

# Oak Notes

Volume 39  
Number 8  
May 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA BOTANIC GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

**President:** Marla White

**Vice President:** Lynn Miller

**Treasurer:** Paul Donatelli

**Secretary:** Wanda Ewing

**Goals & Evaluations:**

Cindy Walkenbach

**Volunteer Personnel:**

Julie Scheuermann

**Volunteer Library**

**(co-Chairs):** Amy Baumann,  
Barbara Nakaoka

**Enrichment & Field Trips:**

Yvonne Wilson

**Hospitality:** Susan Starr

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**Native Designs:**

Linda Prendergast

**Oak Notes**

**Editor:** Patricia Brooks

**Copy Editor:** Fred Brooks

**Publisher:** Carole Aldrich

**Web Publisher:** Ming Posa



## FROM THE PRESIDENT Marla White, Volunteer President

“In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.”

—Aristotle

Time has been flying by and we're already in May. Mid-April was a beautiful time with the garden at its peak of color and green foliage in abundance. As I wander the Garden, I jot down some of the plants that attract my eye for their color and shape, and also animals (pollinators or birds) that might be in the vicinity. Grow Native Nursery is a great way to purchase plants and support the Garden. I look



forward to their reopening in the fall and wandering the aisles in search of the perfect specimen. I have been shopping local nurseries and home stores and was surprised to see more natives than in past years, I picked up a showy Penstemon to replace a prickly succulent with high hopes of expanding my yard's spring color palette.

The *Los Angeles Times* featured a story recently on building habitats for SoCal birds by planting natives <https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/story/2021-04-15/put-away-your-bird-feeders-the-best-way-to-help-birds-is-by-building-habitat>. The article also links to an Audubon database when you enter your zip code that pinpoints the most bird-friendly plants for your neighborhood <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>. Here is an example of my search (258 hits) using an Inland Empire zip code. Apricot Globe-Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*): Shrubs, Annuals, Perennials. Mockingbirds, Thrashers, Orioles, Sparrows, Vireos, Waxwings, Wood Warblers.

There has been a recent outbreak of salmonellosis that has devastated songbirds. If you have a bird bath, it should be washed out at least monthly with soap, water, and diluted bleach. If we plant enough natives, we will attract the birds naturally and not need bird feeders.

The deadline for articles to be submitted for the June 2021 issue of OAK NOTES is **Saturday, May 15**. Thank you for your prompt submission!

**Volgistics reminder:**  
Please submit your monthly volunteer hours to Volgistics. Every volunteer minute counts.

Wishing you sunny skies as you amble the newly planted, irrigated, and lighted entry into the California Welcome Garden and the less traveled plant communities. Sit a while on one of the volunteer-maintained benches and enjoy the vistas and the passing fauna.

See you soon around our Garden.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Lucinda McDade, CalBG  
Executive Director**

Hello volunteers!

Let me begin by thanking all of you for the important work that you are doing to support California Botanic Garden! Most visible to the staff is the work of the group of you who have helped with the exit surveys. That tremendously important project is going to provide us with extremely useful data to guide the future of the public garden. Thanks also to those of you who are collaborating with the Advancement Office to help with our all-important fund-raising efforts. Thanks to those of you who are beginning to gear back up for normal activities. Garden Guide refresher walks are underway and there are just beginning to be events at which tabling is invited. And of course, thanks to those of you who have kept the important work of the volunteer organization going these 13 months and counting! CROSS fingers that we continue to head in the right direction with regard to the pandemic so that we can continue on the path to resume normal activities.

I hope that you have all visited the Garden recently and, if you have not, get over here soon! We are in the full bloom of spring and, despite our lousy rain this winter (7" at my rain gauge as of mid-April), the Garden is lovely. Kudos to the horticulture team

—Marla

*"Why buy good  
luggage, you only  
use it when you  
travel."*

—Yogi Berra

for their hard work! And next time you come, be sure to take note of the California Welcome Garden - the widened trail between the entrance and Fay's Meadow. It has new lights, an all-new irrigation system, and new plants. As I think you know, the goal is to establish a glorious sample of California native plants at their best and in all seasons - to provide the ideal 'surround' for our welcome sign that informs guests that we are devoted to the native plants of our state and to all the people and other creatures who love them.

By the time that you get this issue of Oak Notes, the California Courtyard should be complete! This wonderful project, made possible by the generosity of the Glanville-Grill Foundation, will create a wonderful space for us for events of all sorts, including our volunteer meetings, lunches and parties. The concrete paving frees us from the horrid DG-colored astroturf that was looking increasingly like burlap bags in the last few years. As part of the project, we have, for the first time, ample power to outlets around the entire periphery of the courtyard. The rain garden on the south edge (together with the perfectly sloping concrete surface) will catch essentially all of the run-off from the courtyard. We anticipate a significant increase in demand for the space for facilities rentals, which will help with the bottom line. Exciting! Be sure to visit the courtyard next time you are at the Garden.

Meanwhile and despite continued delays related to procuring some one-of-a-kind parts (e.g., the parasoleil 'shade' off the front of the Pavilion itself), progress on the Forest Pavilion continues. The support building (aka restrooms) is advancing rapidly now which is *very* exciting to see. The electrician is hard at work on the installation of lights for the Pavilion—we will be able to light the space as suitable for many, many different purposes.





**Above:** Paul Donatelli, Jen Pizzolo, greeters for the Hard Hat Tour.

**Middle:** Julie Scheuermann, Alice Oglesby, leader Phil Majors, and Joan Presecan.

**Bottom:** Shaunna Gygli, Lynn Miller, leader Peter Evans, Grace Clark, Lee Boss, and Herb Boss.

And speaking of the Forest Pavilion, back in latest March, it was excellent to see quite a few of you at the Hard Hat Tour for those who have helped to make the project the reality that it almost is! We had a lovely late afternoon assembling at the palm oasis, and from there headed north through the project site in small groups led by Peter Evans, Phil Majors and myself. I think that everyone was impressed by the progress, and excited now to see the project completed! There was also a great deal of enjoying of each other's company especially among those of us who are fully vaccinated (most in attendance). It was simply nice to see everyone and to catch up a bit.

There is a palpable sense that we are in the final stretch with regard to this pandemic but we are not there yet. As I write, the NY Times website that tracks the pandemic and that keeps track of cases still shows a number of states and areas within states as bright red indicative of high rates of new cases. No one wants to get ahead of this thing and I certainly do not intend to do anything that would endanger you volunteers who are so precious to this Garden. That said, watch your email inbox and this space for

indications of upticks in activity as we will be coming back to programming life!

Stay safe, take good care everyone, and take care of each other!



## **VISITOR EXPERIENCE COORDINATOR Danielle Wildasinn**

The Visitor Experience Department had to say goodbye to Jenna Carpenter in early April. Jenna is a wildlife biologist and received a full time offer from her other job that she gladly accepted! We will miss her in the Kiosk, but we are excited to see what her future holds.

With that said, I am happy to introduce the newest Visitor Experience Associate, Anissa Zuniga! Anissa started training in the kiosk in the middle of April. Please stop by and say hi if you see any unfamiliar faces in the kiosk!

This spring, the Volunteer Organization's PR Committee took on the mighty task of conducting exit interviews for the Interpretive Master Plan. This installment of visitor exit interviews sought to collect data on weekdays and especially weekends—there were some weeks where we had at least one volunteer on site each day conducting these interviews! The surveys gather data from visitors to inform the Interpretive Master Plan with a variety of questions including how visitors heard about the Garden, why visitors came to the Garden, visitor interest in native



**Bev Jack and Dorcia Bradley conduct Exit Interviews**

plants, and visitor demographics. The survey also includes several questions about the Interpretive Master Plan experiments we've deployed in the past year including welcome centers, little plant stories, big idea billboard, and maps. The data from this season's surveys (as well as past seasons' surveys) is analyzed and passed onto our Interpretive Master Plan consultant to inform her plan. I want to take this



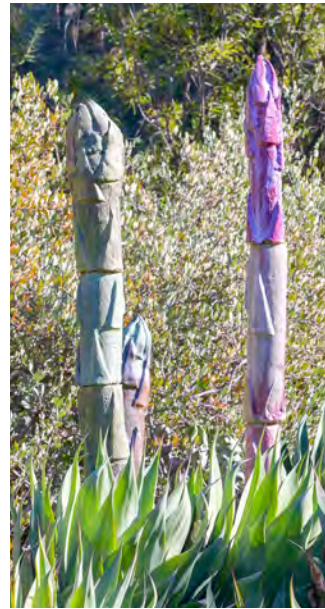
## MOTHER'S DAY:

California Botanic Garden will be honoring Mother's Day by admitting the first 200 moms—based on an advance reservation system—for free! We are also promoting Mother's Day by offering gift memberships.

Thanks to Native Designs, we will be offering a lovely small bouquet for moms in association with a gift membership for mom at any level. The bouquet will cost only an additional \$10 and is a limited edition! As you know, it has been a very dry "wet" season and our wonderful Native Designs volunteers have had limited materials to work with.

In the future, we intend to contemplate reinstating Mother's Day Brunch, ideally in association with one of our approved caterers.

time to thank the volunteers on the PR Committee for completing over 200 exit interviews in just under two months!



*Clayifornia: Ceramic Sculpture in the California Sunshine* has been extended through Sunday, May 30. Last month, Grayson Fair (Artist in Residence at AMOCA Ceramics Studio) joined me for a live, virtual tour of the sculptures in the Cultivar Garden. We had a ton of fun talking about the sculptures, plants, and art techniques currently on display in the Cultivar Garden! The recording is

available to watch on AMOCA's YouTube channel – you can find it on our Digital Content Blog on our website. Grayson will join Carrie Kiel (Postdoctoral Fellow here at CalBG) in early May to do another live tour of the sculptures in a different part of the Garden. You can register to watch the live tour for free on the Events & Classes page on our website or watch it back afterwards on YouTube.



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

**Kristen Barker, Coordinator**

Hello All,

Hope you have all been able to stop by the Garden for a visit! It seems like every week there's another plant in bloom!

We are still in the midst of Wildflower Month and have enjoyed seeing visitors take part in the Wildflower Passport activity. Midway through the



month, the Admissions staff have already handed out over 300 passports! Danielle Wildasinn is enjoying all the wonderful photos coming in for the Wildflower Photography contest and we are looking forward to selecting our winners! Next week, on April 22, we are looking forward to a talk led by graduate student Maria Jesus, who will be discussing wildflower bloom-and-bust cycles. Also, I hope you all were able to enjoy the Wildflower of the Week videos led by Maria and Keir Morse. They are all available on the Digital Content page <https://www.calbg.org/visit/blog> of the CalBG website.

Looking into May, we are excited to be offering another Arrange Wild workshop with the expert guidance of Linda Prendergast. Join us on Mother's Day weekend, May 8, for a wonderful afternoon of native plant arranging. If you are interested in learning about how to ethically collect and save seeds from the native plants in your garden, join us on May 15 as Cheryl Birker and Steven Valdez lead us through how and when to collect, best practices for cleaning and storing, and how to germinate your seeds when the time is right.

Also, check out the activity worksheets available on the Learning @ Home page <https://www.calbg.org/events-programs/learn-at-home> of the website.

Thanks to the help of Vanessa Ortega and Alejandra Soto, they are now available in Spanish!

## BRUSHES, SPRAYS, AND RAGS, OH MY!

by Marla White

The Bench Brigade has been out in force even in the face of COVID restrictions. The team currently consists of Amy Baumann, Gene Baumann, Herb Boss, Lee Boss, Wanda Ewing, Kathy Henkins, Virginia Herd, Lucy Huang, Gordon Olson, Kathy Roth, Susan Starr, Susan Spradley, Katina Vlastos, and the newly appointed leader, Julie Scheuermann. The crew maintains scores of benches scattered throughout the garden.

A bucket, brush, toothbrush, rags, and three spray bottles (diluted EVCO, diluted Murphy's Oil Soap, Water) are the tools of their trade. Supplies for the task are located in the Kiosk, Lenz Classroom, and in Maintenance. Rags are also provided by the Garden or by volunteers and washed weekly. Each bench takes 15–20 minutes to complete. The Procedure is as follows:

1. Brush bench to remove debris, leaves, and cobwebs
2. Spray EVCO to clean off stuck-on debris, and then wipe down



The Bench Brigade: left to right, Susan Starr, Katina Vlastos, Katina Vlastos and Herb Voss.

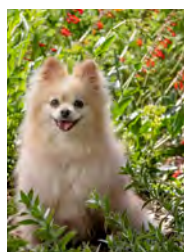
3. Spray water to clean off sanitizing solution, and then wipe down
4. Spray Murphy's Oil Soap, and then wipe down.

Created by a master carpenter, the benches are made of redwood and have a life expectancy of 20 years. The minimum donation for a bench is \$10,000, which includes installation, annual maintenance, and an optional engraved bronze plaque. Bench donations are fully tax deductible.

Volunteers enjoy their commitment to making a visible difference in the Garden by maintaining these places to rest, contemplate, and enjoy the settings.



**DIRECTOR OF  
ADVANCEMENT**  
**Amanda Behnke**



Due to the pandemic, the annual gala could not be held this year. Like last year, we recruited some sponsors and got even more creative with Dog Days. Dog Days allows families to bring their dogs to the Garden for up to 13 weeks on Mondays when the Garden is closed to the public.



Dragon Fly by Deb Woo. Oak Notes wants to recognize all the lovely photos that Deb has contributed throughout the year. This was a photo she put on her favorite list. And I do think it is smiling.

We also sent a mailer to almost 10,000 Garden families. We raised over \$120,000 prior to the mailing. At this time, we have raised more than \$135,000, which was our goal.

Memberships have been on the rise. We currently have over 3,600 member households. Buy a gift membership for someone you love and introduce them to the Garden.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA INDIANS, PART 3

by Shaunna Gygli

At the turn of the 20th century only 6,536 of the remaining 16,000 California Indians were living on reservations. Pan-Indian groups and landless Indians did receive an allotment from public lands and 14 reservations were set aside. However, Indians in Orange and Los Angeles counties did not receive land because of the value of coastal real estate.

From 1921 to the present, Pan-Indian groups, tribes, and self-help organizations brought law suits against the federal government. In 1944, a settlement of \$17 million was awarded. However only \$5 million was



### A Very Happy May Birthday to:

Chuck Burt	Bruce Ingham
Linda Clement	Stephen Simon
Dennis Frankeberger	Robert Swank
Margaret Gallagher	Dawn Thielo



distributed to 36,000 Indians, or \$150 per capita! All other claims were then consolidated into one claim and an offer of \$29 million was made for 64,425 million acres of tribal land (\$.47 per acre!). In 1968, each of the 65,000 Indians received \$600!

A new policy called “termination” was made to transfer the authority for reservations from the federal government to the state of California. In 1958, the Rancherias Act allowed tribes to divide communal tribal land into parcels. The state agreed to upgrade squalid housing, pave roads, and build bridges and water projects in return for a vote to terminate the previous federal authority. Twenty-three reservations and rancherias were terminated. High unemployment, medical needs, and low educational achievement resulted in many being forced to sell their parcels. Bureau of Indian Affairs services like health care were ended. The Termination Policy resulted in these tribes becoming more impoverished and desperate.

In 1968, Alcatraz Island was occupied by 100 American Indian college students. This new generation was committed to tribal sovereignty, to the value of ceremonies, to language retention, and to the exercise of indigenous religious practices. They made it known that many Indians were landless, had been swindled, and that some tribes had never been recognized by the federal government. They were living in desperate poverty and unemployment.

The state legislature created the Native American Heritage Commission in 1978. This is an all-Indian commission that acts as a liaison between state, federal and tribal governments. They have protected Indian burial sites and sacred places and gained access to government land so native plants could be harvested. Federal repatriation laws were passed that required certain museums to return sacred or culturally significant items and human remains to tribal descendants. The commission helps in this process. It was instrumental in reversing the termination policy for rancherias and reservations and is helping tribes pursue federal recognition.

Both federal and state economic development plans have been a total failure. Thirty reservations and

rancherias have established gambling on their lands. Few private investors outside the gaming industry have come forward to work with the tribes. With few choices, reservation leaders see gaming as an interim step toward economic independence.

Native People are working to preserve their culture. Basket weavers are ensuring that basketry plants aren't sprayed with insecticide. Dams have been dismantled allowing salmon to return to spawn. Tribes are restoring and managing 3,845 acres of redwood forest (Sinkyone Intertribal Wilderness) adjacent to the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Indians are demanding that solar developers heed traditional cultural uses of the land. Tribes and environmental groups are fighting K2 Gold Corp's plan for an open-pit gold mining operation in the Owens Valley. California Indians have been and are hard-working, determined, and resilient under the most terrible circumstances.

## SPRING WILDFLOWERS

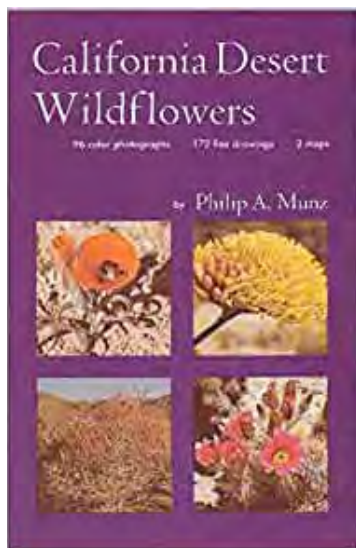
by Chris Ilgen and Amy Baumann

Spring is the perfect time to brush up on your wildflower identification skills.



Wildflower ID made easy: *Wildflowers of the San Gabriel Mountains* by Ann and Gerald Croissant, Stevens Press, 2007. A second edition of this guide was published in 2015 and is available from the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy. It features Shirley De Braal's high-resolution photos of the flowers, both close-up and in their native habitats. Organized by flower color, wildflowers are easy to

locate because the page edges are bound in the same color as the flower.

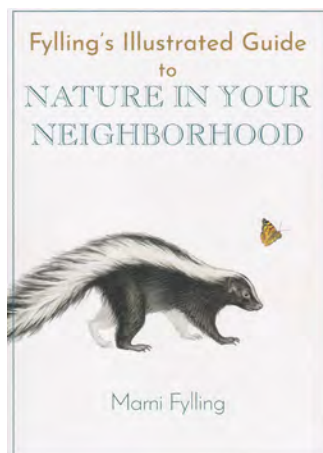


Another guide, *California Desert Wildflowers* by CBG's own Philip Munz, is a scholarly field guide that describes more than 400 wildflowers. It was originally published in 1961. A 2004 revised edition includes 244 new color photographs, 77 detailed drawings, and information on where flowers are likely

to be seen.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

**Joan Sweeney, Volunteer  
Library Committee**



*Fylling's Illustrated  
Guide to Nature in  
Your Neighborhood*  
By Marni Fylling, 125 pp.,  
Heyday Books 2020

"It's easy to assume you have to travel to find nature, but there is more outside your door than you might realize. Each plant and animal in your neighborhood, as ordinary as it may seem, is beautifully adapted to its life near humans—and may hold a surprise or two."

Marni Fylling, the author and illustrator of this field guide, first began exploring nature when she was a child "in a tiny backyard in Sacramento." She has a BS degree in zoology from UC Davis and a graduate certificate in natural science illustration from UC Santa Cruz.

She describes common urban and suburban plants and animals found across the United States and their strategies for survival. Her clear and informal writing style is enjoyable to read and reveals the delight she takes in her work. Detailed, full-color illustrations make identifying the subjects she writes about easy for the reader. Each subject is labeled with its scientific name, and there is an appendix of scientific and common names in the back of the book.

Marni Fylling writes that most of the "little marvels" she treasured as a child were not native to California. Across the country, flora and fauna were introduced, either intentionally or accidentally, by people. Even if we are now more aware of the impact we have on nature, we still have a huge influence on the animals and plants that share our houses and yards.

"Put away your cell phone, walk outside and take a look...Refresh and expand your world by learning something new about a plant or animal you've been familiar with your whole life," she advises.

I discovered this little book last fall and gave it to several relatives and friends for Christmas.

## ROBERT COMITO, GRADUATE STUDENT



I am a second-year PhD student here at the Garden, which also serves as the botany department of Claremont Graduate University. I was born and raised in southern California and realized from an early age that I was interested in learning about the

natural world. After high school, I ventured to northern California, pursuing my Bachelor of Science in Molecular Environmental Biology from the University of California, Berkeley. While there, I developed a passion for plants. I assisted in the Dodd lab, where we researched the population genetics of trees, especially California oaks.

I began my research at CalBG in the fall of 2019, after receiving a Master of Science in Biology from California State University, Long Beach. There, I met





Pressing plants with our group after a tree plot survey.

my advisor Dr. Amanda Fisher. She did post-doctoral research at the Garden and continues to collaborate with CalBG's Director of Research, Dr. Lucinda McDade, and CalBG's Research Assistant Professor, Dr. Carrie Kiel. They are working to illuminate the evolutionary history of the tropical plant family Acanthaceae, a group known for its showy bracts and explosive capsule fruits. Within this family, my research is focused on understanding diversity within the subgroup Barlerieae, which is one of the major Acanthaceae lineages most in need of further study. In molecular systematics, we use DNA to reconstruct evolutionary history and establish relationships among species. This in turn provides a framework for researching other important topics, ranging from biogeography to reproductive biology. In the face of a globally catastrophic decline across a broad range of species, especially tropical flora, the characterization of biodiversity is increasingly important. These plants perform essential ecosystem services, including supporting a broad range of animal pollinators. They also hold within themselves an invaluable record of our living planet.

In addition to my research on Barlerieae, I am pursuing a conservation genetics study of Ross's pitcher sage, *Lepechinia rossii*, a critically imperiled

species found only in southern California. It faces threats from invasive species, changes in fire regimes, power line maintenance, and petroleum exploration. I hope to provide important baseline biological knowledge to inform current and future conservation efforts.



Me in a cloud forest reserve next to a large *Gunnera* sp. leaf.



*Barleria cristata* is the type species of Barleria, the largest genus in Barlerieae (Cal State Long Beach greenhouse)

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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

## GOALS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

**Cindy Walkenbach, chair and past volunteer president**




I serve as a non-voting member of the Volunteer Organization as its past president and now chair the Goals and Evaluation Committee. The stated purpose of the committee is to propose long-range goals and make recommendations for improvements to the Volunteer Organization. In actuality, there has not always been a functioning committee; so frequently the head of the committee has been the Volunteer Organization's past president. However, in 2017 the Volunteer Organization received a grant from the Carl and Roberta Deutsch Foundation to strengthen the organization by improving the recruitment, training, and retention of volunteers, with special emphasis on those willing to become Garden Guides. Marla White, Julie Scheuermann, Yvonne Wilson, Kathleen Noll, Judy Hayami, and I formed a team to carry out the tasks. COVID-19 and the resulting lockdown of the Garden changed many of our plans. While Kathleen and Judy are no longer with us, we are still working toward meeting those long-term goals. Last year I revised and updated the Volunteer Handbook, which can serve as a training tool for new volunteers once it is safe to return to the Garden. Julie implemented the volunteer software management system Volgistics (purchased with grant money) and trained volunteers on its use. Yvonne and her committee have provided wonderful enrichment

activities to keep volunteers learning and engaged, and Marla has done an outstanding job keeping us in touch with one another through social media and frequent email updates. We all look forward to the time when we can actively recruit and train new volunteers.

## OAK NOTES

by Patricia and Fred Brooks



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**FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
**Marla White, Volunteer President**

*"As a Nation and a people we have been going through changes, some of them hard to take.... We have learned to be a little sad and a little lonesome, without being sickly about it.... There are things we love that we're going to have [again] if the breaks are not too bad against us."*

—Carl Sandburg, in the Chicago Times.

Sandburg's quote from 1942 is not vastly different from the sentiments we feel in early spring 2021. In the year since COVID-19 restrictions began we have faced many challenges and changes in our own lives and at CalBG. Aristotle's statement, "In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous," rings true as I wander the mesa and Alluvial Gardens noticing the colorful diversity of plants scattered amongst the Clayfornia exhibit and observe the progress of the Forest Pavilion structures.

March rains have prompted a bloom in the Garden. Manzanitas, monkeyflowers, Ceanothus, currants, poppies, Penstemon, Heuchera, and sugar bush are all in their glory right now. There are local resources for information. If you are on Facebook try Southern California Native Plant Gardeners <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=southern%20california%20native%20plant%20gardeners> or local branches of California Native Plant Society <https://www.cnps.org>.

With the loosening of county health restrictions, I am grateful for the return of Garden Guide refresher walks and the company of old friends. Virtual classes continue with Volunteer Enrichment with Horticulturist Ashlee Armstrong (TBA), Mare Nazaire's plant collection and specimen preparation (April 10 and 17), and CGU graduate student Maria Jesus's virtual tour of wildflower hotspots (April 22). Consult these websites for latest updates on wildflower blooms in California [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=30077](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30077) and many links in <https://modernhiker.com/best-wildflower-info-for-california-hiking/>

Our website <https://www.calbg.org> remains a fluid, informative resource for Volunteers, from What's Beautiful Today photos, current exhibits, classes, GNN, the online store, and digital content archived resources. Thanks to CalBG staff Danielle Wildasinn and Ming Posa for their efforts updating the website.

I look forward to seeing you around the California Botanic Garden soon.

—Marla

The deadline for articles to be submitted for the May 2021 issue of OAK NOTES is **Thursday, April 15**. Thank you for your prompt submission!

**Volgistics reminder:** Please submit your monthly volunteer hours to Volgistics. Every volunteer minute counts.

The *Oak Notes* newsletter is a connection among volunteers, volunteer committees, and staff. Its guidelines are based on those refined by Louise and



David Gish during their six years as co-editors. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, emails are sent to potential contributors as a reminder that articles and photos are due on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of that month. We then collect, label, and edit all submissions and photos and compress them into “zip” files. These files are sent to our publisher, Carole Aldrich, who arranges them in a newsletter format and saves it as a PDF. She then sends us a “proof” that we check for content and correctness and return to her. Carole makes any needed changes and the “final” PDF is ready for the website. The CalBG webmaster uploads the newsletter and we contact the volunteer president to alert *Oak Notes* readers of its posting.

The final task at the end of each month is to thank our contributors. This is most important, because *Oak Notes* is only as interesting and informative as their contributions. We are always researching ways to expand the newsletter’s content and welcome your

suggestions. If you are interested in participating, please contact Patricia Brooks at [pbrooks2409@gmail.com](mailto:pbrooks2409@gmail.com).

## VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

**Julie Scheuermann**

The Volunteer Personnel Committee supports the California Botanic Garden staff in the recruitment, orientation, placement, training, evaluation, and recognition of volunteers. Records of volunteer service hours and membership categories using Volgistics are maintained under the supervision of this committee.

The committee meets as needed to discuss volunteer personnel matters. Recommendations are made to the volunteer board regarding the recognition of exemplary volunteers and updating of volunteer lists.



Turtles are back in the Benjamin Pond.



# AROUND THE GARDEN

Top left: California Welcome Garden

Bottom left: Forest Pavilion concrete

Top right: Courtyard from the second floor

Middle right: Forest Pavilion ceiling

Bottom Right: Courtyard water feature

