



Volume 39
Number 1
October 2020

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA BOTANIC GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT Marla White, Volunteer President

“Look deep into nature and you will understand everything better.”

—Albert Einstein

Despite the pandemic and its challenges and changes in Garden personnel, the cycle of the seasons continues. The Garden certainly looks different from last spring. September brought oppressive heat to California and the worst air quality in a long time, both here and on the West Coast. Hopefully, heat stress damage to trees and plantings from last year will not be repeated this year. As I walk the Garden, I have noticed many new plant additions and practices. Peter Evans' Horticulture staff are watering some areas and they look better than ever. I am grateful for Deb Woo's photos and "What's Beautiful Today" on the website to help me see the beauty of native plants in all seasons.

Thanks to inventive methods, opportunities for engagement through meaningful virtual content are available on webinars and podcasts. *Conservation Stories* on October 20th will continue with Sophia Winitzky, Ph.D., a student at Montana State University (MS CalBG). She will be discussing conservation issues in the Adobe Valley of Mono County with CalBG Director of Conservation Programs, Naomi Fraga.

Look for the upcoming Fall Enrichment webinar about our founder Susanna Bixby Bryant. A panel of experts will include Yvonne Wilson, John Bradley, and Peggy Perry. This also ties in with the Cal Poly Pomona Landscape Architecture students submitting ideas for the Susanna Bryant Garden. These are students of our CalBG Advisory Council member, Keiji Uesugi.

There are other opportunities to help our Garden continue its mission through volunteering. Some directors have contacted individual volunteers for temporary help. A few folks are working with the Horticulture staff pulling weeds outdoors, working in the greenhouse, or helping in the Native Designs Garden. Native Designs wreath makers prepared small and large decorative items. Others created "Cal BOO Gee" for the Claremont Scarecrow Party Contest and joined the Stickler

The deadline for articles to be submitted for the November 2020 issue of OAK NOTES is **Thursday, October 15**. Thank you for your prompt submission!!



Native Designs_ (l-r) Linda Prendergast, Judy Whale, Susan Spradley, Wanda Ewing, Carol Petty.jpg

Family at the entrance. I hope you, and any visitors, will take advantage of the Instagram moment to spread the word about CalBG.

Bench Brigaders should be back in action as they can work in isolation and more volunteers are needed. The Garden will provide cleaning solutions at the usual three locations; bring your own rags. Advancement is also seeking workers to write pre-stamped postcards, or phone former members about renewing their memberships.

In the words of Coretta Scott King, “The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” While we must remain socially distanced, we can still enjoy our favorite activities and keep in contact with our friends.

Stay in touch with CalBG by subscribing to the California Botanic Garden Newsletter (bottom of the homepage) and through our social media sites: Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaBotanicGarden>, Twitter <https://twitter.com/CABotanicGarden>, and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/californiabotanicgarden>.

I look forward to seeing you again in the Garden, hopefully with cooler temperatures and cleaner air.

VOLUNTEERS: REMEMBER TO POST YOUR HOURS ON VOLGISTICS.

—Marla



FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Lucinda McDade, CalBG
Executive Director**

Welcome back Oak Notes!

Hello volunteers!

Oh how I wish my original optimism about when this would all be over had been accurate! Alas, as we all know, that was not the case. It is clear that we are not going to be back to ‘business as usual’ until at least 2021 and, in any event, I have long since given up making predictions. I miss seeing all of you and we are certainly very sorely missing all that you do for this Garden!

I want to take a moment to be sad with you about the several volunteers we have lost over the last several months. That we cannot mourn together and with family members makes it that much worse. I deeply empathize with what their families are going through. At a time when one needs people most, the comfort of company is one (of many) things that we just cannot have.

An update: over the summer months—since Oak Notes went on summer vacation—we have had no confirmed Covid-19 cases among staff or students. We *have* had a handful of scares—symptoms followed by testing all of which have come back negative. I am proud of all of our staff and students for their efforts, on- and off-site, that have kept us all safe. Of course, we are following strict masking/distancing protocols here at CalBG and also doing a lot of cleaning.

Next, some nuts and bolts. You know that Kathleen Noll will not return from her summer leave as she has family matters that require her full-time attention. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her back among us in one capacity or another soon. As you also know, our volunteer program is far from back to normal and remains relatively quiescent in terms of actual staff work that is required to manage it. As a result, we will manage the volunteer program without hiring a new person right away. Director of Advancement Amanda Behnke has agreed to step in

to help with the volunteer program, with some help from several other staff for certain tasks. Thus, please contact Amanda for any and all things related to your roles as volunteers and the volunteer program in general (abehnke@calbg.org, and she is at ext. 222). She will be certain to involve any other staff as needs be, given the issue at hand. For right now, she is managing requests for information about volunteering that are coming in almost daily, now on the info@calbg.org email. We will be accepting applications but advising people that it will likely be awhile before we can train a new class of volunteers. 2020 will be an asterisk in our long running—heretofore unbroken—list of volunteer classes!

Meanwhile, some of you have returned to active volunteering albeit remotely by Zoom meetings in some cases! We are grateful! Managers in the several Garden areas that actively rely on volunteers have the authorization to contemplate how to bring volunteers back safely in the context of their larger

responsibilities of developing and maintaining safety protocols for their areas (of course I have overarching responsibility at the level of the whole Garden, and all ‘area’ protocols are consistent with our Garden-wide policies and protocols). As you will realize, in different volunteer situations across the Garden, bringing volunteers back is easier (e.g., volunteers working on solo assignments on the grounds) or harder (e.g., situations in which volunteers work indoors and in groups). We know that outdoors is the safest place to be and so quite a few hort volunteers are *carefully* back. We will continue this step-by-step effort going forward, of course making adjustments as needs be given the larger context. Let us *hope* that California continues on a downward trajectory of cases and deaths, but we’ve all seen that we cannot count on that. All of that said, I suspect that we all agree that we will *not* be back to normal until there is a vaccine. For many of us, getting this disease would just be too risky.

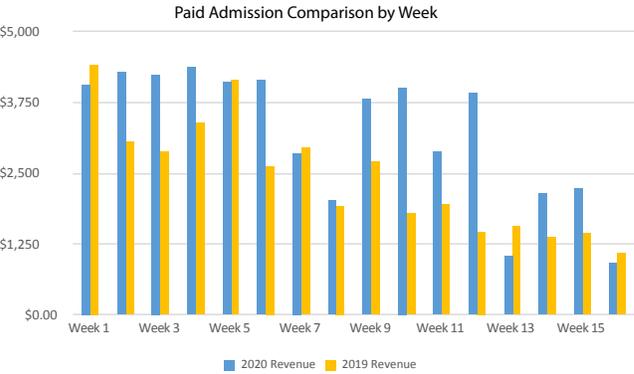
CALBG VISITATION STATISTICS, 2019 vs. 2020

CalBG opened to the public on May 22, a Friday. Hence, each of these weeks is Friday-Thursday. You have the data here for 2019 and 2020, and for both paid admissions (\$\$) and for member visits (numbers). Overall, the metrics reported at the top of the chart indicate that paid admission is up by about a third compared to last year and member visits are up nearly 50%. Remarkable! Even more remarkable is that, until Sept 1 we were closed Monday and Tuesday. Thus, in 2020 we have largely been open only five days of the week compared to seven in 2019. One more comment is that weeks 13 and 16 included weekends with very hot temperatures. For week 16, the Labor Day weekend, it was on the order for 110 degrees both Saturday and Sunday, and we were open only from 8–11 a.m. Still, the numbers are not that bad! We expect Week 17 will bear an asterisk owing to the poor air conditions that have restricted visitation and also brought our kiosk staff indoors.

Admission Comparison

2020 vs 2019 I May 22 – September 10

Revenue	2020	2019
	\$51,012	\$38,788
Member Visits	2020	2019
Member Adult	7,031	4,768
Member Child	1,471	849



Meanwhile, capital projects have gone on. The Forest Pavilion is underway although it still really looks more like DEstruction than CONstruction. We already knew that there were a LOT of Claremont potatoes in the East Alluvial/Southern California Gardens area but the image that accompanies this article will confirm that amply. Before long, we will be in construction phase—going up with the buildings! I am personally thrilled that it is underway.



The Entrance: the path was widened over the summer primarily for safety reasons but that enabled us to improve the viewshed and sight lines. I hope that you agree that this is an improvement! We have a proposal pending with the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust to support finishing the entryway project: replacing the lights with fixtures directed at the path, perhaps irrigation (rocky!), planting, informative signage. If we are successful there, that project will launch early in 2021. If we are not successful, we will complete the project little by little as we are able.

Invisible now but quite disruptive at the time was the work to improve electrical power to the kiosk side of the driveway. For the first time ever, our kiosk staff can plug in a portable AC and also a space heater when the time comes. AND there is power for the gift shop kiosk which will be up and running very shortly (I trust you have seen the on-line gift shop sale!).

The Courtyard: we have a gorgeous design and construction documents. Among other things, the rain garden will hold run-off from all but back-to-back 500 year storms, which makes me very happy.

We will be seeking bids very shortly and then onward to actual construction. *Exciting!*

AND, behind the scenes, we are also working on the herbarium expansion project which will begin with the elevator and ADA restrooms addition to the north side of the admin building.

LOTS going on! I look forward to up-dating you next month at this time.

In closing, let me reiterate how we all miss you and want our volunteers back as soon as safely possible. To be ready for that, please keep yourselves safe and healthy!



DIRECTOR OF VISITOR EXPERIENCE

David Bryant

An Aloha from David Bryant

California Botanic Garden has been the most formative chapter of my career—a tenure that has provided me with an invaluable set of experiences and a vision for public engagement’s role in the California native plant movement. Beyond the many initiatives and undertakings that we’ve accomplished together, I am most gratified by the community spirit that defines CalBG. That is an aspect that has underlined every endeavor we’ve set out to complete—a tremendous sense of support and collaboration that lifts our work higher and moves the needle forward on the crucial task of building a bridge between the public and native plants. Thank you for always making me feel entirely at home and valued.

It has been an absolute honor to lead the public side of California Botanic Garden as Director of Visitor Experience, stewarding diverse forms of engagement—exhibitions, public programs, interpretation, communications and more—to connect guests with the larger world of California’s

remarkable flora. I have been inspired to utilize many modes of storytelling at CalBG to foster appreciation and action: from Brew Wild Beer Festival to the Baby Plant Portraits exhibition, Taste Wild (our first-ever virtual event!) to the Interpretive Master Plan, and from the Garden's mobile app to the new website. Thank you for being part of every crazy initiative and journey with me!

I am so proud of our collective efforts in cultivating a dynamic, inclusive and game-changing Garden. We are experiencing increases in visitation, program attendance and public recognition as new audiences

keep hearing about this "California Botanic Garden" and the incredible research, conservation and horticultural work that defines our nearly century-old organization.

As I move on to the California Native Plant Society, continuing my efforts to build bridges between diverse communities and California native plants, I will forever cherish and draw on my incredible experiences at CalBG.

—David



ENTRY PATH IMPROVEMENT



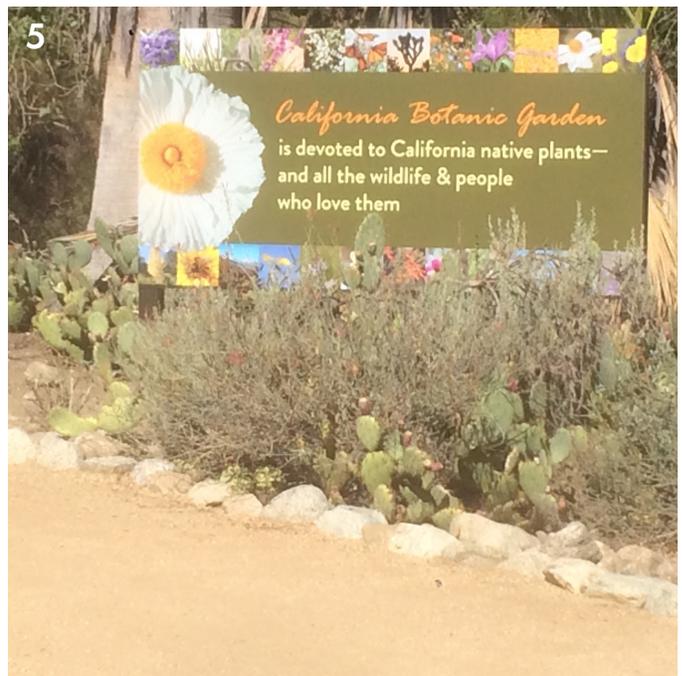
Figure 1: BEFORE. It is clear that the path was far too narrow. Also note largely leafless, prickly desert almond on the right: it does not convey positive messages about the beauty of California native plants.

Figure 2: BEFORE. The entryway path was only ~5' wide at several points. This group of people walking would have had to pass far too closely to people heading the other direction to meet current social distancing standards.

Figure 3. In Progress. With tractor assist, the prickly pear cactus and other encroaching plants were removed (all accessioned plants are either already duplicated elsewhere in the Garden or were propagated to be re-established elsewhere).

Figure 4. In Progress. Areas cleared for new planting include full sun locations as well as shady sites (e.g., under the shade of the palo verde on the left and of desert willows just behind the photographer).

Figure 5. AFTER. The newly widened and slightly rerouted path greets visitors by proclaiming California Botanic Garden's big idea, drawing guests further into the Garden.





AMANDA BEHNKE Director Of Advancement

When I accepted my position last September, I had no idea what the next year would bring. Had I known, I would have purchased more toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer. In all honesty though, I truly miss our “normal” events. I miss working side by side and getting to know you, others who love the Garden, and those who are visiting for the first time. I miss hearing the laughter in the herbarium workroom and seeing you in the administration building.

Despite the pandemic, Forever California was a financial success. Because there was no actual event, the expenses were greatly reduced. Fortunately, we made requests for auction items prior to the pandemic. This resulted in raising over \$134,000.

The 2021 budget challenges the Advancement Office to increase Garden membership. The pandemic creates a situation where many alternative forms of entertainment are closed, which seems to be increasing admissions. More visitation results in more new members. *As a volunteer, one way you can help is to ask every single person you know if they are aware of the garden and invite them to visit.* Non-members do need to purchase a ticket online prior to visiting.

We are also working to raise more money for the Garden Fund, as well as increase membership in the Susanna Bixby Bryant Council. The Garden Fund is our Operating Fund. While it may not seem sexy to help pay the water bill, the plants appreciate it. Beautiful plants attract more visitors, so it helps to support The Garden Fund if you want to see it succeed. The Susanna Bixby Bryant Council is the Garden’s planned giving society. If you would like to

include the Garden in your will, please reach out to me at 909.625.8767, x222.

A special thanks goes out to members of the newly formed membership committee (Hester Bell, Dorcia Bradley, Marlene Carney, Lynn Miller, Cindy Walkenbach, Marla White, and Yvonne Wilson) Julie Scheuermann, and Patricia Brooks for assisting The Advancement Office recently. We could not do it without you!



COMMUNITY EDUCATION Kristen Barker

Hello dearly missed Volunteers!

Hope you all have found time this summer to rekindle interests and hobbies that may have been cast aside during busier times. For me, that has meant gardening, doodling, and getting that weaving project that has been halfway completed for about two years, to being three-quarters completed!

With field trips on hold, the Visitor Education Committee and myself have been working through transitioning school programs to a digital format. We hope to provide worksheets and videos that meet Next Generation Science Standards for grade levels pre-k through 6th grade. The worksheets are in the production phase, and scripts have been written for the videos. The goal is to translate printed materials into Spanish as well. If you are interested in being on-air talent, let me know! I get a finder’s fee if you are discovered and become the next Meryl Streep or Tom Hanks!

Continuing the pause for in-person events, the public programs team has been working on pivoting Things That Go Bump in the Night to a DIY event. We are working on an activity box that would be available for purchase starting in October. There will also be a

simple display or scavenger hunt for Garden visitors during our October operating hours.

Our virtual conservation lecture series began September 15 with a debut by our own Naomi Fraga, Director of Conservation Programs. Mark your calendars for future lectures on October 20 and November 17 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Keep an eye out for upcoming virtual horticulture classes to get you excited and prepared for the reopening of GNN.

Hope to see you on your next walk around the Garden!

VISITOR EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Ann Morgan

The Visitor Education Committee and Garden Guides have missed our interactions with students and the general public since tours and public events were cancelled in March. Recently, committee co-chairs Katy Douglass and Ann Morgan have been meeting with Kristen Barker by email and Zoom to discuss her work creating materials to support remote learning. Marla White and Elene Kalimanis have also been part of these discussions (see Kristen's article in this issue). Katy and Ann will organize a Zoom team meeting for late September or early October. At this meeting we will be discuss changes or revisions in our



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: BETSY MACLAREN Curated by Marla White, Volunteer President

Betsy MacLaren is one of those folks who participates in the many occasional activities and needs of the Garden and are the backbone of our Volunteer corps. She waits for email requests for help that offer flexible timing and a variety of opportunities. To help the Garden's mission, Betsy's activities have included: the Wildflower show, Bump in the Night, grapevine harvest, bake sale, nursery sale, bulk mailing, lights assembly, educational materials work parties, event set-up, and most recently, face mask sewing for the staff.

Her favorite time, though, is volunteering in the Butterfly Pavilion. She gets to experience the beauty and wonder of the butterflies in the company of other volunteers, and meets visitors from all over the US, and even from other countries.

Betsy shares, "My first exposure to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden was around twenty years ago. I lived just about a mile south of the Garden, and one day I jogged with a neighbor up to (and through!) the Garden. At that time there was no kiosk, attendant, or admission fee. After that I would visit on occasion and in 2011, I joined as a member.

"My first volunteer hours introduced me to Luminaria Nights and two other new volunteers, Dorcia Bradley and her husband John. We waited until dark that night to light the candles along the walkways. I was assigned to light candles from the top of the ramp and then back into the Garden towards the Butterfly Pavilion. It was pitch black by that time, and it was something special to walk along the path, lighting the candles, and listening to the "quiet" sounds of the Garden at night."

In preparation for her eventual retirement from nursing, Betsy began her training with the class of 2014, spending her time enjoying the great outdoors. She has been happily volunteering ever since.

student and guided tours to ensure safe interactions with the public, when they return. The current committee roster includes: Yvonne Wilson, Elene Kalimanis, Cindy Walkenbach, Virginia Herd, Marla White, John Biddle, and Rudi Volti. Additional members are welcome—let us know if you are interested.

HORTICULTURE

Peter Evans, Director of Horticulture.

Happy Almost Fall to all you volunteers!

I know you are wondering what is going on with all the upheaval of soil and rocks you have observed during the summer, and with my plans to “green it up.” I’m excited that fall is almost here because it indicates a new planting season.

The Foothill Boulevard sign bed was the first area to get torn up. Now that the sign has been reinstalled,



CALBG WALKING GROUP

In 2012, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (CalBG) established a weekly walking group. It meets near the kiosk on Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. and roams the Garden for an hour. Walkers share the beauty of the Garden in all seasons and in all types of weather. They also share a friendship that has been vital during the recent Covid-19 restrictions. Patty Taylor, one of the walkers, has expressed the essence of the group in her poem, “A Walk with Friends.” Maybe we’ll see you walking—or come and join us!

it will be the first to be replanted with colorful, eye-catching native plants. The idea is to plant the corner so everyone passing on Foothill will know there is a garden up the road. We will use ‘Desert Museum’ palo verde behind the sign. In the foreground and along the road edges will be sages, woolly blue curls, chaparral yucca, agave, and the inspiration for our new logo, the Matilija poppy.

The bed along the driveway adjacent to the kiosk gets a complete makeover complementary to the main entry into the Garden. Simple drifts of natives and a rain garden to catch runoff are the theme. We will make a good first impression by planting our official state grass, purple needlegrass. A newcomer to the

A WALK WITH FRIENDS A Poem by Patty Taylor

The Garden in morning is ever changing
As is our group. All are welcome
We tread the winding snake
Sharing our stores as the Garden shares with us
The boojum and majestic oak speak of
strength and age
As we admire lizards peaking from behind
green sage
There is conversation amid the cactus
And the squirrels are busy and the rabbits
ignore us
While flowers voice their fragile beauty
and scents
Butterflies and hawks reply, uplifting us
as they fly
Framed against a painting of California
mountains and sky
At the pond, serene turtles quietly swim
into our hearts
We are surrounded and renewed by an
abundance of life and friendship
California quail, California poppies
Eureka!

California Botanic Garden Walkers

Garden called cliff goldenbush (*Ericamera cuneata*), will get a trial run. It thrives in rocky substrates and blooms late in the season. Woolly blue curls, Penstemon, Ceanothus, and Epilobium will provide color in all seasons.

The idea for the California Welcome Garden is to, well, provide a more welcoming, softer, friendlier entrance. The original planting offered threatening spines and thorns and I am excited about the improvement. The planting will be showier and more colorful with something interesting blooming most of the year. Look for some notable standbys, such as *Ceanothus*, *Penstemon*, *Epilobium*, varieties of buckwheat, and more. You will also see species new to the Garden: a new grass called desert stipa, and new species of goldenbush, *Tauschia*, and *Lomatium*.

The California Courtyard, as you may know, is getting a major facelift. It will be a more upscale venue for those wanting a space to host their event, and for the Garden's needs. Beyond the gorgeous new paving, a decorative cap will top the surrounding seat wall, and on the east side the wall will extend in a graceful curve toward the south. This will damage the surrounding plants, so we will add some low-growing colorful natives, similar to the existing plants. The major change to the plantings will be the Rain Garden at the south planting bed, which catches storm runoff from the paving. It is designed to hold about one-and-a-half hours of a one-inch-per-hour rainstorm. The spot will also have a water feature to create peaceful sounds and attract wildlife. The plantings will be similar to Johnson's Oval: grasses, sedge, current, *Penstemon*, and *Aquilegia*.

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A VEGETABLE GARDEN by Betsy Maclaren

One of the reasons I was drawn to our California Botanic Garden was my love of the outdoors, and I was amazed by the abundance of plants and trees

there. I first visited the Garden in 1996, and in 2014 became a Volunteer. Over the years, I have attempted to grow plants—with some luck with flowering types—but not so much with plants of the edible variety.

My first attempt was in the early 1970s when I was fortunate enough to live in a small house in Carlsbad, across the street from the beach. There was a plot of land in the backyard that looked suitable for a vegetable garden. I took a spade and started to dig deep and turn the soil. I kept running into what I thought were roots from nearby trees and I heard them snap as I dug. When done, I turned on the sprinklers and many little "Old Faithfuls" erupted where I had severed the sprinkler pipes: lesson learned.

—Yogi Berra

*"When you come to
a fork in the road,
take it."*

My next attempt was when I lived at 7,000 ft in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. It was in an apartment complex with an area where the tenants could plant a garden. I knew it was a short growing season, but I dug up my portion and planted lettuce, broccoli, and some other seeds. All went well until an unusually cold night in the middle of July. That was the end of that garden.

Undaunted, I tried again when I returned to California and rented a house in Claremont. It had a big back yard, so I dug up a small section for planting. I was more successful this time, but fought a constant battle against bugs in my broccoli. I didn't want to use pesticides, so I picked the bugs off one by one.

Years later, I bought a house in Claremont not far from my rental. I thought my days of vegetable gardening were behind me, but on my daily walk with my dog I stopped to admire a garden on College Avenue. The owner was outside and I complimented her on her plants, especially one exuberant-looking plant. She offered me one of its fruits, but she only knew its Chinese name. When I got home, I removed the papery shell and ate the little yellow berry, which was about the size of a cherry tomato. It tasted like a tomato, but a little sourer. I liked it.



The woman later told me the common name for the plant was goldenberry (*Physalis peruviana*), or cape gooseberry. She said it was nutritious, and I then discovered it was low in sugar and contained vitamins A and C, plus antioxidants: perfect for my nightly salad! She suggested I grow a plant from seed, and thus began another foray into gardening.

The seeds from the goldenberries were tiny but when I planted them, they all sprouted. I gave several seedlings to my neighbors, and now we are all growing them. I currently have three sturdy plants with tiny blossoms and I'm looking forward to harvest time. This latest "farming" venture again demonstrated the value of growing something healthy, but more importantly, it showed the value of neighbors who happily and generously share their bounty with one another.

CLOSER TO NATURE AT HOME

by Dorcia Bradley, COVID-19, 2020

Being empty nesters with our children and grandchildren back in Indiana, I've always enjoyed other people's pets and appreciated whatever animal life I came across. I love the antics of the lizards here, and our reliable goldfinches, hummingbirds, butterflies, doves and towhees provide such joy.

In February Mr. & Mrs. Duck arrived at our pool and visited off and on until April 4th, when Mr. D. departed and Mrs. D. began living in the foliage when not swimming. Our unhappy pool guy accommodated the extra cleaning since I was such a giddy kid about it. For twelve days she laid eggs, and

in preparation I built a swimming noodle ramp for the ducklings' pool access.



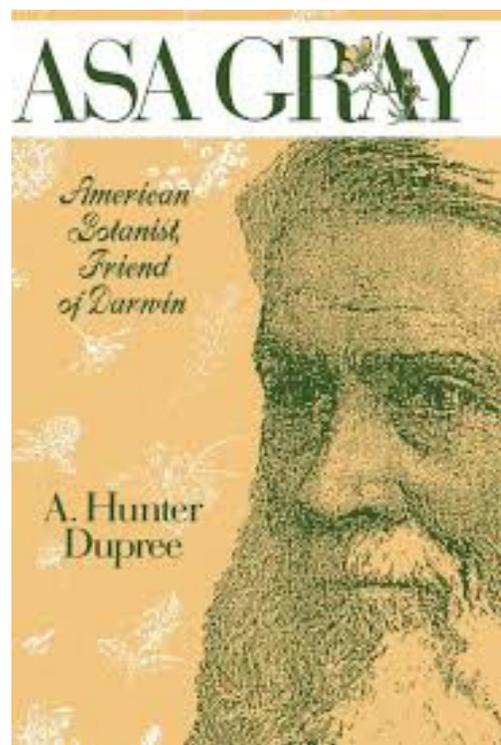
On April 17th, a healthy-looking coyote came meandering through, very near her nest. I felt excitement to see this handsome creature, yet feared for the eggs, and was ready to protect my budding "grandbabies." He wandered on by, seemingly unaware, but one late night she jumped into the pool and began quacking in great distress. Two of the twelve eggs had been broken open, and Mrs. D. didn't return to her clutch until the next day. She faithfully remained on the nest for several days, but nothing was happening. Chris, at Wild Birds Unlimited, warned that the remaining eggs may not hatch since they'd gotten cold during that stressful night. While she was in the pool later that day, I saw the nest was deteriorating and sadly removed it.

I've learned the importance of discouraging a duck's residency. Trusting us, she seemed content to remain forever. Chris warned that she could attract more ducks, and we'd end up with a duck pond. So grandmotherly me had to toughen up and shout, clap, bang pan lids, and finally spray the hose at her until she gave up and flew away. This felt almost worse than when my daughters went off to college, but I'm so grateful for the experience and the opportunity to be closer to nature at home.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Gene Baumann

Volunteer Library Committee



Asa Gray: American Botanist, Friend of Darwin, by A. Hunter Dupree. 501 pp. The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1959.

Asa Gray (1810–1888) was arguably the leading American botanist of the nineteenth century. He worked during a great confluence of the expanding west, global collecting, improved scientific methods, and the rising importance of American academia.

Dupree's exhaustive treatment of Gray follows his life from birth to death. Dupree explores multiple themes related to emerging trends including: Gray's early education in medicine and subsequent move to botany, his early years of teaching and later preeminence as Professor of Botany at Harvard, development of a taxonomy system in botany still used today, the development of multi-professor botany departments, and his long involvement with Darwin in the debate regarding adaptation.

Because of his willingness to receive specimens and his stature in the field, Gray was continually sent plant material from far afield, including the newly explored west and various countries. The extensive holdings of the botanic garden and herbarium at

Harvard allowed Gray a unique vantage point for global comparison and thus development of an improved system for plant classification.

Among the colleagues of Gray, Dupree studies the lives and contributions of Louis Agassiz, Charles Darwin, Charles Lyell, Joseph Hooker, Alphonse De Candolle, John Torrey, Charles Wright, George Englemann, Joseph Henry, Amos Eaton, John Lowell, James Dana, and many more.

This book is a tour-de-force through 19th-century botany and well worth a read for anyone interested in the foundations of modern botany. It is available for checkout at the Volunteer Library, when it reopens.



A Very Happy Birthday to:

September Birthdays Susan Spradley
Win Aldrich Rosie Trax
Donna Bedell Tanya Uribe”

October Birthdays
Bonnie Shimmin
Kathy Henkins
Jim Pinter-Lucke
Wendy Olvera
Alec Bryson
Gordon Olson
Jim Brasher
Jeremiah Sailor
Linda Lee Worlow
Kathy Connell
Valerie Cressy
Bob Muns
Carolyn Lucas
Benjamin Segura
Susan Winderman