be open by early Fall and the upgrades to the Larabee House and Lawn house anticipated by end of this year. When these two new attractions open, we will have invested nearly \$8M in improving the visitor experience in 2018. This is almost double the amount of capital investment for any previous year.

Because the Garden is self-supporting, providing a valued experience for our guests is what makes it possible for the Garden to operate as a business.

But the real value in the San Diego Botanic Garden is to be found in the mission and goals that provide the true reason for its existence. They serve as a compass for all the improvements and programs that we develop and pursue. And are an important reference point for our Board in selecting my replacement.

My retirement is planned for January of 2019, and at the time of this publication, we have attracted an excellent field of highly-qualified applicants. By the Fall issue of Quail Tracks, it is likely that a decision will have been made, and you will hear from the next President and CEO for the San Diego Botanic Garden.

Please look over the mission and goals for the Garden. I'm confident that it will enhance your sense of pride knowing why the San Diego Botanic Garden exists.

Come Check Out Our New Baobab Tree Sculpture

Back in October 2017, docents Peter Jones and Mary Friestedt presented a challenge to all Garden volunteers to donate towards a sculpture project to honor our beloved Bill Teague, since passed. Bill is best known for various parts of SDBG's planted areas that are graced with his creative designs, a legacy to his talents that will live on indefinitely here.

Almost \$23,000 was raised through the docent-led fund drive to complete a new visitor attraction, transforming a deceased 100-year old Eucalyptus tree into a stylized Baobab tree! This new sculpture is located just east of the Larabee House in the Madagascar Garden.

The generosity of our amazing SDBG family for this project is testimony to the love people feel for Bill and the Garden. Special thanks goes to every person who made this exhibit possible through donating!

Mission Statement

To inspire people of all ages to connect with plants and nature.

GOALS:

Enable Learning – Enable people to learn about plants and food sources and their vital role in our lives and in the natural environment.

Promote Environmental Stewardship – Cultivate a sense of urgency and appreciation for the stewardship of our environment.

Conservation – Conserve rare and endangered plants and their ecosystems to preserve biodiversity.

Plant Introduction and Cultivation – Collect and propagate beautiful, fascinating and significant plants and display them in attractive gardens for recreation and learning.

Provide an Urban Oasis – Create a peaceful setting for people to experience beauty and the healing power of nature.

Nurture our Wildlife Sanctuary – Encourage and foster the presence of indigenous wildlife.

Preserve our Legacy – Honor our heritage by preserving historic plantings and structures from our Larabee legacy. Support and strengthen our wealth of engaged volunteers who contribute to building the future of SDBG.

Foster a Visitor Centric Experience – Offer fun and friendly community gathering spaces to foster delight and curiosity.

We support these goals through:

- Growing strong ties to community
- Ensuring sound and strong financial health
- Fostering and growing effective fund raising
- Enhancing leadership and management skills and learning
- Recruiting strong team members with vision and passion for the garden

Revised and Approved by the Board July 29, 2016



Photo: Lisa Reynolds

Local artist Mitch Ewing who is also known locally for his creation of "Hodgee the Monster," off Del Dios Highway in Lake Hodges, sculpted our new Baobab Tree. This is what it looked like at press time. Come and see what it looks like today!



Upcoming Events

Thursday Family Fun Night

Every Thursday Now – August 30 • 4:30 – 8 pm

Pack up the kids and enjoy some outdoor fun at Thursday Family Fun Night, every Thursday evening Now - August 31. From 6-7 pm don't miss family-friendly entertainment, like San Diego's own Hullabaloo, designed to amuse both children and adults. Garden lovers of all ages are invited to come to enjoy the rest of the Garden during Thursday Family Fun Night to take advantage of extended evening hours. It's a whole different feel in the Garden during these special summer months, so come and enjoy your Garden!

Cost: Free with paid Garden admission or membership.

Sculpture in the Garden

Sunday, June 24, 2018 – Early April 2019

Daily 9 am – 5 pm

This unique exhibition showcases 50 sculptures from 32 talented regional artists set against the beautiful backdrop of the Garden's lush and natural 37 acres. Curator Naomi Nussbaum Art & Design has orchestrated an eclectic exhibition ranging from functional garden artwork to large abstract work with an emphasis on diversity of media and scale.

Take a self-guided tour with the Garden's dedicated Sculpture Map. All sculptures in the exhibit are for sale with a portion of the proceeds going to keep the Garden going and growing! For participating artists visit SDBGarden.org/sculpture.htm.

Cost: Free with paid Garden admission or membership.

Insect Festival & Ladybug Day

Saturday & Sunday, July 21 & 22 • 9 am – 5 pm

This one-of-a-kind event features thousands of fascinating creepy-crawlies including live insects, lizards, snakes, ladybugs and the famous "Madagascar hissing cockroaches." Children can practice bug collecting, hands-on insect arts and crafts, and even taste cooked mealworm larva (in various flavors such as mesquite, teriyaki, and barbeque!). Entomologists and other bug experts will be available for questions and more than 20 informational booths will teach and entertain children and adults alike.

Cost: Free with paid Garden admission or membership.

Free for all children 12 and under.

Summer Jazz Concert

Featuring The Big Band and Jazz Hall of Fame

Sunday, August 12 • 5 pm – 7 pm

Spend the evening listening to the Big Band and Jazz Hall of Fame Orchestra performing the hits of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, Artie Shaw, Stan Kenton and many more. The BB&JHF Orchestra consists of musical talents playing authentic arrangements of these famous big bands. CD's will be available for purchase the day of the concert.

Cost: Adult member \$15, adult non-member \$25,

youth member \$5, youth non-member \$10.

Photo: Rachel Cobb



**Like us on Facebook!
Get exclusive information on
your favorite SDBG events!**

Gardens of Ink

An Invitational Exhibit of Contemporary Chinese Brush Painting
Sunday, July 29 – Friday, August 31 • 9 am – 5 pm • Ecke Building

Enjoy an invigorating display of Chinese Brush Paintings by a select group of San Diego artists. Curated by Tiffany Wai-Ying Beres, a scholar of contemporary and traditional Asian art.

The public is invited to an reception on Sunday, August 19 from 2 – 4 pm. Painting demonstrations, along with refreshments, will be included in the reception. Your paid Garden admission or membership admits you to the reception. Cost: Free with paid Garden admission or membership.



Summer Classes

To see full class descriptions and to register go to SDBGarden.org/classes.htm or call 760/ 436-3036 x201. All classes are for ADULTS ONLY (18+)

Living Wall / Vertical Garden

Saturday, July 7, 9 am -12 pm
Saturday, September 1, 9 am -12 pm

Learn the basics of planting a living wall. We will be planting a 10"x20" wall with a variety of succulents. Living walls can be used exterior or interior with multitudes of colors, textures and sizes. The possibilities of striking patterns and unique designs are endless. REGISTER EARLY! These classes will sell out! Instructor: Mary Lou Morgan.

Cost: Members \$30, non-members \$36 plus an \$80 per student materials fee paid directly to the instructor at the class. Please register by June 29 and August 24.

Zentangle – Yin/Yang Workshop

(Ages 12 +)
Sunday, July 8, 12 – 2 pm

Opposites really do attract. Create black and white art pieces with black and white pens. ZERO ART EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Instructor: Janet Massey.

Cost: Members \$40, non-members \$48 plus a \$10 materials fee paid directly to the instructor at the class. Please register by June 29.



Mosaics for Your Garden

Saturday, August 4, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Choose from a turtle, fish, seahorse, dragonfly, butterfly, owl, frog, dolphin, crab, or bird and learn to create a beautiful garden mosaic using glass gems, ceramic tiles, ball chain, stained glass, mirror and more. Learn what the appropriate substrate and the proper adhesives are for outside

use, and learn how to mount your creation to install it in your garden—either hanging on a wall or mounted on a stake. Instructor: Marsha Rafter.

Cost: Members \$75, non-members \$83 plus a \$60 materials fee paid directly to the instructor at the class. Please register by July 27.

Zentangle – Canvas Workshop

(Ages 12 +)
Sunday, August 12, 12 – 2 pm

Design a 10x10 canvas with zentangle patterns. ZERO ART EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Instructor: Janet Massey.

Cost: Members \$40, non-members \$48 plus a \$10 materials fee paid directly to the instructor at the class. Please register by August 3.

Mosaic Flower, Heart or Butterflies for your Garden

Wednesday August 22, 10 am -1 pm &
Thursday, August 23, 10 am – 12 pm
*Please Note: This is a Two Day Class.

These creations make beautiful accents in your garden or home. Students will use a variety of glass beads and tiles in a rainbow of colors. Instructor: Candy Sharda

Cost: Members \$35, non-members \$42 plus a \$25 materials fee paid directly to the instructor at the class. Please register by August 15.

Planting for Pollinators and All Things Gardening

Saturday, August 25, 9 am -12 pm

This is a fun and informative class covering many gardening topics including how to attract and support the various pollinators that may visit your garden. Other topics include creating good soils for your garden, tips on planning and planting a healthy garden and more. Instructor: Marianne Bretell-Vaugh

Cost: Members \$30, non-members \$36. Please register by August 17.

Abstract Garden Photography

Saturday, August 25, 9 am – 1 pm

Bob Bretell returns from Arizona to present one of his most popular photography workshops. Students will explore the garden using a variety of techniques including unique camera angle, slow shutter, macro, zoom, repeating patterns and texture. Bob will be giving demonstrations and students will have lots of shooting time. At the end of class students will have an opportunity to project their favorite shots on a large screen for a lively review and discussion. 35mm DSLR and Smart phones encouraged and all levels are welcome.

Cost: \$59, non-members \$71. Please register by August 17.

Zentangle – Pumpkin Design Workshop

(Ages 12 +)
Sunday, September 16, 12 pm – 2 pm

Create a perfect gift for Halloween or Fall hostess gift.

Draw on polyurethane pumpkins. Design pumpkins with Zentangle patterns. Don't miss this one! ZERO ART EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Instructor: Janet Massey.

Cost: Members \$40, non-members \$48 plus a \$10 materials fee paid directly to the instructor at the class. Please register by September 7.

Succulent Turtle Class

Tuesday, September 25, 9 am – 1 pm

Create your own unique miniature succulent Turtle for your garden or table. Forms and succulents provided. Please bring small clipper for this easy, clever garden design workshop. Taught by the SDBG wreath team. Fee includes materials.

Cost: Members \$45, non-members \$54. Please register by September 18.

Japanese National Honor Society Helps Beautify the Garden

In addition to our first-class team of Docents and Volunteers, San Diego Botanic Garden has been fortunate to have the help of several volunteer groups. Highlighted here is one such group that has made a significant contribution to our Garden Beautification efforts!

The Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS) was founded about 18 years ago by Rie Tsuboi, a Japanese language teacher, at San Dieguito Academy in Encinitas. The JNHS mission is to share Japanese culture throughout our community, promoting diversity and cross-cultural understanding along the way.

During the 2016 Encinitas Holiday Parade, the Garden lent bamboo poles to the JNHS to hold their traditional Japanese paper lanterns, leading to a blooming collaboration between the two. JNHS members now volunteer monthly – sometimes weekly – jumping into the Garden’s Bamboo Garden, Australian Garden, Tropical Rain Forest, Overlook Garden and Blue Lot (commonly known as our overflow parking lot). These areas are beautifully enhanced by their involvement. Thank you JNHS students for your cheerful helping hands in our lovely Garden!



A Tribute to Peter Jones July 16, 1940 to December 27, 2017

By Sally Sandler

On a bright spring afternoon in April, family and friends filled the Lawn Garden to celebrate the late Peter Michael Mytton Jones, who passed away at his Escondido home on December 27, 2017.

Peter began volunteering at San Diego Botanic Garden in 2006 and became a docent in 2007. During that time, he earned the respect and admiration of all who knew him, and was a major force in Garden improvement and growth. He co-anchored and developed the Garden Beautification Teams, helped restore the Bamboo Garden to its new beauty, and encouraged countless volunteers to help in important Garden areas. He financed numerous projects and expertly spearheaded committees. In addition, Peter brought his passion for the arts to the work he did for the ArtFest each spring.

Perhaps Peter’s greatest contribution was the dedication he and his late wife, Margaret, brought to incoming volunteers. For several years, they taught the quarterly Volunteer Orientation Program, representing for countless new recruits the voice and heart and soul of the Garden they had loved. Peter and Margaret themselves met as docents at San Diego Botanic Garden and quickly became members of the Garden family.

Like other “Garden Greats” before him, Peter Jones will long be remembered and his presence felt in the magical place that became his home away from home.



Photo: Courtesy of the Jones Family



Photos: Rachel Cobb

One-of-a-Kind Floating Plant Islands and Chandeliers a Hallmark of New Dickinson Family Education Conservatory

By Tony Gurnoe
Director of Horticulture

Photos: Rachel Cobb

Editors Note: All of us here at the Garden are looking forward to unveiling the next jewel in the Garden's crown soon. In anticipation, we asked our Director of Horticulture to talk about the rare and unusual plants that will appear to soar above guests like a rain forest canopy, where many of these plants are found.

Ask somebody to describe a plant for you. Most will present imagery of green entities reaching toward the sky, with roots fixed firmly in the earth. Strolling through our Garden you'll notice this description is generally accurate. If you make it far enough though, beyond our famous Hamilton Children's Garden, and into the new Dickinson Family Education Conservatory (that will be opening soon!), you'll find an alien world of tropical epiphytic plants.

Epiphytes are those plants which grow on other plants. Epiphyte comes from the ancient Greek word epiphúton (ἐπιφύτον), meaning "one plant that grows upon another plant." Orchids, bromeliads, and certain ferns exist as perhaps the most famous among them. Unlike parasitic plants, epiphytes do not steal anything from their hosts, merely using other plants for physical support. This group makes up 10% of all vascular plants worldwide. More than 25% of the vascular plants in Ecuador are epiphytes.* In certain tropical forests that number can be as high as 50%!* A single tree in Costa Rica is host to more than 126 different types of epiphytes.* The natural growth habits, conservation importance, educational value, and otherworldly beauty of these plants makes them perfectly suited to the type of hanging displays we've developed for the new conservatory.

Upon entering the Conservatory, you'll notice that very few of the plants are actually growing in soil. Instead, most of them have been strategically mounted to elaborate hanging wooden structures we're calling Floating Plant Islands and Chandeliers. These giant chandeliers started out as locally deceased Catalpa trees. Lightweight, rot-resistant Catalpa wood was incorporated into an elaborate stainless steel skeleton. The wood provides a natural growing substrate for our collection of tropical canopy epiphytes. We have mounted these plants securely to the wood using



President & CEO Julian Duval with our one-of-a-kind plant chandelier bases that are currently being adorned with a unique plant palette for the Conservatory.

monofilament, stainless steel wire, coconut fiber, and a bit of botanic garden magic. In time the plants will affix themselves to the wood and each chandelier will grow to be a veritable jungle. When the Conservatory is needed as an event space these chandeliers lift to the sky, allowing a more natural vantage for some of the pendulous flowers and foliage on exhibit. When nothing is scheduled, they'll be lowered for a more up close viewing experience.

Some of our plants are just too sensitive to risk so much movement and public exposure. The rarest of our collection can be found in the six stationary Floating Plant Islands. Catalpa branches were installed into large stainless steel baskets to create complex three dimensional planters. Some of our star specimens serve to establish motifs for the plant palettes of each island. The islands cannot be lowered like the chandeliers. Instead they are meant to serve as more permanent residences for specimens of international conservation importance. *Continued on page 12*

These hanging planters allow us to take better advantage of the space in our new Conservatory by creating a plane

New Plant Palette in Dickinson Family Education Conservatory Sure to Delight Botanists and First-Time Visitors Alike

By Jeremy Bugarchich
SDBG Curator of Collections

One of the unique elements that will be an integral part of our Dickinson Family Education Conservatory, are the myriad of plants – many of them rare and endangered – that the Garden will be able to grow and display in this new space. No matter if you are a first-time visitor, a faithful Garden member/docent/volunteer, or a hard-core horticulturalist, the Conservatory will house a palette of plants that are sure to delight you.

Here are just a few of the amazing species, collected from all over the world, that our new Conservatory will house:

***Aechmea tayoensis*; Bromeliaceae**

This aechmea is native to the tropical forests of the Morona-Santiago Province of Ecuador. *Aechmea tayoensis* is a type of bromeliad in the family of Bromeliaceae. Other types of bromeliads include neoregelia, guzmania and tillandsia. A common name for most aechmea bromeliads are Urn Plants because they grow a rosette of lush leaves to easily catch and hold water. Many bromeliads including the aechmea genera are monocarpic which means once the plant flowers it begins to die. But like most, *A. tayoensis* is no exception, the bromeliad will pup at its base. This offshoot is an exact clone of the mother and will restart the cycle!

Aechmea tayoensis is a terrestrial bromeliad and considered an endangered species. It is known to grow in only one location near the forests close to Los Tayos in Ecuador, an area with very little study. A specimen like this is something we can truly be proud of! Conservation is a priority here at the San Diego Botanic Garden and we are lucky to have the privilege of growing so many rare and unusual plants outside and in ground in Southern California. The addition of the conservatory increases our ability to house even more threatened and endangered plants.

***Anthurium warocqueanum*; Araceae**

The Queen Anthurium, *Anthurium warocqueanum*, is native to Columbia but most notably known for its elegant, silvery white venation. This anthurium truly does say royalty with its upright growth habit and direct facing velvety leaves. Each leaf of the Queen Anthurium can grow up to 3 feet in length. Only the Queen herself could demonstrate more prominence!

Anthuriums are in the aroid family,

Araceae. Other related genera of anthuriums are philodendrons and amorphophallus; i.e. *Amorphophallus titanum*, the Corpse Flower. These are identified by the spathe and spadix inflorescence of their flowers! Most anthuriums, also known as Flamingo Flowers, are epiphytes and are great companions to our Plant Chandeliers. Many anthuriums tend to have tall and slender flowers which can range from vibrant reds to deep purples and subtle whites. They are often used for their foliage as they are evergreen and several have unique shapes and colors such as our *Anthurium warocqueanum*, and its leaves are displayed on our 2018-2019 SDBG window decal sticker.

***Cochliostema odoratissimum*; Commelinaceae**

This lovely cup-shaped plant is a representative of the dayflower or the spiderwort family, Commelinaceae. Although easy to grow with similar environmental conditions of epiphytic bromeliads, it is very uncommon in the horticultural trade. Unlike a bromeliad which produces its flower at the center of its rosette, the vibrant blue and violet flowers of *C. odoratissimum* emerge from its base. The cochliostema leaves can grow up to 4 feet in length and over 6 inches wide!

C. odoratissimum is native to southern Central America and northern Pacific South America. Cochliostemas love wet weather climates and flourish in humidity. This specimen is sure to thrive in the tropical environment of our upcoming Dickinson Family Education Conservatory.



Photos: Rachel Cobb

***Aechmea tayoensis*; Bromeliaceae**



Hydnophytum formicarum



Anthurium warocqueanum; Araceae



Rhododendron 'Saxon Glow'

Photos: Rachel Cobb

***Hoya imbricate*; Apocynaceae**

This is a unique hoya because unlike the common waxflower, it has very unusually shaped leaves. The dome leaves of *Hoya imbricate* have a green and purple mottled pattern. *H. imbricate* is considered a myrmecophile epiphyte because of its similar symbiotic relationship with ants like the ant plants *Hydnophytum formicarum* and *Myrmecodia beccarii*. The convex succulent leaves appear like suction cups along tree trunks. Underneath the surface of the leaf is a network of roots which anchor the plant. The open space allows ant colonies to travel unseen while the plant benefits from waste and nutrients left behind.

H. imbricate occurs throughout tropical Asia as do many species of *Dischidia*. *Dischidia sp.* have adapted in the same way as our *Hoya imbricate* and perform similar symbiotic relationships. Although not pictured, several *dischidia* will also have a presence in the Dickinson Family Education Conservatory.

***Hydnophytum formicarum* and *Myrmecodia beccarii*; Rubiaceae**

Hydnophytum formicarum and *Myrmecodia beccarii* are two distinct plants also known as Ant Plants. *H. formicarum* is native to Southeast Asia and is considered Critically Endangered in Singapore. It produces white pencil eraser-sized flowers and orange fruit. *M. beccarii* is native to the northern coastline of Queensland, Australia and is considered a threatened species due to habitat loss, invasive weeds, and poaching. It too has tiny white flowers but produces a white fruit.

These ant plants are given their name because they provide the perfect home for ants! Ant plants produce tubers, which are swollen stems. The potato is also a tuber. The tubers develop natural cavities which ants can occupy, resulting in a symbiotic relationship. The plants provide shelter for the ants and in return protect the plant from predators while the nutrient-rich ant waste is absorbed by the plant. Both *H. formicarum* and *M. beccarii* are members of the Rubiaceae family, sharing the same family as coffee, *Coffea ssp.*!

***Philodendron warscewiczii*; Araceae**

This strikingly unusual aroid does not have the heart or paddle shaped leaf that most would recognize when looking at a philodendron. *Philodendron warscewiczii*, also known as Mano de León, Guacamayo or Cupapayo, is renowned for its large but thin feather-shaped leaflets. This leaf blade expression is also referred to as bipinnatifid; a leaf with divided segments where these leaflets are again divided into further segments.

P. warscewiczii is primarily found in southern Mexico and ranges along the Pacific Ocean side of Central America. This philodendron is known to mostly develop terrestrially, growing along the forest floor. It also has the habit to crawl along rocks and trees; acting like both a lithophyte (a plant that grows on bare rock) and an epiphyte.

Most philodendrons grow epiphytically, many with dramatic leaf shapes and colors. We will have over 50 unique species and cultivars of philodendrons growing along our Plant Chandeliers and our Floating Islands in the Conservatory.

***Platycerium superbum*; Polypodiaceae**

Platycerium superbum, commonly known as the Staghorn or Elkhorn Fern is 1 of 18 species of the *platycerium* genus. *P. superbum* is native to the rainforests of northern Australia. This epiphytic fern can be difficult to grow outside in Southern California, but not impossible. It thrives in humid conditions and once established needs only weekly watering. *Platyceriums* can be easily lost due to over watering rather than under watering. *P. superbum* is known for its bulky stature and can get to over 3 feet wide.

Platyceriums have short rhizome roots that attach to trees for support. The rhizome bears two distinct leaves, the basal and fertile fronds. The basal frond, also known as the shield is sterile and encloses the roots to protect from damage. The fertile frond expresses the spores on the undersurface of the leaf. These are generally dichotomous, branching in shape, and hang low. *Superbum* fertile fronds can reach up to 6 feet in length!

***Pseudorhipsalis ramulosa*; Cactaceae**

The epiphytic cactus known as the Red Rhipsalis, is no longer defined as a true rhipsalis, as it has been reclassified as *Pseudorhipsalis ramulosa*. Red Rhipsalis tends to form in shrubby clumps with long red ribbon-like leaves. As it matures, *P. ramulosa* produces white flowers along the edges of its leaves which later form single white or green berries.

This cactus cannot be grown like most cacti, as it likes morning sun and has a tendency to burn in full sun. It thrives under humid conditions. *P. ramulosa* is native to the tropical forests of Central American and Northern South American countries. Although considered a Least Concern species, it is listed as threatened under the Guatemalan national list of threatened species of flora and fauna.



Photos: Rachel Cobb

Pseudorhipsalis ramulosa;
Cactaceae

***Rhododendron* section. *Vireya*; Ericaceae**

The rhododendron genus includes over 1,000 species of woody plants. Rhododendrons are mainly found in Asia but are abundant throughout the highlands of the Appalachian Mountains of North America.

The *Vireya* section, also known as *Rhododendron* sect. *Schistanthe*, of the rhododendron genus is unique because these are tropical rhododendrons native to south-east Asia. The *vireya* are morphologically diverse; ranging in flower size and color, and leaf size and shape! *Vireya* rhododendrons have a long history of cultivation beginning in the 1800s. Plantmen and botanists began to hybridize these plants in the 1960s and today there are over 300 identified species and registered cultivars of the *vireya*. Although cultivated in the industry, *vireyas* are threatened in their native habitats. Desire and need for farm land is the major cause for the destruction of their tropical forests.

While not known to grow outside in San Diego County, *vireyas* prefer warm and humid environments, but they succeed in greenhouse (conservatory) conditions; which are why they were chosen for display for our new Conservatory. You will see large showy flowers like the pink and orange flower of the *R. konori* 'Mae West.' We have passionate red like the *R. renschianu*, and of course the enchanting white of the *R. jasminiflorum*. *Vireyas* are new additions to the San Diego Botanic Garden and are sure to impress.

***Theobroma cacao*; Malvaceae Family:**

Chocolate is loved by most, and our beloved cocoa comes from *Theobroma cacao*, the Cocoa Tree. While several other species of *theobroma*, a genus of 22 species, are used in the chocolate trade, *T. cacao* is the most cultivated across the globe. *T. cacao* is native to the tropic regions of Southern Mexico, Central America and Northern South America, where its edible properties were first discovered by the local people over 2,000 years ago.

This evergreen plant naturally grows within the understory of the tropical rainforest. It tends to grow in clumps along river banks where its roots can be flooded for extended periods throughout the year. In its natural habitat, *T. cacao* can reach heights of 5 to 8 meters or 16 to 26 feet tall!

Theobroma undergoes a unique, though not a rare, adaptation, in which the Cocoa Tree flowers and fruits along its woody trunks, rather than from new growths and branches.



Photo: Jeremy Bugarchich

Theobroma cacao
left flower, right fruit

This development is called cauliflory.

The fruit of *T. cacao* are a warm golden yellow. The fruit and seeds are harvested and processed in many ways to produce all the varieties of chocolate we have today! Our specimen Cocoa tree is currently about 6 feet tall and growing strong. It produces fruit regularly and will be a sight to see!

***Vanilla planifolia*; Orchidaceae Family:**

Vanilla is a common, desirable (and very delicious) flavor! Most do not know that the familiar and beloved vanilla flavor comes from an orchid, primarily from the Mexican species *Vanilla planifolia*. This tropical species loves warm, humid environments and is predicted to flourish in our upcoming Conservatory. Vanilla is fun to talk about because of its popularity; but it can be sometimes overlooked.

Vanilla is a genus holding over 100 species. Vanilla is a vining orchid known to crawl along tree trunks and branches. Although *V. planifolia* is a popular vanilla in cultivation, others are used in the trade such as *V. pompona* and *V. tabitensis*. Native vanilla can be found in tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, New Guinea, West African and the Americas.

We get our vanilla flavor by harvesting and processing the fruit of the orchid. In Mexico, the vanilla orchid is pollinated primarily by the Melipona bees. However, these bees are not present in countries where vanilla is cultivated such as Madagascar and Indonesia, the world's largest producers of vanilla. In these areas, the crop is entirely pollinated by human intervention. *Continued on page 12*

Youth Education

Seeds of Wonder • Hamilton Children's Garden

For Children

For questions regarding Youth Education and our Children's Gardens, please contact Susanne at SOW@SDBGarden.org.

Upcoming Events:

4th of July Parade
Seeds of Wonder
10 am



Join us for our annual 4th of July Parade through the Garden. Bring decorated strollers and wagons (no bikes please) and wear red, white and blue! We will meet at Seeds of Wonder at 10 am and the parade will start at 10:30 am sharp. After the parade, you are welcome to stay and enjoy the Garden.

Thursday Family Fun Night
Every Thursday, May 31 – August 30
4:30 – 8 pm

Every Thursday evening during the summer, the Garden will be open until 8 pm for your enjoyment. Live entertainment on the stage will be offered 6 – 7 pm.

For a detailed list of performers, please visit our website at SDBGarden.org/thursnight.htm

Insect Festival & Ladybug Day
Saturday & Sunday, July 21 & 22
10 am – 4 pm

This one-of-a-kind event features thousands of fascinating creepy-crawlies including live insects, lizards, snakes, and the famous "Madagascar hissing cockroaches." For more information please see page 4.

Birthday Parties for children

On Saturdays and Sundays, we reserve the picnic area in Seeds of Wonder and provide special activities like plant potting, rock painting, easel painting and bubble play for birthday parties. Please visit our website SDBGarden.org/birthday.htm for detailed information or contact Susanne at SOW@SDBGarden.org, if you would like to book a party.

School group visits

Detailed information and tour request forms for self-guided and docent guided group visits can be found on our website at SDBGarden.org/tours-youth.htm

Ongoing programs for children

For a detailed description and schedule of ongoing programs in Seeds of Wonder and the Hamilton Children's Garden, please check our website at SDBGarden.org/kids.htm



New Pollinator and Climate Science Program launched!

Our new Pollinator and Climate Science Program for grades 2nd through 4th got off to a great start this Spring! Made possible by a generous Environmental Champion Grant from SDG&E, twenty-four classes from San Diego County Title 1 schools attended a hands-on, interactive outdoor class focused on flowers, pollinators, food production, and age-appropriately taught climate science.

We have added this pollinator class to our regularly offered school programs, to make it available for all interested school groups. If you are interested in booking, please contact Education & Events Coordinator Caren Clayton at cclayton@sdbgarden.org.



Our Amazing New Seeds of Wonder Playhouse

Our great thanks goes to SDBG Board Member and Docent Bill Rawlings for taking on the construction of our beautiful, new Seeds of Wonder playhouse! It's difficult to put into words the gratitude we feel for Bill's leadership for the rebuilding of this structure after it became too damaged from weather (and constant, loving use!) for our youngest patrons of the Garden to enjoy.

Bill managed to get donations of construction-related services and products from the following businesses: Kit Leeger of Leeger Architecture, Steigerwald-Dougherty General Contractors, Shedley Concrete and DC Electric. In addition, he enlisted the help of the following SDBG volunteers to do the final painting over a nearly two-week period: Terry Wood, Kay Worley, Nancy Sexton and Linda Stewart. Special thanks also goes to the SDBG Docent (who wishes to remain anonymous) who paid nearly all of the expenses for the project, totaling close to \$20,000! Appreciation goes to donors Mary Friestedt for her gift honoring Peter and Margaret Jones as well as Anne Spindel.

Tony Gurnoe and our fantastic Horticulture Team also deserve a shout out for cleaning up the backyard plantings of the new playhouse.

We appreciate you, Bill, and everyone else who had a hand in constructing a new playhouse that is guaranteed to withstand the test of time. You can hear the kids screeching in delight when you walk by!



Continued from page 7

of plants overhead without interfering with human traffic below. They also add an element of wonder to this new Conservatory, which has existed as a dream for so many years. We could never have developed such an outstanding crown jewel for this Garden without the generosity of so many. It's hard to even begin with thanks because inevitably I'll miss mentioning somebody, but we are eternally grateful for our Docents, our donors, our visitors, for the slew of other botanic gardens who have donated plant material to this project, to the construction crews who have invested countless hours to raise this glass house, and of course to our Members. Thank you and please enjoy our new showpiece when it opens soon!

Footnotes:

1. Möller Jørgensen & Leo'n-Ya'nez 1999
2. Kelly et al. 1994
3. Eric Schuettpelez and Dorset W. Trapnell Selbyana Vol. 27, No. 1 (2006), pp. 65-71

Continued from page 10

***Zamia pseudoparasitica*; Zamiaceae Family:**

This cycad is endemic to Panama and the only truly epiphytic cycad. It can be found in the Atlantic side of the Isthmus of Panama. The Isthmus of Panama, Istmo de Panamá, is a narrow piece of land separating the Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean while connecting North

and South America. *Z. pseudoparasitica* is near threatened according to the IUCN Red List as of 2003.

Attaching by its tap and lateral roots, *Z. pseudoparasitica* rests under tree canopies and drapes along tree branches 20-60 feet above the forest floor. This species distinguishes itself from its zamia cousins by displaying a 3-to-9 foot long leaf in clusters of 3 to 10 leaves. This zamia has smooth, hooked or sickle shaped leaflets and stays true to the zamia genus by having yellow seeds.

We have obtained 3 specimens of *Zamia pseudoparasitica* while working towards our cycad accreditation through the American Public Gardens Association, APGA. We received our most recent *Z. pseudoparasitica* and several other cycads from a very generous donation by the Montgomery Botanical Center in March of 2018.

- iucnredlist.org/details/43227/0
- aroid.org/gallery/boyce/Anthurium%20warocqueanum%20-%20Boyce%201995.pdf
- florawww.eeb.uconn.edu/198700219.html
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- columbuscactusclub.com/hoya-imbricata.html
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- anpsa.org.au/p-sup.html
- plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Platycerium-superbum
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- iucnredlist.org/details/151780/0
- pacifichorticulture.org/articles/vireya-rhododendrons-return/
- mro.massey.ac.nz/handle/10179/4468
- vireya.net
- powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:320783-2
- bioweb.uwlax.edu/bio203/s2009/ruud_kirs/Life%20History%20-%20Reproduction.htm
- iucnredlist.org
- plantnet.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/cycadpg?taxname=Zamia+pseudoparasitica
- pacsoa.org.au/wiki/Zamia_pseudoparasitica

Volunteer and Docent News

April Volunteer of the Month: MIKE HENRY

A fifth generation Californian, Mike was raised in Whittier and moved to Vista with his wife, Shaun, in 2014. They have 4 sons and 2 grandchildren and are enjoying their retirement. Mike spent 34 years as a Warehouseman for Ralph's Food Company/Kroeger's.

Mike became a gardener alongside his grandmother as he dug holes for her vegetable and flower plants. His interest in our Garden grew from attending events as well as a grand tour hosted by Julian.

As a 2016 Docent, Mike participates in garden beautification, shuttle driving and has been Santa for the last two years at Garden of Lights. He loves our volunteers and staff and says the Garden's trip to Baja was a life experience he will never forget!



Photos: Nick Ruddick

May Volunteer of the Month: CHRISTINE SCHMIDT

Originally from Newport Beach, Chris recalls small property lots filled with garden containers of geraniums, lantana, birds of paradise and poppies. Her grandmother propagated cuttings in empty coffee cans to share with neighbors and her mother grew wildflowers for the dinner table.

Chris raised her two sons on Maui and in Monterey. She worked in the arts and volunteered at the Maui Nui Botanical Garden.

After relocating to San Marcos and realizing how close she was to our Garden, Chris joined as a volunteer in 2015 and became a docent the following year. She enjoys the Wednesday and Friday work parties and supports Free Tuesdays, plant sales and fund-raising events.

Chris enjoys sharing our glorious plants with her grandchildren and working alongside our friendly volunteers!



June Volunteer of the Month: TERRY WOOD

Born in Cheyenne, WY, Terry grew up in Illinois where he and his wife also raised their two children. Four years ago, Terry and Sherrie moved to Carlsbad and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary!

After serving in the Army and obtaining his bachelor's and master's degrees, Terry held management positions in accounting and finance. Terry's love of gardening began as a child on his family's farm in Iowa, where he also planted, weeded and harvested crops from his father's backyard garden.

Terry has proven to be a versatile Garden volunteer - from accounting to carpentry - in addition to garden beautification and event participation. He enjoys working with his volunteer teammates and is proud to have contributed to the building of the new Seeds of Wonder playhouse and the Gift Shop area bench.



Docent Meetings Everyone Welcome!

First Wednesday of the Month

9:30 am - 12 pm • Arrive at 11 am for the program

July – No Meeting

August 1: Congressional Liaison for Climate Change, Eve Simmons, imparts knowledge from the world's top scientists and institutions for creating a sustainable environment that fosters a stable climate, a thriving economy, improved public health, national security, as well as job creation.

September 5: Toby Roy, a Water Resources Manager for the San Diego County Water Authority, will discuss our water supply outlook, regional water issues, reclaimed water and how the Water Authority addresses climate change.

Thank You, Donors!

Thank You To Our Donors! San Diego Botanic Garden wishes to thank the following donors for cash and in-kind gifts, including our Benefactor and Larabee Society memberships made between **February 1, 2018 and April 23, 2018**.

If you see an error, our sincere apologies! Please reach out to Carolyn at 760/436-3036 x216 or email her at czollars@sdbgarden.org. We will be sure to recognize you properly in the next issue. Thank you!

Gifts of \$100,000 and above

Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation
William Gish III Estate

Mr. Philip Tacktil and Ms. Janet Wanerka
Ms. Kathleen A. Thuner

Gifts of \$25,000 to \$99,999

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NEW OR RENEWING LARABEE SOCIETY MEMBERS

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Mr. John Overland and Mrs. Peggy Overland
Mr. Joseph A. Rangus

Gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999

Carlsbad Educational Foundation
Coastal Community Foundation

Gifts of \$1,000 to \$9,999

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Dragon Tree \$1,200 - \$2,499

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Steward \$150 - \$299

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund R. Beimel
Mr. Daniel Buker and Mr. Jack Mulder



Matching Gifts of \$500 and up

Davey Tree Expert Company thanks to Dr. Leonard F. Burkhardt, Jr.

Tribute Gifts

In Memory of Matt Zito
Colin and Melody Anderson
Sandra Bell
William and Laura Johnson

In Memory of Peter Jones
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Duane Siefers and Gwen Momita

In Memory of Claudia Stebelski

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In Honor of Asber Nemet

Kenneth Herceg and Mashil Cheung

In-kind Gifts valued at \$500 - \$30,000

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Special Note: For memberships or donations paid on a monthly basis, the total annual donation is recognized once each year.

Arbor Vitae Guild Members

Ruth Larabee believed in the importance of preserving open spaces and gardens for the enjoyment and education of the community. This belief led her to bequeath her 30-acre estate for just that purpose, a gift that became San Diego Botanic Garden. **Planned giving is the cornerstone of the Garden's history and the key to its future.**

The Arbor Vitae Guild was established to honor the Garden's friends who have indicated that they have included the Garden in their will, trust, or other deferred giving method. Gifts of all sizes are welcome, as they ensure the Garden's natural beauty and vitality for the enjoyment of future generations. We invite you to begin a conversation about how a planned gift can benefit you now and the Garden in the future.

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* Donors whose bequest gifts have been or are in the process of being realized.

Please remember to include Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc., dba San Diego Botanic Garden, tax ID 95-6120581, in your will, trust, or estate plan. For more information, please contact Carolyn Zollars, Director of Development, at 760/ 436-3036 x216 or czollars@sdbgarden.org.

Save the Date for our EXTRA SPECIAL 19th Annual Gala in the Garden Saturday, September 8, 2018

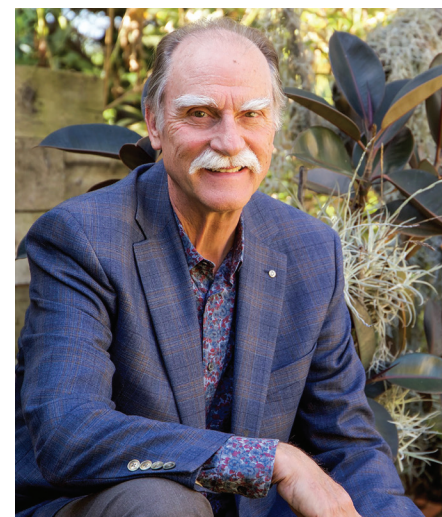
HONORING JULIAN DUVAL, PRESIDENT & CEO

We are busy preparing for what will be the best Gala in the Garden EVER!
You'll enjoy:

- Food, wine and spirits served throughout the meandering pathways of the Garden;
- Five musical groups and strolling entertainers performing along the way;
- Special floral creations and a lovely sunset sky adding to the magic of the evening;
- Celebrating long-time President & CEO Julian Duval, who will be honored with the Paul Ecke, Jr. Award for his nearly 24 years of service at the Garden and contribution to the San Diego horticulture community.

Don't miss out on what our guests call *'the best gala in town'* and your opportunity to honor Julian, who retires in January 2019.

Contact Doreen Prager at dprager@sdbgarden.org to learn more about volunteering, donating items/services for the silent/live auctions or how to become a sponsor for this very special Gala to honor Julian!





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As a Corporate Partner, you will receive recognition on our website and on signage in the Garden, invitations to special events, and other attractive benefits for each level of support. For information on how your organization can support the Garden as a Corporate Partner, please contact Doreen Prager at 760.436.3036 x 218 or by email at dprager@sdbgarden.org.

Our Appreciation to our Corporate Partners

We thank our corporate and foundation partners for their annual support of the Garden's mission to inspire people of all ages to connect with plants and nature. These organizations provide unrestricted cash or in-kind contributions, which fund our educational programs and the overall care and maintenance of our 37-acre beautiful botanical oasis. Be sure to patronize our Corporate Partners!

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