



Volume 38  
Number 4  
December 2019

NEWSLETTER OF THE RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

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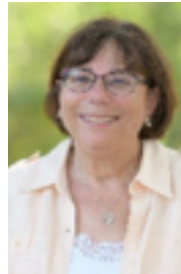
**Oak Notes**

**Editor:** Patricia Brooks

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT Marla White, Volunteer President

*“Keep close to Nature’s heart . . . and break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.”*

— John Muir

Our native California Garden provides us with a respite from the hectic urban location where we spend most of our time. It is an inspiring delight to find a bench, maintained by our intrepid Bench Brigade, and enjoy the quiet and beauty of hidden spaces that the Garden provides.

November has been a month filled with volunteer activities in the Garden. Sixteen volunteers participated in the Santa Cruz Island guided tour and a few even made a weekend out of it by spending the night in Ventura. Many attended the alluvial site groundbreaking for the Forest Pavilion and a heartfelt “Thank You!” to the 61 volunteer families who have donated \$65,200 so far towards completing the project. A few who participated in the dig managed to pop up some “Claremont potatoes” in their effort to start the process.

The Visitor Education Tours bring in scores of children and adults to our summer-weary Garden. Last year the tours hosted almost 5,000 school children and 1,500 adult guests. The Guides have incorporated changes into the two-hour Adaptation & Survival program. They have received positive feedback from the schools as they strive to meet California’s Next Generation Science Standards.

The Acorn Harvest Festival continues to be a favorite with families, as they celebrate our connections to California native plants and the Native American peoples that lived in our area. This year also featured a food truck besides the dancing, craft making, and games. Our Volunteer Manager Kathleen Noll continues to seek new volunteers for our organization and hosted another volunteer information session.

I look forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday morning, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 for the Winter Quarterly luncheon, which will feature wonderful Native Design’s centerpieces for the *Conifer Confab!* Prizes, music, and good conversation with old and new friends awaits us in the Outdoor Classroom.

Thanks for all you do. See you around the Garden!

—Marla

The deadline for articles to be submitted for the January 2020 issue of OAK NOTES is Sunday, December 15. Thank you for your prompt submission!!



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Lucinda McDade, RSABG  
Executive Director**

### A momentous two weeks for the Forest Pavilion project

Hello faithful volunteers of RSABG/readers of Oak Notes:

First, by the time you read this, the Acorn Festival (Sunday, November 17th) will be in the rearview mirror and *many* of you will have helped. THANK YOU. As you know, this festival is a celebration of the know-how, native plant (and animal) knowledge, ingenuity and creativity of the first Californians. The Community Education and Visitor Experience departments have teamed up to plan and implement this event and it will be great! Acorn Festival is preceded by a workshop on Saturday (16th) that is intriguingly titled “**Saging the World**” — it promises to be a full-tilt celebration of our native sages, emphasis on white sage (*Salvia apiana*). I hope many of you will attend.

Second, I want to commend your staff leader, Kathleen Noll, for the program she has established to recruit new volunteers ‘out of season.’ That is, in the past, a would-be volunteer who presented themselves to the volunteer office a few days after volunteer training in September would be told to come back next year. Yes, that is crazy and we can do better! Kathleen has shown us how by scheduling short, after-hours new volunteer information events. Just last night, she recruited three new volunteers for Acorn Fest! Well done!

Coming now to the *Forest Pavilion* and, as we do, pause to *relish* the fact that by this time next year, the East Alluvial Garden will be served by the support building that is being constructed as part of the Forest Pavilion project including: **RESTROOMS!!!** We won’t have to rent (or use) port-a-potties for Acorn Festival!

Two events happened in close series that bring us closer than ever to making the *Forest Pavilion* a reality. First, on the 3rd of November, we held a groundbreaking celebration. Way more than 100 people gathered to help with the groundbreaking and to party. Nature Interpreter Garden Guide Mary Perera (wearing her hat as member of the Major Gifts committee of the Board of Trustees) had the brilliant idea that everyone should have the opportunity to dig. She also supported the acquisition of about 100 shovels for which David Bryant created commemorative stickers to wrap around the handles. When the guests arrived, the shovels were stuck into the ground like pickets forming the perimeter of the pavilion structure. After refreshments and a small amount of speechifying, everyone was invited to come up, take a shovel and dig. Our lead donors, the Lewis Family (Janell, Randall and their daughter Rosie), wearing hard hats, led off and everyone commenced to dig. It was a beautiful and magnificent moment! Two teams of diggers persisted until they had each unearthed a large Claremont potato.



### A Very Happy December Birthday to:

Yvonne Wilson	Mary Lee Otto
Alice Oglesby	Barbara Booth
Judy Bryson	Arlene Medina
Grace Clark	Lisa McCarter
Deborah Woo	Nadja Cole
Rich Griffin	Linda Battram Dorosh
Carol Lerew	

I loved this event because everyone who came had a wonderful time and loved it (as they marched off with their commemorative shovel!). For me, it was also a perfect metaphorical fit to our work culture here at RSABG, which I describe as “we all carry the ice.” That is, regardless of your job description, if you are available to help with something that needs to be done fairly urgently (ice melts), you carry the ice. Likewise, we all dug! It was also ever so special — the building professionals in attendance — the architects, contractors — as well as the Lewises all said they’d never attended a groundbreaking that was as fun and creative. Does that sound like RSABG? It sure does!

The second momentous event for the Forest Pavilion came on Wednesday evening of the week in which I write this article (13th November), when the project went before the City of Claremont’s Architectural Commission. The commission approved the project unanimously and with accolades. They commended the project for harmonizing with the underlying topography of the alluvial site, for its use of sustainable materials, for the graceful design features of the pavilion, and for preserving the vast majority of the trees on site. One of them said that he will be proud to have this facility in Claremont. In a moment of humor, a commissioner who is a landscape architect (and who apparently normally challenges plant choices for landscapes) said that he’d definitely not have anything to say about our planting choices since RSABG is basically the ‘source’ for all things native plant.

In presenting the project Architect Jay Bauer spoke about the alluvial/oak knoll inspiration for the project. He described some of the aspects of the design that harmonize the Forest Pavilion with the site (e.g., the clusters of graceful ‘saplings’ that support the roof — rather than straight boring posts — at least one of these saplings in each cluster will be the color of manzanita bark). In response to a question about the siting of the restroom facility, I explained that it is located to serve the Forest Pavilion very well, while also supporting the entire southern 2/3 of the

East Alluvial Gardens area (including the Tongva Village!). It will also move us along toward making some corrections to our planting scheme in the East Alluvial Gardens.

When the session opened for public comment, James Manifold, Mary Perera and Tim Brayton eloquently supported the project, speaking from their unique perspectives as overseer, Garden Guide & Trustee, and chair of the RSABG Trustees, respectively. Notably, your fellow volunteer Mary Perera spoke passionately about how the project will support our educational programming for children, thus helping to counter the terrible trajectory we are on toward raising indoor children — children who have had next to no experience in or with nature.

What’s next? For ten days, the project is open for public comment as the architects finalize the materials to be submitted to the city for building permits. This last phase may involve some iterations, but we hope it will go smoothly and fairly quickly. And then onward to construction!

Thanks as always for all that you do — you make all that we do together as a Garden possible!



**AMANDA BEHNKE**  
**Director Of Advancement**

### **Give the Gift of Membership! Plant an Acorn!!**

Since starting at the Garden on October 1, I helped kids and some adults make bat crafts, became friends with a previously living opossum, enjoyed the plant sale, and celebrated at the groundbreaking of the Lewis Family Forest Pavilion & Mary K. Pierson Center for Sustainable Gardening. I cannot wait to see what else is to come!



My theme for you this month is to give the gift of membership. Plant an acorn! One of the responsibilities of the Advancement Office is membership. The majority of the funds raised by membership dollars go into our general operating fund, which allows us to maintain the Garden. How amazing would it be if every member found another member to join the Garden? It would be like planting acorns and starting a new forest. I know that we all want the Garden to continue long after we are here. That is only possible through donations and memberships. A strong membership ensures the Garden continues. Tell others that you volunteer. Ask them to become a member to simply support you. The holidays are coming; buy a membership for someone! Give them beauty, peace, relaxation, and fun! You can purchase memberships online at [www.rsabg.org/support/membership](http://www.rsabg.org/support/membership) or call Jenn at 909.625.8767 x 258.

If you have not, my request is that you introduce yourself to me. Let me know what attracted you to the Garden. I'd also love to hear why you continue volunteering. I cannot wait to meet each of you!

I can always be reached at [abehnke@rsabg.org](mailto:abehnke@rsabg.org), 909.625.8767 x 222, or in Office 120.

## VOLUNTEER ENRICHMENT

### Linda Clement

by Matla White,

The Volunteer Enrichment field trip to Santa Cruz Island on 2 November 2019 was a treat for all participants.

Sixteen Volunteers participated in a Channel Island Tour with Island Packers. The 1½-hour cruise from Ventura Harbor to Santa Cruz Island was smooth sailing with playful schools of dolphins chasing in the boat wake. A great day! The seas were very calm (almost flat in some places), especially after all the winds earlier in the week. The temperature on the island was in the mid 70s.



We went on a five-mile, ranger-guided tour over rugged terrain in The Nature Conservancy area. The group split in half with the faster walkers going all way to Pelican Bay. Everyone enjoyed fabulous views and saw dolphins, Island scrub-jays, Island foxes, lupines, and colorful new oak galls. The protection and preservation of Santa Cruz Island is divided between The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service. The Nature Conservancy owns and manages the western 76 percent of the island, while the eastern 24 percent is owned and managed by the National Park Service.



Link to photos of field trip (no captions) at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/RhzdUbnVnymSucak6>

# DIRECTOR OF VISITOR EXPERIENCE

## David Bryant

It was a quiet, sun-dappled late afternoon in the Garden. With the day winding down, the trails were calling me. As I left the Administration Building and curved around the redwoods and sycamores of the western Mesa path, I stopped dead in my tracks. Flitting on furry paws, a bobcat softly pranced through irises and deer grass. The glow of the golden hour illuminated the feline's russet coat into a resplendent tapestry, at once camouflage and wild beauty. Watching this magical creature, the first I had ever seen in my life, was captivating. While just larger than a very large house cat, the serenity of this wild animal and the coincidental chance I encountered him made the moment enchanting. I have heard Tongva elders thank songbirds, raptors, coyotes and other denizens of the chaparral when they appear, these creatures "blessing" humans with their presence. Indeed, witnessing the bobcat as it moved through the brush felt entirely special and imprinted a memory I won't soon forget.

Being able to encounter native animals—whether a bobcat, Anna's hummingbird, western alligator lizard or monarch butterfly—is an incredible aspect of our Garden. With 86 acres of California native plants, it's no wonder that the great diversity and density of native wildlife has invited itself to the flowers and berries, underbrush and canopy of our Garden. I love hearing groups of school children shout that they've earned the squirrel "Grand Slam," an award bestowed to those by our Garden Guides when one finds all three species of resident squirrel on a visit (western gray squirrel, eastern fox squirrel and ground squirrel). Some visitors come just for the birds—hearing about a rare migratory stray or in search for the "hummers," our captivating hummingbirds that dazzle the eye and delight in our water features. In the midst of our Interpretive Master Plan, we are working to spotlight the ways that California native plants support an abundance of California animals. Emphasizing this aspect in displays and signage, as well as creating more opportunity for animal encounters—such as a pollinator garden—has powerful potential to attract and engage visitors. In so doing, they'll leave with the understanding that California native plants are great for wildlife and for us.



## WANDA EWING, VOLUNTEER SECRETARY

I began volunteering at RSABG five years ago when I retired after 42 years of teaching elementary school. I have known about the Garden for many years as I brought my own children when they were young. I also brought my classes of first grade students for the RSABG school tours guided by our wonderful Garden Guides. Encouraged to attend volunteer training by Amy Baumann, Garden volunteer, friend, and my former school principal, I felt that volunteering at the Garden would be a special haven in which to spend quality time. With the many opportunities to volunteer

each year I have discovered fun and interesting ways to contribute to our Garden community. My favorite activity is Native Designs arrangements and wreaths. However, tram driver and wandering through the Garden to tidy the guest benches for Bench Brigade are pleasures as well. Other special events that I enjoy participating in are Things that go Bump in the Night, Acorn Festival, Luminaria Nights, and Brew Wild. My newest role as secretary of the Volunteer Board is very satisfying. I have found that volunteering at RSABG has been an enriching life experience as well as an opportunity to help educate others and preserve our beautiful California native plants. The staff and volunteers are lovely, welcoming people, and it's a joy to witness the children's excitement when they learn how to make a spider web or flying bat at the October family event. Overall, the Garden is a unique and peaceful space to work and walk in nature.

With this article, I invite you to share photos and stories of your animal encounters in the Garden. Let me know your most magical moments and the species you saw. As we begin to develop interpretive materials, these recollections and imagery will help support our endeavors to connect visitors with the habitat value of our state's fabulous native plants. And do let me know if you've seen that marvelous bobcat around!



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

**Kathleen Noll, Manager of Volunteer Programs**

Trees, ponds, and landscapes will be brought to life with hundreds of glowing lanterns, candlelight, and live music at **Luminaria Nights** on Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, December 12–14 and Friday & Saturday, December 20 & 21 from 6–8:30 p.m. We are excited about this winter tradition in the Garden and new ways you may volunteer to help make this a wonderful luminaria season.

**Bagging Crew:** preparing bags with stabilizers and candles. Bagging Parties will take place on Thursday, December 12 from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and again on Friday, December 20 from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Set-up Crew:** The set-up crew is responsible for distributing the hundreds of luminarias around Faye's Meadow and the Cultivar Garden using flatbed carts. Teams include one volunteer to drive the cart and two others following alongside to place the bags on either side of the trail. Set-up is on Thursday, December 12 from 4–6 p.m. and Friday, December 20 from 4–6 p.m.

**Path Guides:** Path Guides monitor the lit paths, checking the assigned area for safety, offering directional information and ensuring guests are having a pleasant experience, and extinguishing luminarias for the evening. Path Guides are needed on Thursday, December 12 from 6–8:30 p.m., Friday, December 13 from 6–8:30 p.m., Saturday, December 14 from 6–9:30 p.m., Friday, December 20 from

6–8:30 p.m., and Saturday, December 21 from 6–9:30 p.m.

**Clean-up Crew:** The cleanup crew is responsible for collecting the extinguished luminarias from paths on Saturday evenings at the conclusion of the event and loading (3) flat beds with the luminarias for recycling. Clean-up Crew volunteers are needed on Saturday, December 14 & 21 from 8–10 p.m.

Additional volunteer opportunities for Luminaria Nights include:

- **Parking Assistants** – guide guests to available parking
- **Entry Assistants** – assist the kiosk staff with greeting guests and providing directional information
- **Cider-Servers** – hot cider service is a favorite of our guests!
- **Bake Sale Volunteers** – support the Volunteer Organization's fundraising efforts by selling baked goods on the patio.

*As a special "Thank You" for your help, you will receive two free tickets for **Luminaria Nights** each time you help! Keep them to use on another night or present them to a friend.*

If you are available to help with any of these volunteer opportunities in December please sign up on Volgistics: RSABG Volunteer Login

- [Log in to Volgistics](#)
- Click "Sign up"
- Select December Calendar
- Select December 12, 13, 14, 20, or 21

You may also email me at [knoll@rsabg.org](mailto:knoll@rsabg.org) or give me a call at 909-625-8767 Ext 256.

I will be happy to schedule you for any of these fun volunteer opportunities! Thank you for your support of our beautiful Garden at Luminaria Nights!

**Coming up: Grapevine Harvest**, Monday, January 20 (Martin Luther King, Jr Day); **Family Bird Festival**, Sunday, February 16.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VISITOR EDUCATION PROGRAM AT RSABG.

**Marla White, Volunteer President**

The Garden's mission is "to promote botany, conservation and horticulture to inspire, inform and educate the public and the scientific community about California's native flora." With the recent passing of Dr. Lee Lenz, RSABG's second Director, I thought I would share with you the origins of the Youth Education Program that he established in 1965. The information was gathered from the *Volunteer Handbook*.

Dr. Lenz engaged Mary Coffeen to supervise the program. She became so inundated with requests for tours that she enlisted some volunteers and started the first training class in 1967. Kenneth Zakar took over the Youth Education Program and developed educational materials; he also started a publication, *The Horned Toad*. Bonnie Busenberg and Barbara Haner became involved in leading the growing volunteer education group. Bonnie developed a substantial set of educational materials with an emphasis on botany, plant characteristics, and identification. The Education Program continued under Lorrae Fuentes, Judy Hayami, and is now led by Community Education Coordinator, Lisa Pritchard.

The HALO Award, a capacity-building effort to strengthen and sustain nonprofit organizations by supporting volunteer organizations and recognizing volunteers who do exemplary work in their communities, was awarded to Cindy Walkenbach and RSABG last year. The 2019 HALO Cohort considered the "Nature Interpreter" moniker a barrier to recruiting new volunteers to the program. They suggested that a rebranding of "NI's" would be helpful in recruitment, as well as with the visiting public. The Visitor Education Committee submitted a name change and supportive discussion that would make our school touring program sustainable in the

future. The Volunteer Board voted in October to change the tour leaders' name to "Garden Guides." We hope this name change will make the position sound less intimidating and attract more volunteers, as they are an important part of the Garden's Mission.

## COME AND SEE WHAT'S NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP!

**Anne Vetterli**



We have some fun items for holiday gift-giving! The Native Plants for Southern California Gardens Flash Cards have been a hot seller, as well as our ever-popular Honey and Jam. Pair a jar of Cinnamon Honey with some environmentally friendly

Bee's Wrap for a nice hostess gift. New to the Gift Shop, are locally made candles inspired by Claremont hiking trails (look for our exclusive Rancho Santa Ana Candle coming soon), as well as some fun earrings made by local Claremont artist, Elizabeth Carr, of Studio C.

Many new books have been ordered, as well as gifts and accessories, and will arrive in time for holiday gift-giving. Hope to see you in the Gift Shop!

## MYCOHETEROTROPHY

**Article by Fred Brooks, Garden Guide  
Photo and credit: Snow plant, by David Iliff, CC BY-SA 3.0**

Plants are autotrophs (auto=self + troph=nutrition). They contain chlorophyll and can make their own food (carbon-based sugar). The rest of us are heterotrophs (hetero=other + troph=nutrition), and except for algae and a few bacteria, we must get our

food (carbon) elsewhere. As our knowledge of this process among organisms increases, however, these differences become less distinct.

Some plants depend on other plants for part or all of their nutrition and are respectively called hemi- or holoparasites. Hemiparasitic mistletoes (*Phoradendron* spp.), for example, contain different amounts of chlorophyll but still depend on their host plants for water and nutrients. These are obtained through short, root-like organs called haustoria that penetrate the host's bark. Dodders (*Cuscuta* spp.) lack chlorophyll and are holoparasites. Their thin, yellow-orange stems grow from the soil and cover the host plant. Haustoria then penetrate the plant and the dodders' roots die. Lacking chlorophyll and roots, dodders are wholly dependent on their host for nutrients.



So far, so good? We also know most plants form beneficial associations with root fungi called mycorrhizae. These fungi spread through the soil, absorb water and nutrients, and then share them with their host plant. In return, the host plant provides the fungus with some of the carbon it needs. There are certain plants with little or no chlorophyll, however, that can attach to the mycorrhiza of another plant. These plants are called mycoheterotrophs (myco=fungus + hetero=other + troph=nutrition) because they take the carbon the mycorrhiza receives from its host plant, giving nothing in return. This parasitic relationship has earned mycoheterotrophs the nickname "mycorrhizal cheaters."

Several plant families contain mycoheterotrophic species, including the snow plant, *Sarcodes sanguinea* (Ericaceae) and ghostplants, *Voyria* spp. (Gentianaceae). Of the 22,000 or so species of orchids (Orchidaceae), about 235 are leafless mycoheterotrophs. Some botanists estimate that many green-leaved, terrestrial orchid species are mycoheterotrophic during certain stages of their life cycle.

## CHESTNUT (*CASTANEA DENTATA* AND *C. PUMILA*)

By Rudi Volti

Photo by Robert Gardner, Bugwood.org

In 1840, Henry W. Longfellow published a poem destined to be memorized by generations of schoolchildren. The opening lines set the scene; "Under a spreading chestnut tree the village smithy stands." Today, in the unlikely event that the building is still standing, it might house a trendy restaurant. The tree, however, almost certainly has been gone for a long time.



American chestnut trees (*Castanea dentata*) once were ubiquitous throughout the East, extending from Maine to Mississippi, and from the Atlantic coast to the Appalachian Mountains and the Ohio Valley. So common were they that in some forests a quarter of all trees were chestnuts.

Large trees are now rare east of the Mississippi River, where the *Cryphonectria parasitica* fungus has caused their near extinction. At the same time, however, small groves can be found in the blight-free West, where settlers planted chestnut trees back in the 19th century. The trees continue to do well in parts of this region where the climate discourages the blight-producing fungus that thrives in hot, humid summer weather. In contrary fashion, however, the world's



largest remaining collection of American chestnuts occurs in the Midwest, where a stand of about 2,500 trees grows on 24 hectares (60 acres) near West Salem, Wisconsin.

The fatal blight first appeared in 1904 in New York City, where it likely was imported with a shipment of trees from Japan. Within a few decades close to four million trees were gone. Nowadays, new shoots continue to sprout from the roots when the main stem dies, so the species has not yet become extinct. But these trees rarely reach more than 6 m (20 ft) in height before blight symptoms reappear.

Where they still exist, chestnuts are stately trees, growing up to 30 m (100 ft) with trunks averaging up to 1.5 m (5 ft) in diameter. Of the twelve members of the genera, two species are native to the United States: the American chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, in the Eastern states; and *Castanea pumila*, the Allegheny chinkapin, (also known as the dwarf chestnut) of the Eastern and Southern regions.

When it flourished, the American chestnut was an important source of food for species such as white-tailed deer, bears, wild turkey, and the now-extinct passenger pigeon. The tree is also important for the soil it is rooted in because its leaves add nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and magnesium, thereby benefiting other trees, plants, invertebrates, and microorganisms that share its habitat. Tellingly, during the demise of the tree, at least five species of insects were driven to extinction.

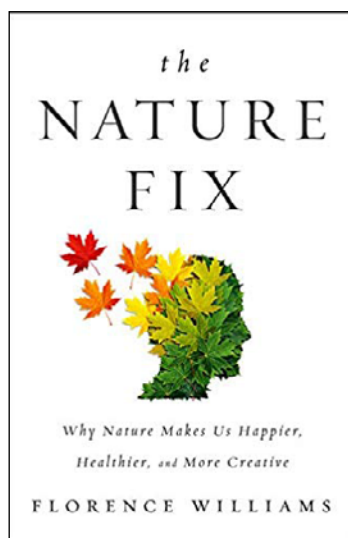
In addition to consuming the nuts for which the tree is known, Native Americans used various parts of the tree to treat ailments such as whooping cough, heart conditions, and chafed skin. Today and in times past, chestnut wood has been valued for carpentry projects. Its strong, straight-grained wood is easy saw and split. Because it grows more rapidly than oaks it has been particularly valuable as a source of commercial timber. Like oaks it is rich in tannins, making its lumber highly resistant to rot. These properties have made it well-suited for furniture, fences, shingles, framing, flooring, piers, plywood, and telephone poles. As

with oaks, the tannin in its bark can be used to prepare leather.

To close on an optimistic note, it can be noted that the demise of the chestnut tree may not be irreversible. In recent years, scientists have employed genetic engineering to produce blight-resistant trees. The project, which has consumed sixteen years so far, has resulted in the development and introduction of a gene that doesn't kill the fungus, but produces an enzyme that detoxifies the acid that otherwise would eventually destroy the tree.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

**Amy Baumann,  
Volunteer Library Committee**



*The Nature Fix* by  
Florence Williams.  
260 pp., W. W.  
Norton & Company,  
2017

Florence Williams' easy-to-read book addresses our modern lives, which have dramatically shifted indoors, and the power of nature to make us happier, healthier, and more creative. The chapters are interspersed with research findings from various professionals including neuroscientists, psychologists, epidemiologists, and others. The results of these studies bear testament to the benefits of a connection to the forces of nature. One of these researchers, David Strayer of the University of Utah, states, "At the end of the day we come out in nature not because the science says it does something to us, but because of how it makes us feel." One major theme of the

book is that the benefits of nature work along a dose curve. Even daily interactions with nature “help us destress, find focus and lighten our mental fatigue.” Every tree helps. “Nature doesn’t have to be pervasive. One tree is an awful lot better than no tree.” More trees, however, are better. Monthly excursions to forests or other restful, escapist, natural areas provide even more health benefits, as pointed out by Japan’s Qing Li in his study of the immune system and forest therapy/forest bathing.

The volunteers at RSAGB already know the powerful renewal that can be found in nature. This book gives many sources of research that offer validation to these intuitions. *The Nature Fix* has encouraged me to remember my family and friends by including plants and memberships to the Gardens on my holiday gift list. What a great way to support our loved ones and RSAGB at the same time.

This book and many others that promote time in nature are available for check out from the Volunteer Library.

## UNIQUE IMAGE APPEARS IN JONES COLLECTION

John Bradley, Research Library Archives Volunteer



Secured in RSABG’s Research Library, the Marcus E. Jones materials form one of the treasures of our Archives and Special Collections. Born in Ohio in 1851, Jones was raised in rural Iowa where he began a lifetime love of botany. This passion led him on expeditions across the western United States and into Mexico in search of plant specimens.

Supplementing Jones’s herbarium resources are voluminous handwritten notes from the field and hundreds of photographs of plant life. It was rare for Jones to photograph people, and most of his pictures show plants in their natural habitats. A unique photo album contains pictures Jones took on a journey throughout northern and central Mexico in 1892. These images, captured on fragile glass negatives by his heavy wooden camera, document his travels to Chihuahua, Zacatecas, Mexico City, Guadalajara, and places nearby.

Because he did not speak Spanish, Jones traveled with an interpreter and a crew of assistants who helped collect and manage a growing trove of plant materials. Near the city of Zapotlan el Grande (known today as Ciudad Guzman) in the state of Jalisco, Jones photographed his workers, who he called *My Outfit*, set against a wide swath of rural terrain. One of the men from this photo was wearing a cape made from leaves. The garment covered his shoulders and upper chest while shielding his back to the knees. This item of indigenous apparel, used to protect the wearer from June rains, is known in Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs, as *iczotilmahitli*. These occasional glimpses of human activity add to the value of his archive as a source of information about bygone cultures and practices.

RSABG requires the following citation for this photo: Reproduced with permission of the Archives of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California, USA.





# GOINGS ON IN THE GARDEN

**Forest Pavilion 1: Volunteers ready to dig the foundation for the Forest Pavilion**

**Hospitality Committee:** Paul Donatello, EmmyLu Weller, Linda Prendergast, Susan Starr (chair), Shaunna Gygli, Judy Moffett

**Garden Guides 3:** (left to right) Alice Olglesby, Joan Presecan, Chris Canapeel, Rich Griffin, (foreground) Kathleen Noll, Amanda Vliestra

**Dia de los Muertos:** Dorcia and John Bradley get into the spirit of the Dia de los Muertos celebration at the Claremont Depot

**Cart driver:** Susan Starr ferrying passengers to the parking lot.







*The pleasure of your company*

IS REQUESTED AT THE VOLUNTEER

**HOLIDAY POT LUCK LUNCHEON**

*“Conifer Confab”*

**WEDNESDAY**

**DECEMBER 11, 2019 AT 11:30 AM**

TRAM WILL START AT 11:00 AM

*Lantz Outdoor Classroom*

*(dress for the weather)*

**THOSE ATTENDING ARE ASKED TO PLEASE BRING AN  
ENTRÉE, SALAD, APPETIZER OR DESSERT.**

**MUSIC! PRIZES!**

*Please wear your name badge and bring your holiday cheer!*

**STAFF WELCOME**