Oak Notes

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NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA BOTANIC GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

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Visitor Experience: Co-Chairs: Lynn Miller and Virginia Herd

Community Outreach: Heidi Arch

Native Designs: Linda Prendergast

Oak Notes Editor: Patricia Brooks

Copy Editor: Fred Brooks

Publisher: Carole Aldrich

Web Publisher: Jennifer Scerra and Lauren Stoebel

The deadline for articles to be submitted for *OAK NOTES* is the **15th** of the month **prior** to publication. Thank you for your prompt submission!



From the President

Kathleen Noll, Volunteer President

"Every time people gather, they are being brought into the opportunity to help one another, to do what they couldn't do or think up or heal alone"

—Priya Parker, *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why it Matters*

Last month, our volunteers and staff demonstrated this concept at the *Things That Go Bump in the Night* event, where the community came together to share the wonders of the natural world in the magic of the Garden at night. It was a delight to see so many families and friends experience nature, science, and art over two fun-filled evenings that felt a bit more like late summer than autumn.

The following weekend, the Fall Plant Sale at Grow Native Nursery arrived just in time for rainy weather planting and much cooler temperatures. In preparation for the sale, our wonderful staff ensured that every detail was in place, from watering the Garden and the plants in the heatwave of early October, to the volunteers labeling and weeding tender plants, all helping to make the first weekend of planting season a true success.

Both "Bump" and the Fall Plant Sale are long-standing Garden traditions that extend beyond the Garden's gate. The local community looks forward to CalBG's seasonal offerings that connect and inspire people year after year. The extensive preparation, care and logistics involved in our annual events reflect the meaningful impact of your involvement in the Garden. Thank you for your continued time, dedication, and support!

Be sure to mark your calendars for some fun November events and activities, including our Fall Dining Out Fundraiser at El Ranchero Restaurant on November 12, "Nerd Out at the Garden" on November 14, and a Volunteer Field Trip to the Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory in Corona Del Mar on November 16. See you in the Garden,



From the Director
Lucinda McDade, CalBG Executive Director

Hello volunteers!

As I write my greeting to you, it reminds me that I feel strongly that the volunteer program is right at the top of the list of my favorite things about working here. AND this is among my favorite times of year because we welcome new volunteers (I have a great deal of fun sharing some of my perspectives on our Garden with them as part of their orientation), launch *Garden Guide* training and also celebrate a number of our most loved events on the annual calendar, events that rely very heavily on volunteers: *Things That Go Bump in the Night* and the launch of the sales season at the *Grow Native Nursery*.

Readers of Oak Notes will be generally familiar with the diversity of volunteering options but I want to make sure that everyone is aware that your volunteer experience at CalBG can evolve. Our terrific Volunteer program manager, Patty Nueva Espana, is your friend and ally here. She can support you in considering options if you want to try something different *or* even want to add a shift doing something different. Quite a few of you work with more than one program here including the many of you who are regular volunteers in the nursery or herbarium, but are ready and willing to step up for such special events as *Bump* and the launch of the *GNN*. We also very much appreciate those of you who are still working but are able to volunteer occasionally for those special events. Notably, as attendance at our events grows, we have more need of remote parking (made possible by our excellent community partners at the Methodist Church and the US Bank) and that will often mean volunteers driving trams to serve as shuttles. The staff member who coordinated tram service for remote parking for *Bump* commended highly all of the volunteers who served as drivers. Interested in tram training? Interact with Patty!

I also want to shine a special and very appreciative eye on the *Garden Guides*. These are volunteers who have signed up to go the extra mile both in terms of training and of service. The extra training and knowledge equips these volunteers to serve as leaders of our content-rich tours. Many of us think immediately of the school tours, but there are also tours for adults for which *Garden Guides* are equipped. The terrific team that leads our community education program has devised a series of offerings to deepen the relationship between visitors and the Garden. These include wildflower tram and walking tours in the spring and the popular evening and very early morning walks in the summer. And don't be intimidated! Staff in community education know well that one can be nervous about leading these sorts of tours. They provide opportunities to practice and also to co-lead such tours with a more experienced volunteer. We want you to be comfortable! Also note that we want you to be comfortable saying "I don't know...but I can find out for you if you'd like to follow up." No one knows everything!

I also do just want to say how much I value the personal friendships that I have built with many of you over the years. When one meets a new Garden volunteer, one knows that she or he is a like-minded person with a very interesting life story and a dedication to making the world a better place. You are all rock stars in my eyes!

Meet Your New Board Members:



Kathy Van Allen, Secretary, Volunteer Board

Hello, Volunteers! I've been a member of the Garden for more than 10 years and began volunteering here in 2025. Most of my time is spent in the Herbarium. In September, I joined the Volunteer Board as Secretary. When visiting the Garden, I always take a break under the Majestic Oak and stroll through the Redwood Grove. You will usually see me with phone in hand taking pictures of all the beautiful flowers, trees, and critters. There is so much to see!

I am a Southern California native. My husband and I have been married for 40 years and live in Chino Hills with our two dogs. We have one daughter who is married and living in Reno, Nevada. When I'm not at the Garden, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, quilting, baking, and watching baseball (I'm a huge Dodgers fan).

Before retiring, I worked as a Registered Nurse in hospital administration. My passion has always been advocating for the care of children and their families. I have previously served in board positions with: the Society of Pediatric Nurses as the Board President; the Association of California Nurse Leaders, San Gabriel Valley Chapter, as Secretary; and on the Starlight Children's Foundation CA*AZ*NV board. I am currently serving on the board of the Association of Child Life Professionals.

I am excited to serve as Secretary for the CalBG Volunteer Board and learn more about the Garden and ways to support all of you.



Pat Hessenflow, Co-chair, Enrichment/Field Trip Committee

I've been a volunteer at CalBG since 2022. I initially worked in the Herbarium and recently began volunteering with Native Designs. Additionally, I have been a member of the Enrichment/Field Trip Committee since it was reconstituted three years ago following the pandemic, and I currently serve as co-chair. I'm a California native and grew up primarily in Artesia. I graduated from Long Beach State College with a degree in Spanish and pursued graduate studies in Linguistics, with an emphasis on second language acquisition and bilingualism. Over the course of my life, I've had three distinct careers: I began as an eligibility worker with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, later owned a business doing alterations and sewing projects for interior decorators, and ultimately spent over 20 years teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) at El Monte-Rosemead Adult School. I moved to this area at the start of the lockdown to stay with my sister so we could keep each other company, and gradually I started to feel at home here. One afternoon I took the tram wildflower tour at CalBG and observed volunteers at their jobs. I thought, "I could feel comfortable here." The next day I started the application process.

Note: An autobiography for the third new Board Member, Barbara Quarton, will appear in the December 2026 issue of *Oak Notes*.

Field Trip: Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory

by Betsy MacLaren

On Monday, November 16, there will be a 2-hour field trip from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to the Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory (KLM), located in Corona del Mar at the mouth of Newport Harbor. Founded in 1930, Kerckhoff Marine laboratory has been a research lab for Caltech scientists and students. The lab provides direct access to the Pacific Ocean and local marine ecosystems of Southern California as well as the estuarine environment of the Newport Back Bay.



The 2-hour tour includes the lab facility and focuses on its history, aquariums, and latest research. In addition, there is the opportunity for microscope viewing, touch tanks, and beach activities. KML utilizes a seawater intake system, providing filtered natural seawater available for research use. Over the years, the lab has hosted scientists with a wide variety of research interest, from developmental biology to kelp bed ecology, genetics and genomics to biochemistry, neurology to microbial ecology.

The trip is limited to 20 people, and the cost is $10 per person. Carpooling will be encouraged as there are just 8 or 9 parking spots available at the

lab. There is additional parking up on the bluff that requires using a staircase to access the area.

More information will be forthcoming via email.

Bake Sale 2026 Wrap-Up

by Kathleen Noll, Volunteer President

The CalBG Volunteer Organization sponsored a fun, autumn-themed Bake Sale at the opening of GNN's Fall Plant Sale on October 10th. This year's Bake Sale was popular with the crowd of native plant fans and receipts once again surpassed all expectations with a grand total of $548.00. The proceeds will enable the Volunteer Organization to support special Garden programs.

As ever, we had an enthusiastic group of volunteers helping to price the assorted handcrafted treats. Many thanks to Jacqualine Faber, Lotus Houston, Kathy Van Allen and Samantha Wallace who made fast work of packaging, pricing and organizing everything. Special thanks to Julie Griffith and Sheila White for setting up the sales booth and getting the sales rolling.



A Very Happy November Birthday to:

Amy Baumann
Fred Brooks
Betty Butler
Donna Chadwick
Aria Deleon
Mia Espinosa
Sheryl Fox
Virginia Herd
Jenifer Hu
Chris Ilgen
Rene Loof
Jacob Navarrette
Patty Nueva España
Bailey Perrizo
Jan Pierce
Daniel Pons
Barbara Quarton
Clara Randall
Alex Reyes
Jean Rosewall
Dean Schimek
Tom White

Thanks to all our wonderful bakers: Jennifer Chebahtah, Sheryl Fox, Julie Griffith, Lotus Houston, Karen Levin, Betsy MacLaren, Julie Scheuermann, Evelyn Shaffer, Ingrid Spiteri, Susan Starr, Kathy Van Allen, Samantha Wallace, Susan Winderman and Christine Zukowski.

BIG THANKS to Patty Nueva España, Phil Majors, Adeline Ojeda, Laura Christianson, Ashlee Armstrong, Rachael Wilkerson and the Native Designs Team.

Enrichment Presentation

Article and photo by Patricia Hessenflow



On October 14, the CalBG Enrichment Committee hosted Maria Montag, board president of Friends of California Condors—Wild and Free. Her presentation, "California Condors—Back from the Brink" gave volunteers valuable insights into the current status of California condors, ongoing conservation efforts, and the species' prospects for the future. Committee members reported an enthusiastic response from attendees, reflecting the presentation's strong impact and interest. We look forward to seeing Maria again when she returns for our Bird Festival on February 13, 2027.

Whimsy in the Woodland

by Jessica Wetzel

Merriam-Webster defines whimsical as *a fanciful or fantastic device, object, or creation*. The new human-scale Nest in the Children's Woodland brings a whole new level of whimsy to CalBG! Constructed over the course of three days in September, the unique and striking structure came to life under the direction of multidisciplinary artist Jayson Fann. Fann creates structures from repurposed and gathered materials that encourage adults and children to explore and connect with the living environment. The Nest was designed on the spot in response to the Woodland itself, without blueprints or mockups. Jared Nocturne, Ashlee Armstrong, and James Reed worked closely with Jayson Fann to build the Nest, carefully selecting and placing branches to create a flowing, natural structure perfect for imaginative play. CalBG's horticulture team spent weeks cutting and collecting the branches and stumps used in the Nest from CalBG's 86-acre Living Collection. The long cedar bench boards in the Nest came from Street Tree Revival, an offshoot of West Coast Arborists dedicated to collecting and milling reclaimed urban wood. The Nest is complimented by a Nature Library with titles curated by CalBG's education department.

To celebrate the Nest opening, CalBG hosted member families for story time and a talk with the artist. Jayson welcomed guests with photos of his work, which included over 100 nests across the United States, and handmade instruments created from reclaimed wood. The Children's Woodland Nest, upcoming installations, planned programming, and recent upgrades to the North Mesa Gardens were generously funded by the **Adam's Legacy Foundation.** Return often to watch new adventures take shape.

Would you like to be part of the whimsy? The next section of engraved pathway pavers will be installed in front of the Children's Woodland. Email advancement@calbg.org for more information about dedicating a paver!



James Reed and Jared Nocturne ponder branch placement for the nest's entry portal. Photo by Jessica Wetzel



The first Storytime in the Nest on opening day. Photo by Mia Alvarez



CalBG Executive Director Lucinda McDade, Artist Jayson Fann, and Claremont Mayor Jennifer Stark with the finished nest. Photo by Mia Alvarez



CalBG member and Woodland Explorer taking in the whimsy. Photo by Mia Alvarez

Restoration Nursery
by Frank Obregon

The driving force behind the multi-programmatic California Botanic Garden Nursery is our 8-member Restoration Nursery staff. Our talented and hard-working team consists of Sabrina Alvarado, Martin Moyeda, Daniela Garcia, Adelin Deraps, Faustus Miranda, Kenia Gomez, Janell Balmaceda, and myself–Frank Obregon–at the helm of the nursery. The Restoration Nursery's core mission is to produce plants that will ultimately be outplanted onto wildlands in order to facilitate ecosystem-level improvements. In an era of seemingly endless bad news and all-too-frequent natural disasters, being part of a program that tangibly improves the material conditions of the world around us is something everyone within the CalBG Restoration Nursery is proud to contribute to. We partner with a myriad of organizations in order to accomplish conservation goals, and the Restoration Nursery is currently involved with over 45 distinct projects. The Restoration Nursery counts the USFS, CDFW, CalTrans, the BLM, the USFWS, & The Nature Conservancy as project partners, just to name a few. Our typical work process involves collecting ripe seed from the wild, bringing the seed back to CalBG, sowing it, and growing the resultant plants to a large enough size so that they will be able to survive transplanting and will be able to establish in the wild. Crucially, the Restoration Nursery abides by an extremely high standard of phytosanitation–ensuring that plants produced at CalBG are free of pests and diseases that could otherwise negatively impact the wildlands on which we work.

Beyond our regular work, the Restoration Nursery also takes on a variety of specialized projects. We are often tasked with growing species in cultivation for the first time in recorded horticultural history and developing best practices for these new-to-cultivation species. Being on the cutting edge of native plant horticulture is both challenging and deeply rewarding. Additionally, we conduct work on a number of endangered species like Barron's Buckwheat (*Eriogonum spectabile*), whose entire known population is down to only 11 plants left on Earth! After multiple years of failure, a 2026 partnership with the Huntington Library resulted in outstanding success for this rare *Eriogonum*. As of October 2026, the Restoration Nursery has helped to get every single maternal line of *E. spectabile* safeguarded in horticulture. We have also germinated multiple seeds, with each seedling representing an increase of almost 10% to the known population.

As time goes on, I expect the Restoration Nursery to continue growing in output and overall impact on native plant horticulture and conservation. We are currently developing a novel CalBG Seed Farm, modernizing our facilities, and continuing to perfect our horticultural techniques. In time, these changes will result in more and better plants coming out of the Restoration Nursery. Lastly, our program wouldn't be possible without the dedication and skill that the Restoration team brings to the nursery every day. Sabrina, Martin, Daniela, Adelin, Faustus, and Kenia are all high-value, extremely capable staffers. I fully expect to see them take on leadership roles within the industry as time goes on. It is my hope and belief that our current Restoration Nursery team will become leaders of native plant horticulture and native plant restoration, and that the CalBG Restoration Nursery will become increasingly recognized as a program that produces great plants and excellent people.

Note: Autobiographies for the remaining Restoration Nursery staff will appear in the December 2026 and January 2027 issues of *Oak Notes*.



Daniela Garcia
Photo by Kenia Gomez

"Hello, *Oak Notes*! My name is Daniela Garcia, and I am a Restoration Technician on the CalBG restoration nursery team. I started as a Summer Conservation Intern in 2023, where I was able to work in different departments throughout the Garden. The nursery was one of my favorite departments during my internship, so I feel extremely grateful that I got the opportunity to continue working here after that summer. I have been interested in the environment since I first learned about recycling as a kid. Growing up in the twenty-first century allowed me to be more conscious about climate change and the increasing importance of environmental care. With this information always on

my mind, it was easier to figure out what I was interested in when going into college. When I took a Plant and Animal Biology class at Mt. SAC, I found so much joy in being able to identify plants and their properties. Through this realization, I decided to focus on plants and the environment as a career path.

My favorite parts of the job are seed collection and propagation. There's something so special about being able to go out into the wild to collect seed, and then to grow it to the point where you get to plant it in its natural habitat. It is also very fun that I get to go out for a hike, collecting seeds or doing surveys, and have that count for a full shift. Outside of work, I really enjoy reading, running, and watching horror movies. I've gotten into the habit of going out to small cafes and parks to read, which has been very fulfilling. One of my favorite places to read is in the Bird and Butterfly Garden; all the lovely flowers and pollinators help to create the most comforting reading experience. Thank you,



Faustus Miranda

Miiyuyam choo'onum! (Hello everyone!)

My name is Faustus Miranda and I am one of the newer staff members in the Restoration Nursery. It is great to introduce myself to all of you. Before working at CalBG I attended Dartmouth College as an undergrad where I studied the relationality between humans and non-humans with a particular emphasis on plants. I worked at the greenhouse on campus, where I specialized in growing orchids, *Amorphophallus*, and cacti. I have a background in dryland ecology research in Southern Africa looking at alternative stable states in biocrust-dominated gravel plains. In my free time I spend a lot of time outdoors climbing, cycling, and looking for bugs, fish, reptiles…you name it. If you couldn't tell, I love all things ecology and I plan to chase that passion in grad school soon.

You may have seen me in the nursery, where I spend most of my time working on our more desert-focused projects. If not, that's probably because I also spend a ton of time in the field! I have had the pleasure of getting tapped for all sorts of fieldwork projects including burn scar surveys, seed collections, outplantings, and waterings. The variety of my work is one of the favorite parts of my job, but seeing how my job actually contributes to meaningful management of the land is truly wonderful.

No$uun looviq (Thank you)



Sabrina Alvarado

Hi *Oak Notes* readers! My name is Sabrina Alvarado and I am the Restoration Nursery Coordinator. My team and I grow native plants for habitat restoration projects. I'm happy to collaborate with such skilled, knowledgeable, and passionate colleagues. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to work in conservation and have learned so much in my time here. I learned the horticulture trade through volunteer farm work, landscaping, and forestry courses. I chose this career because I have always loved spending days outside, working the earth, and watching the sunlight shift through leaves. Growing for restoration is hard work but very rewarding. We get to collect and sow seeds, care for plants as they grow, and eventually plant them back in their native habitat.

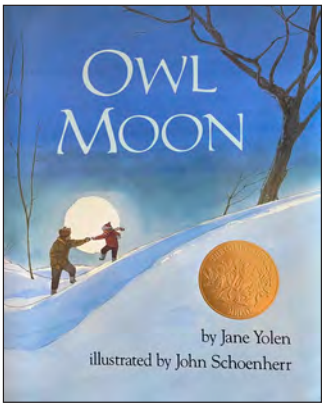
The complex relationships between an environment and its flora and fauna are endlessly fascinating to me. I am deeply interested in the way that all life on earth seems to be interwoven. Every day I get to use my hands to grow plants under the sun and help take care of this beautiful land we live on.

We live in a time where climate change is rapidly destroying our livable ecosystems. It feels hopeless sometimes, but then I watch our trees grow strong roots, and I see monarchs emerge, and I monitor land once full of invasive mustard now teeming with native life. People have been caring for their homelands for thousands of years, and in the present day it is more crucial than ever.

Outside of work I love to draw, bake, hike, and listen to music. The natural world has always inspired my artwork and I like to draw trees, ferns, and bugs. My favorite color is olive green and my favorite song right now is Pisces by Jinjer. Thanks for reading!

Books of the Month

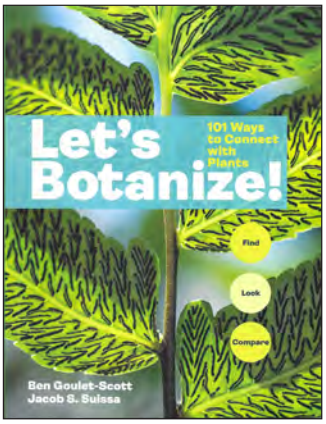
Betsy MacLaren,
Volunteer Library Committee



Owl Moon by Jane Yolen. Illustrated by John Schoenherr, Philomel Books, New York, NY, 1987, 30 pp.

Owl Moon is a beautifully illustrated children's book by Jane Yolen and John Schoenherr. The book received the 1988 Caldecott Medal for most distinguished American picture book for children. On a winter night a father and his young daughter enter the snowy woods in search of a great horned owl. You only need hope when you go owling. And to be very quiet. The book depicts the special relationship of parent and child as well as humankind's close relationship to the natural world. This lovely book is perfect for reading aloud to a child, is appropriate for pre-K to 7-year-olds, and would make a great holiday gift.

Ann Morgan,
Volunteer Library Committee



Let's Botanize! 101 Ways to Connect with Plants by Ben Goulet-Scott and Jacob S. Suissa. Storey Publishing, North Adams, MA, 2026. 240 pages.

The authors' definition of the verb ***botanize*** is "to carefully observe, appreciate, and engage with the diversity of plant life." Botanizing is not about plant identification but involves getting as close as possible to plants, engaging all the senses, comparing and contrasting, and appreciating plants as living organisms.

This colorful book is organized around 101 prompts designed to encourage close observation of plants, their parts, and environments. Prompts are organized in three sections: Parts, Patterns, Perspectives. Readers are encouraged to start small—looking at plant parts such as leaves, stems, roots, and flowers, and then start looking for patterns. An example is Prompt 4: "Compare the textures and colors of the upper and lower surfaces of a leaf. Is one side smoother or hairier?" The text describes the different structures and layers within the leaf and their functions. A detailed diagram is included. Two pages are devoted to each prompt with high-quality photos and illustrations throughout. The text is approachable but not simplified or dumbed down.

A sampling of other prompts includes: How many different textures of bark can you find? Can you guess how a flower is pollinated based on its appearance? Compare the placement of seeds inside a tomato and a cucumber. Imagine the life of a plant growing in a sidewalk crack.

Let's Botanize! will appeal to many audiences and age groups. Garden Guides, teachers, and parents will find ideas for encouraging observation and content to incorporate into lesson plans. Students may find this a useful supplement for course textbooks. Anyone interested in plants will enjoy browsing through the book and perhaps learning something new. For example, I was amused to learn that the thorns on rose bushes are actually prickles and my knowledge of mosses, lichens, and algae was enhanced. I also appreciated the excellent glossary.

The book is available for check out in the Volunteer Library. And it would make a great gift for students or plant lovers on your holiday shopping list.

Five Easy-to-Attract Butterflies

by Steve Bryant

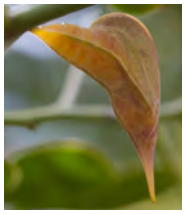
Attracting butterflies is primarily a matter of having host plants upon which the larvae can feed, and secondarily of having nectar plants upon which the adults can feed. Females must find host plants to lay eggs on, and males are attracted to the same plants to find females.

1. Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) [native]. Plant any milkweed, preferably narrow-leaf (*Asclepias fascicularis),* Kotolo/Wooly-pod (*Asclepias eriocarpa*), or other

species native to the southern half of California. Also plant nectar plants (Ageratum Blue Mink [*Conoclinium coelestinium*] one of the best, though a Midwest, not CA, native.) It may take a couple of years for monarchs to find one's milkweed patch.



2. Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) [naturalized]. Plant Blue Passion Vine (*Passiflora caerulea*) as a host plant. Both the butterfly and the vine are native to the southern U.S. The vine is used as an ornamental in CA, and the butterfly has gone along with it. *P. caerulea* can easily get out of hand, smothering other plants, but it has interesting flowers that some people interpret as religious symbols. Probably the easiest butterfly to attract in our area.



3. Cloudless Sulfur (*Phoebis sennae*) [native]. Plant any senna (formerly called cassia). The butterflies seem to like *Senna didimybotria* (popcorn senna) best in my yard, but they are also attracted to our two native sennas: Spiny Senna (*Senna armata)* from the high desert [not really spiny], and Coues' Senna (*Senna covesii*) from the low desert. Larvae may be striped or banded and are predominately yellow if feeding on flowers, or predominantly green if feeding on leaves. The chrysalis has an unusual shape

4. Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*) [naturalized]. Plant any cabbage or relative (broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, collards, kale). This European native can cause considerable damage to cultivated cabbage and relatives. The larvae are generally camouflaged green.



5. Marine Blue (*Leptotus marina*) [native]. Plant *Calliandra californica* as a host plant. Not only does this plant attract bees and hummingbirds, but the Marine Blue butterfly seems to use it as a host plant. Marine Blues are small (~1" wingspan) and especially in the summer are frequent visitors to my *Calliandra*s. Don't use insecticides anywhere near host plants.

CalBG Volunteer Events

November 1: First Sunday Family Friendly Bird Walk hosted by Pomona Valley Bird Alliance, 8:00 a.m., (registration required)

November 1: Yoga Workshop, Create Space in the Neck and Shoulders, 10:00 a.m., (registration required)

November 7: Art Class, Mixed Media Mushrooms and Moss, 10:00 a.m., (registration required)

November 8: Silent Reading Club Meetup, 10:00 a.m., (please RSVP)

November 12: Volunteer Organization Fundraiser, Dining Out at El Ranchero Restaurant, 11:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

November 14: Nerd Out in the Garden, 5:00 p.m., (sign-up VicNet)

November 17: Family Story Time, 9:00 a.m., (please RSVP)

November 26: Garden Closed

November 27: Green Friday

November 27: Yarn in the Yuccas: Fiber Arts Monthly Meetup, 1:30 p.m., (please RSVP)

December 4: Luminaria Nights Weekend I + Night Market at GNN, (sign-up in VicNet)

December 5: Luminaria Nights Weekend I, (sign-up in VicNet)

December 6: First Sunday Family Friendly Bird Walk hosted by Pomona Valley Bird Alliance, 8:00 a.m., (registration required)

December 9: Volunteer Enrichment Program with Joy England, Conservation Botanist at CalBG, program on floristic tracking, field surveys and rare plant conservation, at noon

December 10: Volunteer Luncheon & Business Meeting, 11:30 a.m.

December 11: Luminaria Nights Weekend II, (sign-up in VicNet)

December 12: Luminaria Nights Weekend II, (sign-up in VicNet)

New Volunteer Orientation

by Patty Nueva Espana, Volunteer Program Coordinator, photos by Susan Starr and Kit Leung

On two consecutive Saturday mornings in September, some new volunteers gathered at the Garden for their "CalBG 101 Orientation." This was an opportunity to learn about the history and future of the Garden. There were tours of our special spots like the Lab, Library, Herbarium and Seed Bank. Several Garden staff and volunteers were on hand to share their knowledge as the new volunteers soaked it all in like sponges. They learned about the Grad Student program and our many conservation endeavors. In addition, Volunteer Committees had a chance to introduce the volunteers to so many extras available to them. Congratulations to Debbie Maki, Kathy Van Allen, Karen Levin, Edward Frankel, Annette Reed, Maria Brock, April Harkins, Julie Griffith, Steve Finn, Sam Atwood, Sheryl Fox, Wendy Morical, Tracy Watier, Sheila White, Sharon Dougherty, Julia Bourbois, Eteri Solomko, Ana Friedenberg, Klein Hu, Shihching Wagner, Ava Renneker, and Evelyn Shaller. All attended and completed both days of the New Volunteer Orientation!





Upcoming Events:

El Ranchero Fundraiser: Thursday, November 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Take a night off from cooking and enjoy a nice enchilada plate. You will need to present the flyer at time of purchase, and the volunteer organization will receive some of the proceeds of your meal.

Fall in the Farm: Saturday, November 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Join CalBG at the LA County Fairgrounds for this outreach event and help promote the Garden to the public.

Enrichment Presentation: Join us Wednesday, December 9, at 12 p.m. in the Sycamore Room as CalBG's own Joy England discusses current conservation projects.

Quarterly Volunteer Luncheon and Meeting: Thursday, December 10. Join us in the Forest Pavilion for a festive and informative gathering.

Luminaria Nights: Save the dates!! December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, and 19 are the days to mark in your calendar. (More photos on next page)











A Big Bump Thank You!

by Sally Hy, photos by Kathryn Schiff and Andy Pagano

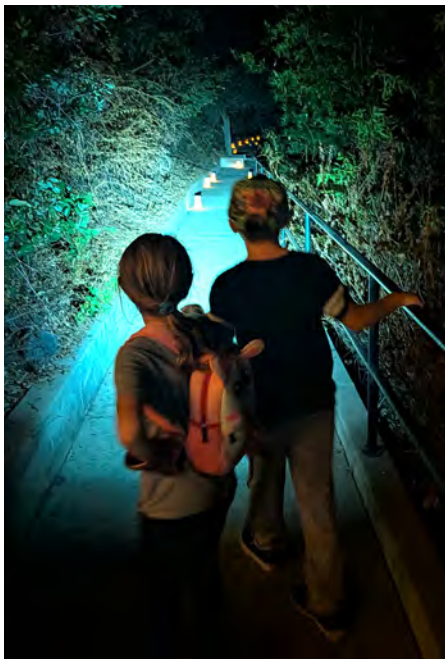
Another successful year of *Things that Go Bump in the Night* with the help of many, many volunteers! With so many helping hands, we were able to welcome 1677 guests (an event record) throughout the Garden, at eight different educational stations. Guests left a more informed about the wonders of the Garden at night, from poisonous plants to identifying animal scat. The Visitor Engagement team is so grateful to be able to work with a dedicated team of volunteers that make the Garden welcoming for all!

















Volunteer Luncheon

Photos by Susan Starr and Marla White











California
BOTANIC GARDEN

WE'LL SEE YOU AT

EL RANCHERO

RESTAURANT FOR OUR
CALBG VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION
FUNDRAISER DINING OUT

THURSDAY, NOV 12, 2026

984 WEST FOOTHILL BLVD
CLAREMONT, CA 91711
11:30AM - 9:00PM

