From the President
Marla White, Volunteer President

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead

As I write my final column as President of your organization, I cannot help but reflect on the past two years. What strikes me most is the dedication of the volunteers to the California Botanic Garden through their service hours, depth of knowledge, and dollars to support this remarkable place. Our group of 200 makes quite a difference with its multifaceted work “…dedicated to California native plants, promoting botany, conservation, and horticulture to inspire, inform and educate the public and scientific community about California’s native flora.”

I am grateful for the Volunteer Executive Board’s support and dedication during my tenure: Lynn Miller (Vice-President), Wanda Ewing (Secretary), and Paul Donatelli (Treasurer). I was especially supported by the wisdom of past presidents and Volunteer Manager Kathleen Noll. Kathleen was the glue that kept the Volunteer program together, with her commitment to CalBG, institutional knowledge, humor, patience, compassion, energy, and enthusiasm.

Additionally, I am thankful for the Committee Chairs who served with dedication during this time: Volunteer Personnel, Julie Scheuermann; Volunteer Library, Amy Baumann and Barbara Nakaoka; Enrichment and Field Trips, Yvonne Wilson and Linda Clement; Goals and Evaluations, Cindy Walkenbach; Hospitality, Susan Starr; Horticulture and Research, Richard Davis; Visitor Education, Katy Douglass and Ann Morgan; Public Relations, Dorcia Bradley and Beverly Jack; Native Designs, Linda Prendergast; Oak Notes Editor, Patricia Brooks and Copy Editor, Fred Brooks; Oak Notes Publisher, Carole Aldrich; and Web Publisher, Ming Posa. Each Chair led other Volunteers in its efforts to serve the needs of CalBG.

The year 2019 started full of traditional activities and events. COVID-19 hit and national and local restrictions turned our personal worlds upside down. CalBG became a refuge for many of us, a place to be safely outdoors yet cognizant of social distancing. Most of our usual volunteer duties were put on hold. New opportunities arose and we all became experts on Zoom. I strove to keep...
volunteers connected with email updates and photos of activities taking place. This May and June have brought the return of some volunteer opportunities. I hope this trend will continue into the fall and more normal times will resume.

This position has afforded me the opportunity to learn about the Garden at a much deeper level than my experiences as a Garden Guide, or in school tour curriculum development and training, or as a Visitor Education member and chair. The greatest gift has been getting to know many of you as we worked together during the Grapevine Harvest, making wreaths, snowman building, selling cookies, washing tables, lighting and guarding pathways on Luminaria-lit nights, Wine Walks, pouring beverages at Brew Wild, greeting new CalBG members, setting-up and working at Acorn Days and Bird Fest, concerts, movie nights, origami training, master of ceremonies at Business Meeting Pot Lucks, serving on the CalBG Advisory Board, and acting as the public face for our organization.

I am thankful for your support and trust in me and grateful to all of you for your continued, dedicated service to the California Botanic Garden. Please be safe and stay well. Have a great summer. See you soon around our Garden.

—Marla

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Lucinda McDade, CalBG Executive Director

Greetings Volunteers of California Botanic Garden!
I am incredibly proud of you! Fourteen months have elapsed since you were able to be fully operational in all of your roles as volunteers and yet you have remained with us! When Oak Notes went on summer vacation a year ago, I imagine that not a single one of us would have predicted that we were facing a full year more of this COVID-induced insanity—I certainly would not have (and might have done something drastic if anyone had told me). Just a few examples of your continued commitment to our wonderful Garden:

• So many of you have offered to help in any way that you can. Every single one of our calls for ‘help!’ has been oversubscribed. You have stuffed envelopes at home, carried out exit surveys at the Garden and generally risen to any task that called for your help.

• The Wednesday Work Group on the grounds (as well as the less formal group that works with Rick Davis on Saturdays) has kept at it whenever possible, valiantly extending the impact of our small, but mighty and mightily hardworking horticulture staff.

• The Education group has engaged actively and productively with Kristen Barker toward keeping the Garden Guides involved and getting ready for what comes next.

• Oak Notes has gone out each and every month (and if not on time, that has probably been my fault!) and it is more beautiful than ever as it is now graced with lots of images.

The Volunteer Board proposes the following slate of officers for 2021–2023 for your approval:

President: Lynn Miller
Vice President: Yvonne Wilson
Secretary: Wanda Ewing
Treasurer: Betsy MacLaren

We will vote at the Zoom CalBG Volunteer Organization Business meeting on Wednesday, June 2 at 11:00 a.m. Please use this link to join the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88914710270?pwd=L1k5c2J3NGkyV1lCSmhPK1pKbX RJUT09\n
Meeting ID: 889 1471 0270  Passcode: 272691

Executive Director Lucinda McDade will update Volunteers on the status of various projects at the Garden and field some questions.

Note: If you are not able to join the Zoom meeting, please use the following Google doc form to vote on the proposed Executive Board slate and the end-of-year gift to CalBG: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ritKjjcJ7d5KBCe8vbOKZ27kY7P75soY6ayV721MSW4/edit?usp=sharing. Voting will close on June 3, 2021.
The Native Designs group has maintained the cuttings garden and made arrangements whenever asked. Linda Prendergast has led three wonderfully successful seasonal offerings of the “Arrange Wild” show. We have published California in a Vase!

Your elected leadership has continued to work in the somewhat strange universe that is Zoom. Marla White has done a marvelous job in keeping the volunteer program advancing even in these very strange times. I also want to thank Amanda Behnke and Karina Chappell for stepping up to provide staff support for the volunteer program!

I must also say here that I do very much appreciate your willingness to step back when we felt we had to ask you to do so. MORE than once over these crazy months, we have thought we were out of the hottest of virally contaminated waters and reactivated a handful of volunteers in a handful of roles, only to face another deadly surge of the virus and have to ask you to stand back down. Thank you so much for collaborating so closely with staff leaders, for understanding what they are up against and for appreciating that, no matter how desperately we want all of you to be back, there were times when we had to reverse our progress toward normalizing. And I know you are with me in desperately hoping that this time we are out of the hot water although I am frankly a little nervous about the pace at which the CDC is issuing new guidance (I write just after they’ve said that fully vaccinated people need not wear masks almost anywhere).

While Oak Notes goes on summer vacation, we will be busy here at the Garden. Among other things, in another month or so, we will be gearing up to hire a part-time staff manager for the volunteer program. As we anticipate building back activities, we will all need a dedicated person! Amanda has fielded so many requests for information on how to volunteer and accumulated so many application forms that it is clear that we need a volunteer training session or two as soon as we can safely do so. We will also be looking toward the fall, toward schools being back in session closer to fulltime and in person, and toward what that will bring in terms of our guided field trips and the exceptionally important work of our Garden Guides.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to carefully contemplate our public programming going forward. Over the last 14 months, we have tried a wide variety of new things, almost all of which were quite successful. Notably, the themed months that we have developed and that Kristen has implemented have been tremendously well received. Families—with or without kids and even single adults—have loved the scavenger hunt style activities on the grounds.

Watch for Butterflies & Plants month in June. These have the important effect of bringing people back again, and of encouraging membership when families know that there will be more new, fun and educational things to do again soon. Can we soon implement ‘pop-up’ educational stations (discovery carts?) staffed by knowledgeable volunteers? These would extend and/or deepen the knowledge that is shared via the activity sheets and signage on the grounds. With attractive props and your friendly faces, these stations should be very appealing to families and guests in general. I look forward to interacting with those of you who focus on public education and visitor experience around these topics.

Thank you: again, I am just so deeply grateful to each and every one of you for sticking with us. See you here at the Garden soon (even as that lazy Oak Notes takes the summer off)!

“You’ve got to be very careful if you don’t know where you are going, because you might not get there.”

—Yogi Berra

Hello All!

Here comes summer! It feels like just as things are beginning to gear up, we are saying goodbye to Oak Notes. Not goodbye, just see you later!

Community Education

Kristen Barker, Coordinator

Hello All!
There is a lot on the horizon. The Visitor Education Committee and I are working hard to plan for the return of school tours come fall. The programs may look a little different, with smaller group sizes and shorter tours, but it will be a welcome return! In addition to our local schools, we plan to include homeschool groups, after-school groups, and the scouts. Our neighbors at Uncommon Good will be bringing their Garden Club students to the Garden during mid-June for the first tour since March, 2020! Big thanks to the Garden Guides that jumped back in and offered to lead their group. We are currently looking forward to two guided refresher walks for Garden Guides with grad student Maria Jesus, and hope to plan more enrichment walks this summer.

This June is Butterfly Month! Similar to past themed months, like Bird Month and Wildflower Month, there will be a themed in-person activity for visitors available at the Admissions kiosk that will take them on an adventure through the Garden. Evan Green, one of the Garden’s Horticulturists, will lead a virtual class called Habitat Gardening for Butterflies. We are also planning our first kid’s class in the Outdoor Classroom. The kids will go on a butterfly adventure, make their own planter, plant seeds of a host plant for butterflies, and then take it home with them. Don’t forget to check the Poppy Shop for butterfly goodies stocked by Vanessa Ortega.

For the rest of the summer, we are hoping Aleta Jacobson will return to teach more art classes. Chip Grubbs will teach another horticulture class about water-wise planting and summer care. And more to come!

During your summer adventures, I hope you will stay current with all the happenings at the Garden! I hope to see you around the Garden!

Take care all!

Kristen

THREE SELECTED AS EMERITI VOLUNTEERS

Three long-term volunteers were selected as Active Emeriti at the May 2021 Volunteer Organization Board Meeting. Selection criteria for this honor included: exemplary service, participating as an elected executive board member, a minimum of 10 years’ service, and having contributed significantly to the mission of the California Botanic Garden and the Volunteer Organization. A celebration of their achievements will take place at the Volunteer Sunset Social in the California Courtyard on June 7th at 4 p.m.

Linda Prendergast (Class of 2005)

Linda came to the Garden in 2004 and has served the Volunteer Organization and the Garden in many ways. Linda currently devotes countless hours to the leadership of the Native Design team and maintenance of the Native Design garden. During her time at the Garden, she also participated in the following activities: Past Volunteer Organization President (2014–2016), Horticulture and Research board representative, served on the CalBG Advisory Council, Chair of the Goals and Evaluation committee, Hospitality committee, and has organized
student volunteers for workdays. Linda has also supported special events including: Luminaria, the Honey-Do crew, plant sales, grapevine harvest and wreath sales, and California in a Vase coffee-table book (2021) designer.

Shaunna Gygli (Class of 2009)

Shaunna began at the Garden in 2008. Her knowledge of Indigenous Peoples has been of great value to our school tour program. Shaunna worked with the Bonita Unified School District to bring their students to a multi-day Native Partners program in the Tongva Village. Shaunna’s participation includes: Past Volunteer Organization President (2012–2014), current member of the CalBG Advisory Council, Garden Guide, Native Designs and Native Designs garden crew, Grounds crew, and GNN support. Additionally, she participated in Luminaria, the Acorn festival, work parties, and on the Honey-Do crew.

Cindy Walkenbach (Class of 2011)

Cindy joined the Garden in 2009. Her leadership in many Garden venues has been a great benefit to CalBG’s mission. Her service highlights include: Past Volunteer Organization President (2017–2019); member on the CalBG Board of Trustees and Major Gifts committee; Garden Guide; committee participation for Education, Enrichment and Membership; updating the Volunteer Handbook; and supporting many of the special events at CalBG. These events included: guest exit surveys, new member outreach, Luminaria, Bird Fest, and Acorn Days. Cindy played a major role in securing the HALO grant that provided funds to evaluate and enhance our volunteer program.

Visitor Experience Coordinator
Danielle Wildasinn

The Garden will be extending its hours for the summer season. From June–August, we will be open Tuesdays–Sundays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Enjoy walking in the Garden when it cools down in the summer evenings!

CalBG welcomes two new kiosk personnel. Antoinette Anderson works across the street at the Claremont Colleges Library as Interim Resource Sharing Manager. Antoinette is also currently enrolled in the UC California Naturalist program. Anissa Zuniga recently graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a bachelor’s degree in History. She hopes to pursue a master’s degree in Public History and work in the museum field in the future.

The Visitor Experience department had to say goodbye to Visitor Experience Associate Tania Parra last month. Tania recently graduated with her Master of Environmental Science and Technology degree and accepted a recreational job opportunity at the Grand

From the Editors of Oak Notes

We would like to thank everyone who contributed this past year: It was a challenging time for all. You went above and beyond to help volunteers stay connected to CalBG. We also thank the Oak Notes readers, whose comments helped create positive changes. And all of us would be reading tea leaves if not for the consistency and creativity of Oak Notes publisher, Carole Aldrich. Hopefully, conditions will continue to improve and we can again see smiling faces around the Garden. Until September, then.
Canyon. We wish her the best on her next adventure! We will hire a new Visitor Experience Associate soon. As always, stop by and say, “Hi!” if you see an unfamiliar face in the Admissions Kiosk.

I hope everyone has a relaxing summer! Keep cool!

**Public Relations — Wrightwood Garden Faire**

*By Judy Bryson*

Where can I go to learn what to grow in this rocky native soil? How can I attract more birds to my garden? Why should I try native plants? These and many other questions were answered at the California Botanic Garden booth during Wrightwood Village’s first-ever Garden Faire. Over 300 visitors enjoyed finally getting out in public as COVID restrictions eased in both Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, Saturday May 1st. The Garden Faire was held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Center and Vivian Null Park in Wrightwood Village, just off Highway 2.

My son Alec and I have volunteered as Garden Guides and at the GNN pre-pandemic, so we were prepared to field the expected questions. As for the unexpected ones, well, that was easy, too. Just come visit the experts in Claremont! We had plenty of free passes to give out for the curious and an eye-catching display with the beautiful new California Botanic Garden logo table cover and literature. Plus, we added about a dozen mason jars with cuttings of native California wildflowers from our home. We wanted people to see clearly that native plants and their cultivars are beautiful, versatile, easy to grow, and available at the

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**A Very Happy Birthday to:**

**June Birthdays**

Rosemarie Backman
Tracy Cheung
Paul Donatelli
Wanda Ewing
Muriel Fernandez
Replogle
Terry Givens
Neal Heacox
Judy Moffet-Whale
Barbara Nakaoka
Joan Oyler
Carlos Perez
Jack Rosenbrock
Catherine Rowlee
Ashley Soto
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

**August Birthdays**

Enid Eckert
William Gendron
John Biddle
Anne Moreau
Mary Perera
Sara Simon
Linda Munsey
Carol Petty
Christine Zukowski
Lorraine Francis
Elene Kallimanis
Kelly Swift
Rudi Volti
Ray Owens
Susan Starr
Mary Chamberlain
Linda Troyer
Lisa Layne
Michael Sampley
Shaunna Gygli
Cindy Walkenbach
Sharon Kaatmann
Rita Ruminski
Stephen Bryant
Susan Winderman
Joanna Wren
GNN. But mostly, our visitors wanted to know where we were located. And no one knew that we had changed our name. Lots of “Oh! That garden! We need to visit again.” CalBG provided us with The Matilija Newsletter and brochures all about tours, membership, and other ways to support the Garden. Each child received their own clean bag of crayons to keep along with other craft materials.

Overall, the Wrightwood Garden Faire was a wonderful venue for networking with like-minded people interested in native plants, gardens, landscaping, and nature. Put on by the Wrightwood Property Owners Association, it was also envisioned as a celebration of the opening up of the town. Thank you, Wrightwood, for letting us share a little glimpse into the California Botanic Garden as well. Next year will be even better!

While sorting through the collection, we came across older topographic maps, smaller in size than most and dating from the early 1900’s. They also have a fabric backing to prevent wear and tear while in use, in addition, they are stamped with an older Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden property stamp. One in particular of Marysville, California, had the name, Carl Wolf written on the side. Carl Wolf was the Resident Botanist at the original garden in Orange County, from 1930 to 1946.

The fabric-backed maps are in very good condition, as is most of the collection. The maps produced by the USGS are the last of their print maps. After printing maps for over 125 years, the agency has gone to digital format. The last printed USGS map was in 2006; however, they do provide free online access to both current and historical topo maps.

The Library’s topo map collection is over 2,000 in number, sorted alphabetically beginning with the 1985 map of Aberdeen, California, and ending with the 1967 map of Zenia, California, with so many others in between. If you’re interested in the topo maps, a list of the collection will be available on the Library webpage soon, or feel free to contact the Librarian, Irene Holiman.
Oak Notes would like to thank Marla White for all of her contributions during the past year. Acting as a “Cub Reporter,” she not only wrote her monthly message, she contributed articles, interviews, and photos. Marla has written the following piece about her experience working with Oak Notes. Thank you, Marla!

From Newsletter to E-Zine

The Oak Notes Newsletter has undergone a transformation over the past two years, from a simple printed format to an online magazine. The latest iteration of our Volunteer communication has been expanded to feature not only the basic columns from the President, Director, and Program Directors, but includes expert scientific writings from Volunteers (Rudi Volti, Fred Brooks, and Stephen Bryant), poetry, literary reviews, reflection pieces, and photographs from our resident photographer, Deb Woo. Editors Fred and Patricia Brooks, and Publisher Carole Aldrich, have been helpful and flexible as we moved the publication to the next level.

New features include interviewing and highlighting long-time Volunteers, recognizing staff changes, and unique columns from the professional staff and graduate students. Many articles contained helpful links to resources for the native plant gardener and citizen scientist. These articles have brought a greater depth to the publication.

As the Oak Notes cub reporter and photographer of events and changes at the Garden, my goal was to help keep our Volunteer corps connected to this special place even as COVID restrictions hampered visitation and Volunteer commitments. This monthly periodical will continue to evolve with new submissions from members of our organization and will expand our knowledge base and appreciation of CalBG and its mission.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA INDIANS, PART 4 by Shaunna Gygli

Lone Woman of San Nicholas Island

In 1814, Russians and Aleuts came to San Nicolas Island to hunt sea otter. An altercation between the hunters and the island inhabitants led to the massacre of most of the native men. Previously, the 27-square-mile island about 53 miles west of Los Angeles had an estimated population of 300. The remaining people struggled to survive. In 1835, the schooner Peor es Nada (Nothing is Worse) went to San Nicolas to hunt sea otter and to take the approximately 20 survivors to the missions. A woman left the ship to fetch her son, but because of strong winds the ship had to leave without her.

Seventeen years later in 1852, Captain George Nidever landed on the island and found footprints, bone needles, and baskets. On his return the next year, they discovered a woman described as about 50 years old, medium height, and with a pleasant face. She was always smiling, friendly, generous with her food, and wore a cormorant-feather dress. When she was brought to the Santa Barbara Mission, she stayed at the Nidever's home. Efforts were made to find some of her people, who had probably gone to the San Gabriel Mission where the Indians spoke a similar Uto-Aztecan dialect. She could communicate only in sign. Tragically, she came down with dysentery, perhaps from her new diet, and died just seven weeks after her rescue. She was baptized on her deathbed, given the name Juana Maria, and buried in an unmarked area used for Indian burials. There is a plaque in her honor in the Santa Barbara Mission Courtyard.

Lone Woman of San Nicholas Is., by Holli Harmon (2018)
In 1960, Scott O’Dell published *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. He used his childhood adventures off Rattlesnake Island (now Terminal Island), plus archaeological evidence and first-person accounts to tell the Lone Woman’s story in the most extraordinary way. It includes strong themes of peace, environmental responsibility, and love of animals. As readers, we are informed about Indian culture, traditions, and their way of life. Karana, as he named her, is an unforgettable character. If you haven’t read this book in a while, or not at all, put it on your list. It’s in the volunteer library.

A beautiful 7’× 45’ bas-relief, cast-stone artwork on the outside wall of the San Dimas City Hall was dedicated in 1997. It was created to recognize and tell the story of the Tongva, the native people of our area. The sculpture represents the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island. Its twelve panels show the daily activities and rituals of the Tongva-Gabrielino people.

**Twenty-Three Tree Tales**  
*A review by Marla White*

Rudi Volti, long-time CalBG Volunteer, has collected some of his Oak Notes newsletter columns and modified them for publication in the California Botanic Garden’s Occasional Publications series. The booklet features 23 vignettes about trees that piqued the author’s interest during his days as a Garden Guide at CalBG. The contributions cover both native and non-native trees that have attained special significance in California, and each is accompanied by color photographs. Topics in the booklet include: ancient mythology, history, uses by Indigenous Peoples, properties of the tree’s wood, its horticultural aspects, aesthetics, art, sports, and a sprinkling of tongue-in-cheek humor.

Information for purchase ($20) will be available soon.

**BOOK OF THE MONTH**  
*Chris Ilgen and Barbara Nakaoka, Volunteer Library Committee*


*A Girl’s Guide to the Wild* is the first volume of a pair by Ruby McConnell. The second, a sequel, is titled *My Nature Journal and Activity Book*. It is a companion diary and activity book. Both books are excellent gifts to start the summer for girls ages 9–12.

**Thank You Volunteers**  
*Celebrating anniversaries this year.*

**Class of 1996:** Fran Neu, Joan Presecan and Susan Windemere  
**Class of 2001:** Enid Eckert  
**Class of 2006:** Kathleen Mulligan  
**Class of 2011:** Amy Baumann, Chuck Burt, Bonnie Shimmin, Cindy Walkenbach  
**Class of 2016:** Stephen Bryant, Hal Croulet, Richard Davis, Ann Morgan, Barbara Nakaoka, Linda Troyer
The guide is a masterpiece organized in three parts that offer all of the basics, peppered with essentials for living in the outdoors. Part 1 includes concepts of *outdoors*. Part 2 is devoted to the basics: shelter, cooking, personal hygiene, clothing, tools, and packing for one or more days. There are biographical sketches of Laura Ingalls Wilder, Clare Marie Hodges (California native and female park ranger), Judy Blume, Fannie Farmer, and others. This part also shares recipes, some quite creative, and games are also included. Part 3 includes a number of outdoor skills: first aid, map reading, weather essentials, risks on land and water, plus a bio of Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross. Finally, this last part has a section on sharpening observational skills.

*A Girls Guide to the Wild* is inspiring and offers engaging activities for girls based on each chapter, and role-model adventurers for motivation. There is a section on resources that will keep the fun going beyond the summer. The guide provides many opportunities for parents and girls to explore nature together. The companion journal is an expansion of the book and includes additional games, activities, and pages for diary entries.

These two books have the enthusiastic endorsement of Chris’ two granddaughters, ages 10 and 12. They love these books. The guides have helped them develop their skills in hiking, camping, and exploring their neighborhood.

**Christina Varnava, Graduate Student**

Hello! I’m a third-year master’s student here at California Botanic Garden. I’m originally from Ventura, California, near the coast. It took me a while to realize I wanted to study botany, even though I have always loved nature. I first became interested in studying plants through working at a tropical plant nursery in Ventura. I loved learning how to propagate plants and seeing how incredibly resilient they can be. I became curious about the way these plants functioned and kept pestering my boss with questions like, “How does a plant know which way is up?” He finally just encouraged me to take a plant biology class. Though I was studying sociology at the local community college, I enrolled in a botany course. After that semester I changed my major. From there I finished my associates degree and went to Cal Poly Pomona for my bachelor’s. I helped a graduate student there with a small floristic study in the San Jose Hills near Cal Poly and that was how I realized I wanted to study California native plants. I hadn’t known how much plant diversity there was around me until then, but once I saw it, I became fascinated.

Eventually, I found my way to the graduate program here at CalBG and decided to become even better acquainted with the California flora by working on a floristic inventory. If you aren’t familiar with these studies, a floristic inventory involves a broad survey of the plants in a given area. The researcher produces a checklist of the species known from the area and creates pressed specimens for the plants found there. These studies are especially valued for the specimens created, which are housed in herbaria, like ours at CalBG. These voucher specimens, as they are known, are used for many types of research. My study focuses on the Sespe Creek watershed in northern Ventura County, a place with high botanical diversity and many documented rare and threatened species. The watershed is home to several habitat types including chaparral, riparian woodlands,
and coniferous forests, so there are plenty of exciting places to explore. The area was also partially affected by the Thomas Fire in 2017, one of the largest and most intense wildfires in California’s history. As part of my study, I am documenting vegetation that follows fires, even though some fire-following plants are nicer than others (see photo of *E. parryi*, aka poodle dog bush). I am finishing the final stages of my study, which is exciting and challenging. It’s been fun to watch the study come together and to see patterns of plant diversity emerge.
**Board Highlights**

In its coming issues, Oak Notes will be highlighting volunteer board members and committees.

**Horticulture and Research**

**Richard Davis, Volunteer Chair**

My name is Richard Davis and I chair volunteer horticulture and research activities. Volunteer grounds activities operate under grounds director Ashlee Armstrong. Weekly Wednesday workdays from 8:00–11:00 a.m. are done jointly by the horticulture staff and volunteers. Saturday workdays are the first and third Saturdays of the month, 8:00–11:30 a.m. They consist of projects suggested and approved by horticulture staff and are supervised by me. Volunteers may also independently set up individual work programs with the horticulture staff. Volunteers planning to join any of these activities should contact Amanda Behnke, Director of Advancement, so they will be expected. The crews are collaborative and the sessions didactic regarding best horticultural practices.

Those who volunteer to propagate plants work under Bryce Kunzel, Grow Native Nursery director. They prepare plants for restoration and conservation projects, the Garden’s living collection, and our own nursery. GNN will also have opportunities for in-person sales when it opens in the fall. These include sales assistance, plant care, and landscape management.

Volunteers have the opportunity to work in our exceptional herbarium, supervised by its director Mare Nazaire. These positions include specimen preparation and records maintenance.

Volunteers that assist in the research library are supervised by the librarian, Irene Holiman.

Due to the pandemic, positions in plant propagation, the herbarium, and the research library are just gearing-up and working to reinstate their long-term volunteers. Therefore, applications are not being accepted yet. They will keep us posted and we will announce opportunities as things open up.

**Native Designs**

**Linda Prendergast, Chair**

The Native Designs Team is a group of volunteers that produce flower arrangements for events at the Garden and, also, off campus. We work in the east end of the potting shed.

There are basically two teams of Native Designers: those who harvest and condition the cut materials, and those who do the design work (most do both). Typically, the designers follow a prototype made by the team leaders. We work in floral foam and in vases.

We also construct and decorate grapevine wreaths that are sold either at the Fall Plant Sale or online. The proceeds go to the Volunteer Organization and are one of its main sources of income.

Native Designers work on an “as needed” basis. Volunteers are notified via e-mail when help is needed and asked to respond. Harvesting is done two days before an event, and design work (usually) the day before.
before. The plant material harvested varies depending on the time of year and weather.

In a typical year, Native Designs does flower arrangements for Forever California, the summer concerts, the Majestic Oak Dinner, volunteer luncheons, and a myriad of other events. We are a casual and welcoming group, and our door is always open to new volunteers.

**Hospitality Committee**
Susan Starr, Chair

Hi everyone, my name is Susan Starr and I am chairperson of the Hospitality Committee.

Our committee plans and organizes the quarterly volunteer potluck luncheons, annual grapevine work party, and help for bake sales and any other activities that might need volunteer assistance. We meet four times a year, one month before each volunteer luncheon, to ensure that the event is organized and ready to go with appropriate advertisement, themes, supplies, and entertainment, if needed.

We would love to have additional members join our group.

Please feel free to contact me at susanwstarr52@gmail.com.

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**Volunteer Sunset Social**

Monday June 7, 2021 from 4–6 PM, California Courtyard

A favor of a formal reply, if attending, is requested by June 2 for planning purposes. Please email Marla White: Volunteers@calbg.org Your Volunteer nametag will be your ticket for front gate entry into the Garden.

We ask all participants to follow social-distancing policies, including the wearing of masks and following other safety guidelines that are in place. If you have been exposed to Covid recently or are not feeling well, please stay home. As of May 7, 2021, following CDC and LA Co. Dept of Public Health guidelines, fully vaccinated guests may enjoy the Garden mask-free provided that all others in their party are fully vaccinated. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present; we cannot guarantee you will not be exposed during your visit. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the CDC, older adults and guests of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. Guests should evaluate their risk in determining whether to visit. By visiting CalBG, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.
AROUND THE GARDEN

Top left and right: Garden Guides refresher walk, May’21
Middle left and right: Courtyard fountain
Bottom left: Forest Pavilion ceiling
Bottom right: Forest Pavilion walkway