The deadline for articles to be submitted for the September 2020 issue of OAK NOTES is Saturday, August 15. Thank you for your prompt submission!

President: Marla White
Vice President: Lynn Miller
Treasurer: Paul Donatelli
Secretary: Wanda Ewing
Goals & Evaluations: Cindy Walkenbach
Volunteer Personnel: Julie Scheuermann
Volunteer Library (co-Chairs): Amy Baumann, Barbara Nakaoka
Enrichment & Field Trips: Linda Clement
Hospitality: Susan Starr
Horticulture & Research: Richard Davis
Visitor Education (co-Chairs): Katy Douglass, Ann Morgan
Public Relations (co-Chairs): Dorcia Bradley, Beverly Jack
Oak Notes
Editor: Patricia Brooks
Copy Editor: Fred Brooks
Publisher: Carole Aldrich
Web Publisher: David Bryant

FROM THE PRESIDENT
Marla White, Volunteer President

“The beauty of the natural world lies in the details.”
–Natalie Angier

I have been thoroughly enjoying the botanical photos from volunteers Deb Woo and Donna Bedell. Their closeups of the native plants in the CalBG have inspired me to break out my camera and photograph my maturing native plant landscape.

The Volunteer Board held a productive Zoom meeting to catch up with each other, conduct a bit of business, and hear an update from Director Lucinda McDade. It was so nice to see everyone and even the newbies to a Zoom meeting caught on quickly. Cindy Walkenbach and Kathleen Noll have undertaken a huge task to update the Volunteer Handbook and finish editing the by-laws. Suggestions for the end of the year gift to the garden were presented for consideration to the Board. As of this writing, it appears that large group gatherings will not be taking place. So in place of the June Quarterly meeting, we will send a ballot to the Volunteers to get their vote for the Garden gift.

The passing of Barbara Hughbanks leaves a huge hole in our ranks. As a past President of the Volunteer Organization (1998–2000), Barbara reached out to me when I began my tenure, offering sage advice and support. Her implementation of the Bench Brigade and leadership for our organization is a wonderful legacy. Our hearts are with her family.

I have not had a chance to try any of the recipes from the sold-out Taste Wild event. The Zoom seminar was fun sampling while listening to the baker’s perspective, learning the Native People’s uses, and the botany of the plants & where to find the plants from the pane. Hopefully, the program’s success will bring more opportunities of this type in the future.

The new reality at the Garden, including controlled entry and fewer visitors, brings good and sad implications. The grounds in May were full of blooms, new
signage, and quiet pathways to enjoy in near solitude. I hope all of you will take the opportunity to make appointments and enjoy the newly curated look. On my last walk, I ran into Lisa Pritchard (Community Education) and Nina House (Graduate student) organizing educational materials in the Outdoor Classroom. While staff hours have been cut, there is still positive forward momentum in pursuit of the Garden’s Mission.

The Forever California fundraiser started at the end of May and continues through the beginning of June. Thanks to all the Volunteers who donated bottles of wine and beautiful art pieces for the online auction. I hope you were able to enjoy and participate in the success of this event.

I look forward to seeing you soon walking in the Garden. Be safe and be well.

—Marla

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Lucinda McDade, CalBG
Executive Director

Greetings Volunteers!
I hope that you have all kept well and busy enough not to be going stir crazy. It is amazing that we have been coping with this COVID-19 emergency for right at two months now. At this point, it is vital that we stay the course! The vast majority of you are, I am sure as I am, on a small island of health. By that, I mean that you are seeing the same people whom you’ve been seeing, none of whom has gotten ill. Don’t go off of your health-island yet and don’t bring new people onto it unless you have some way of being sure that they won’t be bringing the coronavirus to your island! We’ve really got to get testing in place (and the kinks worked out) before we are able to monitor this thing effectively. Take care of yourselves, please! We need you back!

News headlines:

GNN to remain open (online shopping only) until the 27th of June. Watch for sales on selected plants, which will be announced periodically.

Forever California at our Garden with a View will take place as an online celebration with an inspiring video and other fun and informative content, as well as the online auction. The event will launch on or about the 28th of May. How can you help? Please participate in the online auction and help us make sure that items are sold for favorable prices for CalBG. Have something that would make a good auction item? Can you contribute wine to the curated wine collections gifts or the wine pull? Please get in touch with the Advancement office.

Reopening
When I wrote to you last month, we were just beginning to conduct a number of experiments in reopening. As context, realize that for the foreseeable future, we will be admitting controlled numbers of guests via a system of timed tickets (purchased in the case of the public, reserved in the case of members). Until physical distancing guidelines are relaxed, we simply cannot have pile ups of visitors in the Garden.

This may be more of a challenge for us than some other botanic gardens because we are shaped rather like a funnel: guests can certainly spread out on our 86 acres but they start and then must end up by proceeding through the skinny end of the funnel, aka our entrance.

At each increment of numbers of guests per hour that we have tried, we have carefully evaluated impact, asking all staff to keep an eye out and let us know of any problems. The results of these experiments have enabled us to gradually add to the list of invited guests. The most hardworking of our volunteers were invited very early on, and then all of you were invited to reserve tickets to walk.

Next comes all members: For part of the third week in May, we will open for members only. Then,
assuming all goes well, we will open to the public. Again, this will be via timed tickets, with only a certain number allocated each hour. We can adjust both the number and the proportion allocated to members (including volunteers) and the public as conditions on the ground warrant.

If you have not yet visited California Botanic Garden post-closing for COVID-19, plan to spend a little bit of quality time with the web interface that will enable you to secure your tickets, as it is not transparently simple. You must register and be recognized as a member so that you may request your free tickets. The Advancement office is standing by to help!

This is all very exciting! We are excited for what the first day of being open to the public will bring and also a little bit apprehensive as we do anticipate some confusion and some requests that we simply will not be able to meet.

For now and for the foreseeable future, the buildings will remain closed and only the mesa restrooms will be available (with additional frequent cleaning). With still just skeletal staff on duty, we are entirely unable to monitor guests in the buildings. The gift shop remains closed and will almost certainly remain so, although we are looking for a way to organize a sale for insiders including all of you. Stay tuned for that! As the gift shop has been losing money for years and has a number of challenging structural issues in its current location, we are looking toward an entirely different way for us to offer merchandise and snacks to our guests.

Finances
The very good news is that after quite a bit of tearing of hair and gnashing of teeth, not to mention lost sleep, we got one of the Paycheck Protection Program loans made possible by the CARES Act. This will enable us to cover personnel costs in the short run — two to three months — including to bring a number of people back from furlough and return some staff to their original FTEs, whether full or part-time. If all goes well, we should be able to get most of the loan forgiven; this has all been put in place so quickly that no one is entirely sure how that will happen (but we are monitoring it very closely: very closely).

Please don’t think that this solves all of our Garden’s financial woes. As I mentioned above, this is a short-term help — a much welcome and needed band-aid but not the long-term cure that we must be seeking.

A Very Happy Birthday to:

**June Birthdays**
- Rosemarie Backman
- Tracy Cheung
- Paul Donatelli
- Wanda Ewing
- Muriel Fernandez Replogle
- Terry Givens
- Judy Moffet-Whale
- Barbara Nakaoka
- LouAnn Olson
- Carlos Perez
- Jack Rosenbrock
- Catherine Rowlee
- Marion Swick
- Bill Waggener

**July Birthdays**
- Chris Caenepeel
- Marla White
- Barbara Gentry
- Manuel Hernandez
- Jean Beckner
- Jodi Martin
- Nan Davidson (Kaeser)
- Eugene Baumann
- Emilie Ballard
- Enid Eckert

**August Birthdays**
- William Gendron
- John Biddle
- Anne Moreau
- Mary Perera

- Sara Simon
- Linda Munsey
- Carol Petty
- Christine Zukowski
- Lorraine Francis
- Elene Kallimanis
- Eduardo Martinez
- Kelly Swift
- Rudi Volfi
- Ray Owens
- Susan Starr
- Mary Chamberlain
- Linda Troyer
- Lisa Layne
- Michael Sampley
- Shaunna Gygli
- Cindy Walkenbach
- Sharon Kaatmann
- Rita Ruminski
- Stephen Bryant
- Susan Winderman
Next we face the medium-term problems of working as hard as we can to bring our revenue streams back online. Keeping the GNN going has been part of this; beginning to admit the public is part of this — both contribute to earned revenue. Offering mini-weddings following guidelines laid down by LA County will be part of getting the facilities rentals revenue stream back online. Naomi Fraga is hard at work each day with our conservation partners to bring as much of our conservation work back online as we can, with attention to staff safety and to directives from land managers (e.g., the Angeles National Forest has been essentially closed and that has impacted our weed crew). Advancement: Forever California is on, as described above. Please participate in any way and at any level that you are able. AND you don't have to wait for Forever California — donations are accepted 365 days of the year!

And then the long-term problem of draw on the endowment remains. We are doing everything in our power to reduce the draw on the endowment and will continue to do so. For the long-term well-being of the Garden, we have simply got to let the endowment recover to its pre-COVID-19 level and then to grow from there. We will be doing some belt tightening without question. Note that bequests will contribute directly to the solution of this long-term problem and that includes bequests of any size. Please consider including the Garden in your will or other form of long-term financial planning.

Staff back from Furloughs
Finally, let me point out that the PPP loan enables us to bring some staff back from furlough but we remain under the ‘Safer at Home’ guidelines and cannot go back to business as usual in the building. We must carry out essential duties only and do those duties safely. The result of this is that our horticulture staff are getting some help on the grounds (remember: plant care is essential!). We have weed crew, herbarium, and visitor experience staff hard at work alongside (at a safe distance!) our horticulturists — mostly beating back the weeds. It is thrilling to make some headway there! One tiny, thin, silver lining to the COVID-19 emergency is a temporary doubling of our efforts at weed control.

Volunteers back from stand down?
We have been and will continue to be thinking about how we can bring volunteers back. You will realize that some work stations are easier to re-establish safely than others. A very small handful of volunteers is back out on the grounds working on plant care, but it will be a long time before the Thursday morning work crew in the herbarium can possibly be back given what we know about proximity and indoors being more dangerous than outdoors. That group of volunteers is going to have so much catching up to do! Lacking a crystal ball, we do not have any idea where we will be with school tours next fall and thus when our wonderful Garden Guides will be back. Creativity is essential to get through this and I welcome all of your creative ideas as to how we can bring volunteers back.

Thanks as always for all that you do to support California Botanic Garden. Yes, almost entirely from a distance now but just knowing that you are all behind us helps a great deal!

Director of Visitor Experience
David Bryant

These unreal times have certainly posed daunting challenges. Each day it seems, we’re confronted with a new paradigm, a new way of moving through the world, as we consider the safety and health of ourselves and each other. We are gradually reopening the Garden with many adaptations and new policies. We are taking our programming virtual, with events like Taste Wild. We have created a podcast, given virtual tours, and made visual galleries for all to enjoy. We have taken our Grow Native Nursery inventory online for the very first time and are selling many native plants for curbside pickup. In the midst of
all of these changes, I am inspired by our steadfast devotion: sharing the fabulous world of California native plants with our community.

It gives me confidence to remember our goal in challenging times: to build bridges between the public and our native flora. As we expand our virtual programs, sell plants to new customers, and open our gates to new visitors, I am inspired by all the connections we are making in the community. We are making California Botanic Garden a destination—not only a physical location, but a vibrant resource for native plants where all members of the public can connect.

Thank you for helping us make this transition and approach each day’s new paradigm with courage and gratitude. The fact that even in a pandemic, you are supporting this amazing Garden—making masks, sharing virtual content, hosting Zoom meetings, discussing virtual workshops, and so much more—is a testament to your incredible character and service. I am so thankful for each of you and am ready for the next wild phase, whatever it might be, as I’ll be wearing a mask made by a California Botanic Garden volunteer. Thank you.

Amanda Behnke
Director Of Advancement

There is nothing like trying to adapt to a new workplace and survive a pandemic. I keep focusing on the fact that I have a job I love. Many are not so fortunate. The joy of fundraising is quite challenging

IN MEMORIAM:
Barbara Hughbanks
By Kathleen Noll

Emerita Alumna Volunteer Barbara Hughbanks passed away on May 12. Time spent walking the paths of the Garden with her family led Barbara to becoming a volunteer in the Class of 1990. Barbara Hughbanks was originator and captain of “The Bench Brigade,” the group of dedicated volunteers who clean and condition the wooden benches throughout the Garden. She undertook this important project in 2005, produced a map showing all the existing benches, and recruited about 20 fellow volunteers for the cause until she retired from volunteering in February 2019.

This was just one of many activities Barbara participated in at CalBG. She served as Public Relations Representative on the Volunteer Board, as well as Chair of the Volunteer Personnel Committee, and Chair of the Hospitality Committee. As Member at Large, Barbara reported the board actions in Oak Notes. She was on the committee that revised volunteer bylaws, served on the Goals and Evaluations Committee, the Budget Committee, Nominating Committee, and represented the volunteers on the Visitor Service committee to the Board of Overseers. Barbara served as President of the Volunteers from 1998–2000. For years Barbara was part of the Wednesday morning team of Nature Interpreters. As long as there was a Butterfly Pavilion, Barbara served as Butterfly Keeper every summer on Wednesday mornings, and consistently dedicated volunteer hours to the Fall Plant Sale and special and Family Education events. Barbara authored an informational piece called “Art in the Garden” with details about the sculptures found throughout the Garden art collection through 2012. And, she served on the search committees for the Director of RSABG and Volunteer Manager. My predecessor, Brenda Bolinger fondly remembers being interviewed by Barbara Hughbanks in 1999. Barbara was truly one of a kind and she will be truly missed by her friends in the Garden.
when you have no idea which donors have lost their jobs, had major losses in the stock market, or been affected by the pandemic in another way, especially the loss of a loved one. With all that, I am happy to bring you Forever California 2020.

Forever California/Garden With a View could not be the usual gathering this year. We thought about making it a true virtual event where everyone would log in on their computers or phones at a specific time on a certain day. After surveying many previous attendees, however, people reported video burnout. You will be getting mail that requests a donation and also guides you to a website with a short video. You can watch it at your convenience, as well as our online auction. Participate if you can.

A special thanks goes to everyone who donated to the event prior to its launching.

I know some of you have started walking at the Garden again. I hope you are enjoying yourselves. Thanks for your patience with the timed ticketing. The Advancement Office is down to 1.8 employees, no volunteers, and the added responsibility of timed ticketing. Keeping up with almost 3,000 members will be a struggle, unless we teach you to register. Thanks for being willing to learn, and again for your patience as we all adapt to the new normal.

LISA PRITCHARD
Research and Education

So long, but not goodbye!
By the time you read this, I will have stepped down from my post as Education Coordinator at the Garden on May 22. Though my stint at the Garden has been fairly short, I’ve grown very fond of all the volunteers, staff, the children, their families and teachers who I met along the way and the beautiful garden we love.

The pandemic has affected all of us, and for me, it helped me prioritize to make my family first and foremost. I have an elderly mom back east who I need to see and care for, whether it be here or back in RI. Since the Community Education department at the garden is in a flux due to social distancing (i.e., no in-person classes or school program field trips) and could be for some time, I decided to see this as an “opportunity” to take a hiatus.

Since starting here as Judy Hayami’s assistant in the fall of 2018, I have tried to bring back and teach some family and children’s programs. One of the more popular, Preschoolers with Parents Nature Hour was a hit with parents and their three-to-five-year-olds. We had lots of fun discovering, hiking, reading and crafting for an hour each week. Another program, the monthly full-moon night hikes were so popular, we had to turn people away at the gate!

When Judy retired, I transitioned into a new role that included creating and teaching community programs, overseeing the school curriculum, and working as a team member to execute the educational special events such as Things That Go Bump, Acorn Festival and Birdfest.

Though I will have left as a staff person, I will continue to reside in Claremont — hoping to see all of you again as we walk the trails soon. Thank you!

Volunteer Programs
Kathleen Noll, Manager of Volunteer Programs

Every year at the end of June Garden staff traditionally celebrates our wonderful volunteers and your incredible contributions to the Garden following the joint Board of Trustees and Board of Overseers Annual Meeting. This year, we must pause our annual celebration as we comply with state health directives. We deeply appreciate your support and understanding during this unprecedented time.

Please join me in honoring our volunteers who have reached a five-year milestone in their volunteer experience.
We also recognize the most recent CALBG 101 graduating class—Class of 2020 is inducted into the Volunteer Organization. Congratulations and thank you to the Class of 2020.

And, of course, all volunteers are among those we wish to thank and honor. Your generosity and support have been immeasurable, especially this year. As volunteers, your experience and knowledge are vital to the care and keeping of California Botanic Garden. We cannot do this without you and we look forward to the day when we return to volunteering in the Garden.

2020 Volunteer Service Awards & Class of 2020

Class of 1985 (35 years)

Dawn Thielo

Class of 1990 (30 years)

Peter Cherbak

Class of 2005 (15 years)

Win Aldrich

Pauline Assarian

Valerie Cressy

David Gish

Class of 2005 (15 years)

Class of 2010 (10 years)

Louise Gish

Terry Givens

Linda Prendergast

Cathy Reaves

Rich Griffin

Judy Macariello

Class of 2010 (10 years)

Marion Swick

Jackie Pace

(No photo)

Kelly Swift

Jim Pinter-Lucke (no photo)

Dorcia Bradley

John Bradley

Wana Ewing

Katy Hacker

Class of 2015 (5 years)
Volunteer Sandee Rose passed away on April 3, 2020. Sandee was a resident of the City of La Verne and a Garden volunteer from 2012 to 2017. She served on the Public Relations Committee and with irrepressible enthusiasm welcomed visitors to the Garden’s family education events and concerts, plus countless outreach opportunities around the region. Sandee never missed the chance to share the Garden with the community. She will be missed!

**In Memoriam:**

**Sandee Rose**

**By Kathleen Noll**
The Perfect Specimen

In 2005 Durlynn Anema wrote a biography of Ynés Mexía for young adults. After it was chosen for the PBS/American Masters Women’s History Series, Unladylike 20/20, the author wrote this longer version for an adult audience. She had access to Mexía’s papers in the Bancroft Library of UC Berkeley. Quotes from letters and articles Mexía wrote after she became a successful botanist are highlights of the later chapters.

Ynés Enriquetta Julietta Mexía was born on May 24, 1870 in Washington DC to Enrique Mexía, a Mexican diplomat, and his American wife, Sarah. Her parents separated but Ynés did not live in Mexico until she finished boarding school. She moved to Mexico to manage her father’s ranch and household, became fluent in Spanish, and stayed on the ranch after he died in 1896.

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Butterfly Pavilion

Left to right, Row 1: (1) Northern White Skipper; (2) Western Tiger Swallowtail; (3) Painted Lady; Row 2: (4) Ceanothus Silk Moth; (5) Gulf Fritillary; (6) California Dogface; Row 3: (7) Anise Swallowtail; (8) Red Admiral; (9) Mourning Cloak; Row 4: (10) Cloudless Sulphur; (11) Monarch; (12) Pipevine Swallowtail; Row 5: (13) Variable Checkerspot; (14) Giant Swallowtail; (15) Common Buckeye.