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October 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

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OAK NOTES

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cindy Walkenbach, Volunteer President

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

—Author Unknown

How very fortunate we are that so many have committed to improving our community and, specifically, RSABG. I was thrilled with the turnout at the Volunteer Quarterly Luncheon Meeting in September when over seventy of you attended and signed up for various assignments in the Garden. The Hospitality Team did an outstanding job of suggesting our theme, the “Garden Cafe,” and staff and volunteers put their collective heads together to create an extensive list of volunteer opportunities. All were captured on the luncheon “menu” in the beautiful folder (“menu cover”) designed by Garden creative genius David Bryant. While I have been a volunteer for eight years, I learned about Garden jobs I didn’t know existed and I’m guessing other volunteers did, as well. There are tasks to meet everyone’s interests and to expand our individual opportunities to learn.

The day after the luncheon, Kathleen welcomed a new class of prospective volunteers made up of retirees, those still in the workforce, and several college and high school students. Their interest and enthusiasm were evident by their comments and questions, and I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with them to offer some insight into our volunteer community and the invaluable work we do to support the Garden’s mission.

Speaking of community, each month Oak Notes will introduce you to one of our own, and this month it is Board Treasurer Ingrid Spiteri.

A reminder: On October 13 and 14, we’re inviting the local community to join us for “Things That Go Bump in the Night,” and volunteers are needed to assist with the many fun family activities planned. Additionally, Saturday, October 21,

The deadline for articles to be submitted for the November 2017 issue of OAK NOTES is Sunday, October 15. Thank you for your prompt submission!!

is the annual Fall Planting Festival and Volunteer Bake Sale and that's an "all hands on deck" day, too. October is a very busy month and the success of these events rests with our willingness to support them. Thank you in advance for your help!



FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Lucinda McDade, RSABG
Executive Director**

Fast-forwarding into Fall, Game of Thorns, the Forest Pavilion, and an Assignment: Read on!

Hello volunteers:

I still don't know where the summer went, but fall is most assuredly upon us. We have now held the first quarterly lunch of the volunteer group, the Nature Interpreters' breakfast, the Native Designers' luncheon, and both sessions of the RSABG 101 for the volunteer class of 2017. "Things that go bump..." sign-up sheets adorn the hallways. Thus, it must be fall, but I am not going to say one word about the weather, hoping that ignoring it will encourage it to stay just like it is now in mid-September!

At the quarterly lunch, we showed you the video for the "Game of Thorns" kickstarter campaign via which we hope to extend the exhibit (which is going to be spectacular) out onto the Garden grounds as an assemblage of giant thorns. With up-lighting, they are going to be especially spectacular at night (and a little creepy but in a good way!). What I love about this exhibit is that it is mission central: it is *about who we are*—a Garden devoted to California native plants. By the time that you get the October Oak Notes, we will know whether or not we have been successful: fingers crossed! I hope that you have remembered to send the link on to the people in your life who like plants/art/fantasy/public education—in any combination.

At your luncheon, I also shared with you the news on the Forest Pavilion project. We will replace the

decrepit old house just south of maintenance with an inviting space that will provide shelter, restrooms and other amenities. Very importantly, it will be readily accessible to people with mobility challenges (as opposed to such visitors having to make their way up the steep slope of Indian Hill). The Forest Pavilion will provide a central site (with restroom facilities!) for education programming of all kinds and at all levels, from NI-led school programs to informal education for visitors who want to understand why it matters whether they are planning a garden for the southern or northern exposure of their house. It will serve as a location for volunteer activities, meetings, and lunches, and also for staff events of all sorts. When not needed for core programming, it will be available for facilities rentals, thus increasing the

revenue stream for the Garden without either the disruption or the logistical challenges that such events pose when held in the Courtyard, the Container Garden or the Cultivar Garden.

In terms of funding, we have raised about \$360,000—more than 60 percent of the estimated cost of the project! It is a great deal of fun to

present the project to special people. When possible, my approach is to take them to see the site, invite them to agree that it is not just underperforming for RSABG at present but, actually, negatively performing. I then invite them to use their imaginations to clean away everything that is currently there, except for the lovely mature native plants, and then to imagine an inviting multi-purpose structure rising on the site. *Very* much part of the project is fixing our current traffic flow problem with regard to Garden visitors who arrive at that level—just south of the Tongva Village—see Maintenance looming ahead of them and assume that they should not go any further. Essentially everyone "gets it" and is immediately on board with the project.

A major part of the funding raised to date is a leadership naming-level gift from Randall and Janell Lewis. We will be honored to name the building "The Lewis Family Forest Pavilion." Other substantial gifts are coming from Trustee Ann Platt Walker and her husband Dick, and from volunteer extraordinaire

*"We do not quit
playing because we
grow old, we grow
old because we quit
playing."*

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Marilee Scaff. We will be honoring and thanking all project donors to date at the Majestic Oak Dinner (which happens before you will have Oak Notes in your hands/on your screen but after I have written this column).

In terms of progress on the ground, demolition is scheduled to begin on September 22 and to be complete before the end of the month. Although we will only have images of “before” once that happens, I believe that the cleared site will be even more inspiring than it is in its present condition. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for architectural design work went out a couple of days ago and something like half of those who have gotten it have responded that they are interested! If any of you know architects who should learn of the project, please get in touch with me as soon as you can. We want to hear from some very talented and creative people who—I firmly believe—will find the project as inspiring as I do!

Volunteers, you can help us as researchers: help us identify the right furniture for the Pavilion. Think stylish, comfortable and *flexible*: for some events, we will want tables and chairs; for others, just chairs; for still others, just tables; and on some occasions, none of the above. We will want comfortable but very movable/storable chairs. We will want tables that can be readily combined into various configurations but that are likewise easily and quickly storable. For the next months, when you visit a public space of any sort, please put on your “researcher” cap and check out the furnishings. If the amenities at a place you visit seem to offer potential for our purposes, take pictures of them (including tags indicating manufacturer if you can see such) and send those to us along with information on *where* you saw these furnishings.

Volunteers, I promise to keep you in the loop on this as we go forward, and I very much welcome your questions at any time. You are actively represented in the leadership group for the project in the persons of NIs Linda Clement and Mary Perera, both of whom are members of the Capital Project Committee for the Forest Pavilion. Also serving on that committee is volunteer Kathleen Mulligan who deserves special mention because the excellence of our RFP for architect stems directly

from her involvement in crafting it. Linda, Mary and Kathleen will be intimately involved in the project. Volunteers Shaunna Gygli, Linda Prendergast, Cindy Walkenbach and Yvonne Wilson all serve on the Overseers and will be sure to keep volunteers’ perspectives close to hand.

Onward into October! I know that I will see many of you at “Things that go Bump...” Remember that you don’t need to be an expert: in fact, this is your chance to learn more about a subject that interests you. Fungi? Poisonous plants? Meal worms? And the launch of the Grow Native Nursery follows the very next weekend (wreath sales will be brisk this year!). It will be a busy time for staff and volunteers alike!

Thanks as always for all that you do and for taking on a new task as furniture sleuths!



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Kathleen Noll, Manager of Volunteer Programs

Save the Date:

Things that Go Bump in the Night: Friday and Saturday, October 13 and 14, 5:30–9 p.m.

Fall Planting Festival: Saturday, October 21 8–10 a.m., members only; 10 a.m.–4 p.m., public.

Welcome New Volunteers!

RSABG welcomes 24 new volunteer candidates in the Class of 2018:

Allen Cagle	Alan Melgoza Calderon
Tracy Cheung	Lonnie Munson
Paul Donatelli	Patty Nuevas Espana
Lisa Hahn	Polly O’Keefe
Joaquina Hernandez	Tom O’Keefe
Elene Kallimanis	Gregory Perez
Sam Kamler	Anthony Sutrisno
Suzanne Kamler	Kathy Roth
Peter Kavounas	Joe Vlietstra
Mary Krahn	Torin Vlietstra
Stella Li	Marla White
Alexandra Lintner	Ian Winnick

Coming up:

Acorn Festival: Sunday, November 19, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Luminaria Nights: Fridays and Saturdays, December 8, 9, 15 and 16, 6–9 p.m.



**VOLUNTEER
FIELD TRIP
A MASK,
YOU ASK?
Krista Von
Stetten, Field Trip
Coordinator**

**The Original Phantom of the Opera
Old Town Music Hall
Saturday, October 28, 2017**

Behold, the Mighty Wurlitzer! Experience the original Phantom of the Opera silent film as it was meant to be enjoyed when it was originally released, accompanied by live pipe organ! This amazing historical pipe organ consists of more than 2,600 pipes, and it's the centerpiece of the Old Town Theater, a treasured L.A. cultural landmark.

The Mighty Wurlitzer organ console has four keyboards, 260 switches, and an array of controls and pedals. From the console, the organist controls the pipes and many percussive instruments, such as a xylophone, marimba, piano, drums, and cymbals. A perfect accompaniment to murder and mayhem, don't you think?

Every show begins with music played on the pipe organ, an audience sing-along, and a comedy short. There is a 15-minute intermission, followed by the feature film.

Restaurants nearby if you've worked up an appetite screaming. Friends, family, staff and students always welcome to come along, with RSVP!

Date: Saturday, October 28, 2017

Meet: RSABG 12:30 p.m. to carpool, or join us outside The Old Town Theater at 2 p.m.

Show begins: 2:30 p.m.

Cost: Admission: \$10 Adults, \$8 for seniors 62 and over, CASH OR CHECK ONLY

(gas donation to your driver appreciated)

Destination: 140 Richmond Street, El Segundo, CA 90245 (310) 322-2592

Driving time: Approx. 1 hour from RSABG

Depart El Segundo: Approx. 4:30 p.m.

Distance: 53 miles one-way

Transportation: Casual carpools

For sneak peeks: <http://oldtownmusichall.org/films.html>

RSVP—Don't get left hanging! Please RSVP ahead of trip day.

Include: your email, "day-of-trip" contact phone, and carpool preference ("ride" or "driver"). Do call ASAP if your plans change. These courtesies help keep all participants informed.

Our seasonal field trip mix aims to expand your botanic, sustainable, and cultural knowledge thru guided adventures at some of our local and regional resources. Get to know the places, plants, and people that make the SoCal region such an amazing, diverse place!



A Very Happy October Birthday to:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Jim Brashler | Gordon Olson |
| Dorothy Cobb | Jim Pinter-Lucke |
| Valerie Cressy | Gloria Romero |
| Michael Gregory | Carol Shafer |
| Judy King | Bonnie Shimmin |
| Carolyn Lucas | Linda Worlow |
| Bob Muns | |

VOLUNTEER ENRICHMENT

Laura Burt, Volunteer Enrichment Committee

Volunteer Enrichment presentations will start the season on Monday, October 23 with our very own Lucinda McDade. Her presentation is called “Super Blooms.” When asked to provide a few sentences about what she will be talking about, this is what she sent:

A “Super Bloom” is:

- a. the latest, greatest happy-making party drug
- b. what happens when your swimming pool’s chemistry runs amok
- c. a **lot** of flowers at the same place at the same time
- d. the latest cartoon heroine with super powers
- e. all of the above
- f. none of the above

Come find out the answer at noon on October 23 at the East Classroom. Bring your lunch. Coffee, tea and cookies will be provided



TOURING PROGRAMS

Judy Hayami,
Touring Programs Manager

Things That Go Bump in the Night takes over the the Garden Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. This family education event is HUGE! Are you on board for two exciting evenings of discovery and fun? Please volunteer to share information and engage guests in activities that help dispel myths and rumors about unusual plants, insects and nocturnal animals. Claim a spot on the sign-up sheet before it fills up or contact Volunteer Manager Kathleen Noll. Plan to attend the important event orientation on Thursday, October 12 at 1 p.m. so you’ll know where to go and what to do the night(s) of the big event. Visit www.rsabg for details and advance ticket sales.

Classes for new Nature Interpreters (NIs) start Wednesday, October 25 at 8:30 a.m.

NIs conduct tours—tram tours, tours for students preK through college, scout troops and adult groups—and help with educational stations at family events. NIs are needed for one-hour school tours offered on Tuesdays 9:30 –10:30 a.m. and 10 –11 a.m. and for two-hour school programs offered on Thursdays and Fridays 9:30 –11:30 a.m. Other tours, usually lasting about one hour, are arranged according to group request and NI availability. We would be happy to have you join a regular team or sign up to lead occasional tours that fit your schedule. Please contact Kathleen Noll, or me, if you are interested in this area of service.

The annual *Acorn Festival*, set for Sunday, November 19, is another popular family event at RSABG. Check for posted opportunities and volunteer for an 11 a.m.–3 p.m. shift. Gabrielino-Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians celebrate with us in the traditional season of the acorn harvest to acknowledge our connections with California native plants. Dancers, crafters and culture keepers share their art, history and knowledge. Activities will include make-and-take projects for children. Shop the small marketplace of handcrafted items.

Available school tour and program dates are filling rapidly. Teachers from more than a dozen different school districts have brought classes to the Garden, some for as many as 18 consecutive years. Other teachers will be coming for the first time this year. Thank you to all volunteers and staff for creating, maintaining and sharing the wonderful experiences that link our guests to RSABG and to the larger natural world.

NIs, please check the online tour calendar regularly. Reservations for October are now closed.

Happy fall, Y’all!

–Judy



**NOTES FROM
ADVANCEMENT**
**Anne Scott-Putney,
Director of Advancement**

Since publishing the article in Garden Variety recently about Barbara Hughbanks, Gail Sparks Witherbee and Nan Keith’s three benches in Percy Everett Garden, a number of you have asked about tribute benches at RSABG. So many of you commented about what a heart-warming idea to have volunteers and Garden friends among us choose bench locations near each other.

So, I wanted you to be among the first to know about three new bench locations opening up in a very accessible place—the new Grafton Garden being developed just a few steps past the Percy Everett Garden and off to the left of the main path.

You may know this area as the Channel Islands section of the Garden. Indeed, as the area is being renovated and designed, the Channel Islands flora remain the botanic theme. Director of Horticulture Peter Evans has planned the new design and plantings, and a beautiful water feature will be one of the new elements. Set back into the shade and screening plantings will be four benches on compass points facing the water feature. Each will have its own quietude and new plantings surrounding it, and each will have a view of the water feature. One of the benches has already been installed and celebrates the 60th anniversary of Garden members Granville and Tess Henry. The three other bench spots are now available, and Peter Evans and I would be pleased to show them to you and to share the vision for the Grafton Garden in a more detailed way on the site. The area contains rare tree species found only on the Channel Islands, and the Garden is fortunate to be the steward of them in its Living Collection. If you would like to learn more or explore the site, feel free to stop by my office on the first floor of the Administration building, send me an email at



VOLUNTEER BIOGRAPHY
Meet Ingrid Spiteri, Volunteer Treasurer

I’m a native Texan from Houston and a proud alumna of the University of Texas where I majored in Sociology. Out of college I became a flight attendant for TWA based in San Francisco. Within ten years, I started my family in the Bay Area, where I also began my career as an employee for the City of Petaluma Water Department. In 1977, our family moved to Alta Loma, where I commenced employment with the Cucamonga Valley Water District. I continued my employment there until I retired as the Director of Human Resources and Administration in 2007.

My retirement has afforded me the opportunity to continue to pursue my love for international travel and I am slowly, but surely checking off the countries throughout the world that are on my bucket list. In my free time, I am often with my two children and six grandchildren. I regularly practice Pilates and various aerobic classes and can also be found gardening in my yard.

After I retired, I knew I wanted to volunteer in some manner, but wasn’t sure in what capacity. As a child, I loved to dig and play in the dirt, and my mother had the ultimate green thumb; hence, my love for gardening. When I heard about volunteer possibilities at RSABG, I knew it was a perfect fit for me. You can find me most Wednesday mornings propagating plants in the nursery. You can also find me working with Native Designs. I am truly grateful for the friendships formed and knowledge acquired from the other volunteers at the Garden. There is so much about the Garden that I love, and I always feel at peace when I am there. I look forward to being your Treasurer in the coming year.

ascottputney@rsabg.org, or give me a call at 909-625-8767, ext. 222.

As a side note, the Grafton Memorial Garden is funded by a generous bequest from a veteran named Edward Grafton who was connected with the Veterans Administration where RSABG previously had its west side Grow Native Nursery location. We are honored to be able to fulfill his vision for a tranquil garden space where visitors could reflect and connect with nature.



LOOKING BACK— THE BIG MOVE

**Carol Lerew,
Library Volunteer**

Susanna Bixby Bryant established the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden on her ranch in Orange County in 1927. By the close of the 1930s the Garden flourished, encompassing about 200 acres of California native trees, shrubs, and wild flowers.

Meanwhile, Susanna was considering a move to another site. She was concerned about the isolation, lack of public accessibility and affiliation with a college, and preferring better soil composition than the heavy clay soils of Santa Ana Canyon. Earlier she had served as first woman trustee of Pomona College and favored the institution as a partner in botany graduate studies. Personal friends and advisors urged her to follow her dream. World War II delayed that pursuit, and then in 1946 she died suddenly.

After her estate was settled the Trustees decided to go forward, eventually forging an affiliation with Claremont College in 1950. Rancho Santa Ana would remain an independent research institution maintaining its original trust. It would participate in graduate instruction in botany, at that time only a doctoral degree program, and the Garden technical staff would have academic status in the Claremont College. The College dedicated the Indian Hill Mesa, over 30 acres at the top of College Avenue, to the Garden. Rancho Santa Ana, in a roundabout way,

gained title to additional acreage to the northeast of the mesa. In total about 84 acres fell within the Garden boundary lines.

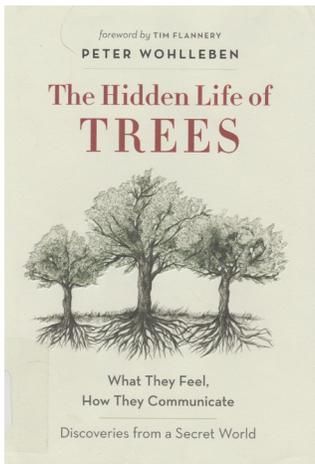
The first job preceding the move was erecting a chain link fence around the property. To the east of the mesa, nestled among the sycamores, an aluminum lath house, potting shed, green house, and stucco house were built for the caretaker and his family. Immediately, a plan for moving plants from the ranch to the new plant facilities and getting them installed in selected areas on the grounds went into effect. Dr. Philip Munz, who joined the Garden in spring of 1946 as a botanist and replaced Susanna as Managing Director following her death, directed the move. Also overseeing the move were Percy Everett, Garden Superintendent, and Dr. Lee Lenz, geneticist, who joined the Garden in 1948, among others.

An irrigation system using vintage pipes from World War II was installed. It was poor quality, but the Garden needed lots of pipeline immediately and cheaply. From the beginning the system was plagued with low pressure problems, leaks, and other mysterious failings. Those challenges have continued into current times, but are being rectified as modern pipelines replace the old system.

The architectural firm of Allison and Rible, Los Angeles, prepared plans for the administration building which would house offices, herbarium, library and research laboratories. After the plans were approved by the Trustees and College in 1950, construction began but lurched along subject to shortages such as metal door locks and copper cables to bring electricity into the building.

At last, on January 11, 1952, the moving vans unloaded the office furniture at the new administration building. The staff were pleased with their new facility which they considered well constructed and quite pleasant. The move was now virtually complete to 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont.

The nursery area was complete and in operation, but out on the grounds....



BOOK OF THE MONTH

**Gene Baumann,
Volunteer Library
Committee**

**“The Hidden Life of Trees” by Peter Wohlleben.
272pp. Greystone Books Ltd. 2016.**

Peter Wohlleben’s book is unabashedly anthropomorphic and yet filled with well researched amazing characteristics of trees. For example, did you know that some trees felled 400 years ago continue to maintain a greenish layer of chlorophyll because the stump is fed nutrients by surrounding trees? Or, that acacia trees on the African savannah, a favorite food source for giraffes, emit a gas (ethylene) which is carried downwind and causes subsequent trees to pump toxins into their leaves. Giraffes are then less likely to feed on these downwind trees. Giraffes have apparently adapted by either feeding on trees upwind or by skipping several trees downwind and resuming eating trees some 100 yards from the gas emitting tree(s).

Wohlleben goes on to state that, “Similar processes are at work in our forests here at home. Beeches, spruce, and oaks all register pain as soon as some creature starts nibbling on them. When a caterpillar takes a hearty bite out of a leaf, the tissue around the site of damage changes. In addition, the leaf tissue sends out electrical signals, just as human tissue does when it is hurt. However, the signal is not transmitted in milliseconds, as human signals are; instead, the plant signal travels at the slow speed of a third of an inch per minute. Accordingly, it takes an hour or so before defensive compounds reach the leaves to spoil the pest’s meal.” (p. 7–8).

Read about these and many more amazing characteristics of trees by checking out this book from your friendly Volunteer Library.

Following is the second of a series of articles that will present some economic, cultural, and political aspects of local trees.

OAKS (GENUS *QUERCUS*)

Rudi Volti, Nature Interpreter

While working as a nature interpreter I always try to take my students to the Majestic Oak. This gives us the opportunity to talk about the processes through which a tiny acorn grows into an immense tree. We then walk a bit further on the path as it turns 180 degrees. In a short while we come upon a tiny tree smaller than many bushes. I ask the kids if they can read the label, which identifies it as a dwarf Oregon oak (*Quercus garryana* var. *breweri*). How can this shrimp of a tree be an oak? Aren’t oaks massive trees like the Majestic Oak? What might the two have in common? The answer is simple: all trees that produce acorns are oaks. Oaks are a varied lot; worldwide there are about 600 species of the genus *Quercus*. California has 20 indigenous species, some of them unique to the state, while others range throughout North America. Many other species have been imported from elsewhere.

A major focus of our Native Partners tour is the importance of acorns in the diet of the Tongva, the region’s indigenous people. The abundance of oaks allowed them to have one of the largest population densities of all gathering-and-hunting societies, but a diet based on acorns required a lot of work. The tannin in acorns made them thoroughly unpalatable, so after the laborious task of grinding the acorns it was necessary to leach the meal by pouring warm water over it. These were sex-segregated tasks; gathering, grinding, and leaching acorns was women’s work. As with most societies based on gathering and hunting, the efforts of women and girls provided most of the food consumed.

In other parts of the world oaks were valued as sources of lumber, especially for shipbuilding. Live oaks (so called because they retain their leaves year-round) were especially useful because their short heights and the irregular shapes of their trunks and branches made them well-suited for forming the curved structural members of the hull. These qualities, however, made them less useful for planking. **Red oak** and **white oak** were generally used for this purpose, as these trees yielded straight trunks suitable for milling into planks.

From the late fifteenth century onwards the military and mercantile endeavors of Europe's emerging nation-states motivated the construction of large fleets that consumed great quantities of oak lumber; a large warship required at least 2,000 (some sources say 6,000) oak trees for its construction. The widespread destruction of the oak forests in Europe for naval construction was one of the many economic incentives for colonizing the New World with its vast expanses of oaks and other hardwoods.

Oak continues to be an important source of lumber; I recently became better acquainted with its excellent qualities when I built a wagon for my grandson using red oak. Oak is also used extensively as a fuel. Not only does oak burn very hot, its density and lack of resin allow it to burn slowly for a long period of time. **All in all, few trees are more useful than oaks, and few have as much aesthetic appeal.**

TAR SPOT ON DEERGRASS

Fred Brooks, Nature interpreter

Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) is a bunchgrass native to California and the Southwest. It is found mainly in grasslands and meadows below 7,000 feet and is increasingly used in local landscapes. As the plant ages, dead brown leaves accumulate. Environmental factors and plant parasites can hasten early leaf death and affect the health and longevity of the plant. One of these parasites, a species of *Phyllachora*, was isolated from deergrass growing on the mesa at RSA, just north of the laboratories (Figure 1). This fungus

forms very small, elongated black “tar spots” on leaves, causing them to die prematurely.



Figure 1. Clumps of deergrass at RSA.

Phyllachora is a plant-pathogenic fungus in the division Ascomycota. These ascomycetes are called sac fungi because their sexual spores are produced in a sac, or ascus (pl., asci). Asci usually contain eight spores and in *Phyllachora* species they are in a single row (Figure 2). Hundreds of these asci form in ascocarps inside the black tar spots. During rainfall, sprinkler irrigation, or even a heavy dew, the ascocarps and asci absorb water. This causes an internal pressure that forcefully ejects the spores from the asci and into the air. The spores are then carried to nearby leaves or plants by splashing water or by wind.

Phyllachora species are obligate biotrophic fungi, like the rust fungus discussed in the September 2017 issue of Oak Notes (“A Black Red Rust?”). These pathogens must feed on living plant cells to

HELP WANTED

- **Gift Shop Assistant:** Volunteers are needed to greet guests, perform telephone reception duties, cashier duties, interact with visitors to the administration building – be the “Face of the Garden”. Available shifts include Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., as well as Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.
- **Grow Native Nursery (GNN) Assistant:** Volunteers are needed for weekly shifts. Duties include watering, plant grooming, assisting customers, maintaining neatness in the nursery. GNN opens on October 21! Reserve your desired shift Thursday–Sunday mornings 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. or afternoons 12:30–4 p.m. Email knoll@rsabg.org or call 909-625-8767, Ext. 256

survive. They do this by forming small, balloon-like structures called haustoria inside the plant cells. The fungus absorbs nutrients into the haustoria without immediately killing the cells. The damage caused by *Phyllachora* sp. on deergrass is much less severe than the damage caused by most rust diseases and usually requires no treatment.



Figure 2. Three asci of the fungus *Phyllachora* sp., each containing eight ascospores (400x).

OUR WONDERFUL CALIFORNIA!

Nature Interpreter Hugh Menton has suggested that perhaps you may have a cherished, special California feature or experience to relate. If so, you are invited to share it with our readers. This could be in the form of a photo, a short story or poem, a drawing or cartoon with caption. Your contribution should be short, and written material should not exceed 300 words. It would be nice to see a different contributor represented each month.

“Bright, sweet golden orb
Pick it off the tree for me
Make the whole day shine.”

—the Editor



PIES, CAKES COOKIES GALORE! JOIN US FOR ALL THE TREATS YOU ADORE!

The Bake Sale at The Fall Planting Festival is on Saturday, October 21!

Needed: Mouth-watering cookies, savory and sweet breads, muffins, scones, cakes, pies, jams, pet treats, and any other little oven assortments for individual servings that are easy to package, easy to eat and easy to enjoy while shopping for plants for your native garden.

Specifications:

- Please package cookies and other small items in resealable plastic bags.
- 2 large cookies or 5 small cookies to a bag.
- Wrap larger items in plastic wrap or foil (for breads) and clearly mark contents.
- Clearly mark ANY baked goods containing NUTS!
- Pretty packaging helps sales!

On Friday, October 20, please bring your baked goods to the East Classroom by 3 p.m., where the items will be priced. Volunteers are needed to bake and help with pricing on Friday, October 20 at the sales tables.

You can sign up on the sheet posted on the volunteer bulletin board or email Melissa Smith:
melissasmith51@gmail.com

Please support our fundraiser. Thank you!



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Events

October 13 and 14: Things that Go Bump in the Night, Family Education Event, Friday and Saturday, 5:30–9 p.m., Indian Hill mesa.

October 21: Fall Planting Festival and Free Admission Day—GNN Opening Day. Saturday, 8–10 a.m., members, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., public.

Ongoing—Classes—Workshops

October 1: Pomona Valley Audubon Society Beginner's Bird Walk. Sunday, 8–9:30 a.m., Kiosk, FREE

October 2: Volunteer Library Committee Meeting. Monday, 10:15–11:45 a.m., Volunteer Library

October 5: Volunteer Organization Board Meeting. Thursday, Noon–1:30 p.m., East Classroom

October 7: Garden Walking Club. Saturday, Admission Kiosk, 8 a.m.

October 7: New Member Orientation. Saturday, 10 a.m.–Noon

October 7: Why We Need Our Bees—Garden Talk. Saturday, 10 a.m.–Noon, \$20 members, East Classroom and Garden

October 11: Education Materials Work Party (Bump in the Night Prep). Wednesday, 9–11 a.m., Lenz Hort Classroom

October 12: Event Orientation—Things that Go Bump in the Night. Thursday, 1 p.m., Lantz Outdoor Classroom

October 13 & 14: Things that Go Bump in the Night, Family Education Event. Friday and Saturday, 5:30–9 p.m., Indian Hill mesa

October 14: Garden Walking Club. Saturday, Admission Kiosk, 8 a.m.

October 14: What to Plant? What to Plant? What to Plant? Workshop. Saturday, 10 a.m.–Noon, \$10 members, GNN

October 15: Medicinal Plants of California Herb Walk. Sunday, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. \$20 members/ volunteers (pre-registration required).

October 18: Volunteer Personnel Committee Meeting. Wednesday, 9:30–11 a.m., Volunteer Library.

October 21: Family Bird Walk—Wild Birds Unlimited. Saturday, 8 a.m., Admission Kiosk, FREE

October 21: Garden Walking Club. Saturday, Admission Kiosk, 8 a.m.

October 23: Education Materials Work Party. Monday, 9–11a.m., Lenz Hort Classroom

October 23: Volunteer Enrichment. Monday, Noon–1 p.m., East Classroom.

October 23: Visitor Education Committee Meeting, Monday, 1–2:15 p.m., Volunteer Library

October 28: Garden Walking Club, Saturday, Admission Kiosk, 8 a.m.

October 31: Volunteer Time Cards Due, Tuesday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.



NEWSLETTER OF THE RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

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