It doesn't quite feel like fall this year. It seems a bit warmer than usual, even though it's normal to have a few days of Indian summer in October. But the return of Things that go Bump in the Night made up for any unusual weather. I don't know who was happier or more excited to experience the return of this popular event—those who attended, or those who volunteered the two evenings. Adults and children alike lined up with flashlights in hand, anxiously awaiting their turn to register and get their passports. And now we have the magical nights of Luminaria to look forward to. Volunteering doesn't get any better than this.

It might be just my imagination, but time seems to speed up from Halloween to New Year’s. All year long I’m looking for fun and unique little gifts to put in my family’s “glitter bags.” The glitter bags are simply red paper gift bags. I write the name of my son, my daughter-in-law, or my two granddaughters on a bag with Elmer’s glue and then cover the glue with gold and silver glitter. The bags replaced stockings many years ago when my son informed me Megan and Samantha were getting confused that Santa was visiting my house as well as theirs. So, I came up with the idea of the glitter bags, and since then grandma gets credit for all the little gifts instead of Santa. Every year I find several gifts at our wonderful Poppy Shop, and I think you may, too!

Now that CalBG is bringing back its popular events, and added new ones, there is so much opportunity to volunteer. I hope you will consider signing up for one of the many opportunities. Getting to know your fellow volunteers is one of the perks of supporting the Garden. And maybe you will be inspired to join one of the many volunteer committees. Being on a committee really enriches one’s connection to CalBG and its mission. We are so fortunate to have this wonderful and amazing venue in our midst. I look forward to seeing more of you!

—Betsy
Hello volunteers!

As I write, we are experiencing one of those heat waves that we get in the early fall—typically—although this year has been anything but typical. Can’t wait to see what happens next!

I want to thank all of you: THANKS! for volunteering for Bump. For many of us, it is a favorite and I cannot imagine that you do not agree with me that it was absolutely wonderful this year. Jennifer and her staff and other helpers did a wonderful job of bringing back old favorites while also not being shy about inventing new activities and attractions. I am thrilled that it had considerably more plant content this year than often in the past. We are after all a botanic garden. It was a major hit with sell-out crowds both evenings. Owing to our improved facilities and expanded lighting, we were able to use more of the Garden than in past years such that the crowd felt entirely manageable (easy for me to say!). Please be sure to provide feedback and suggestions for the future and thanks again for volunteering in whatever capacity you did so.

Thanks also for volunteering for the launch of the GNN sales season. I am still sad that I missed it—for the first time in 17 years. I heard great reports about how smoothly it all ran and I am looking forward to a great season for GNN. Kudos to Mariana Rodriguez for her leadership in pulling off this major event for us.

Which brings me to where I was: I am on the Board of Trustees of the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC)—a consortial group of which we are a founding member. The Board met in Boston at the Arnold Arboretum where the CPC was founded 40 years ago. The board meeting was accompanied by other activities including a “Summit” at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, where I was a panelist, and a field trip day of visits to relevant locations around Boston. (Parenthetically, the traffic in Boston is, I think, at least as bad as around here.) I then took a couple of days to visit friends and colleagues in the Amherst area, including a person I went to grad school with who now teaches at Smith College and two of my former Ph.D. students from the University of Arizona who both teach at Amherst College. I have seen none of them since before COVID and it felt very good to be back in personal contact! And in case you are wondering: the fall color was good but not yet great.

I also want to thank you in advance for volunteering at Luminaria. As you know, this is a major event for us! With one wildly successful year under her belt, Lauren Stoebel is working on finessing the event and has some great ideas and plans. Please help if you are able!

This brings me to say again how happy I am that Patty Nueva España is with us as volunteer program coordinator. Among many things that she is doing, Patty will be planning a recruitment session for new volunteers. It is very apparent to us that we need to recruit new volunteers! Owing to COVID, we have not recruited anything like a regular ‘class’ of volunteers since 2019, which is NOT to say that we are not thrilled by the volunteers who have added to your ranks even though we’ve not been able to

### A Very Happy November Birthday to:

- Amy Baumann
- Fred Brooks
- Betty Butler
- Donna Chadwick
- Barbara Coates
- Louise Gish
- Virginia Herd
- Chris Ilgen

- Bridget Marshall
- Patty Nueva España
- Anne Odgers
- Joan Presecan
- Jean Rosewall
- Dean Shimek
- Tom White
provide them with the full training/orientation that we have normally afforded new volunteers. We are looking to do a session for new recruits early in 2024. And here is a question for you: if you experienced personally and/or know of the various training programs that we have tried in the past and have opinions as to which worked best/what the pros and cons were, please let us hear from you. Send me (lmcdade@calbg.org) or Patty your input (pespana@calbg.org). As we go forward, we’ll be seeking the sweet spot on the spectrum of too little to way too much information about our Garden and programs.

Meanwhile, we wonder what the winter will bring…. Whatever it brings weather-wise, I hope it will bring YOU early and often to the Garden. Whether for volunteering or just enjoying our super special Garden, you help to make our Garden the terrific resource that it is!

—Lucinda

Things that Go Bump in the Night
by Sally Hy, Community Education Coordinator

Things That Go Bump in the Night returned this past October with resounding success! Both nights were completely sold out with a total of over 1,600 guests. Excited groups of friends and family showed up with their flashlights, lanterns, and glowsticks ready to explore the nocturnal world of plants and animals.

Bump in the Night isn’t just a fun, family-friendly event where people take cool photos with plants and animals, it’s a time when we can engage the public in conversations and activities that inform and educate them on native California flora and fauna. While we’ve had no problem exploring the fauna during past Bump events, our team this year wanted to highlight the native California flora by incorporating more aspects of it. This was implemented through our new Night Garden Adventure, where guests traveled through stations in the Cultivar Garden that encouraged them to learn about our California native plants, especially carnivorous, parasitic, and poisonous ones! Guests created their own pollinator finger puppet, spun a wheel to guess a plant’s toxicity level, identified plants based on their smell, rolled some giant glow-in-the-dark dice to create their own parasitic plant host, guessed plants based on feel/touch versus sight, and learned about carnivorous plants as they took photos in a photobooth built by our very own graduate student, Perri Lee.

As you know, it takes a large team of volunteers, staff, and graduate students to plan, prepare, and execute such a large-scale event. A special thanks to the entire Visitor Engagement team: Jennifer Scerra, Lauren Stoebel, Patty España, Nathan Peterson, Peri Lee Pipkin, Charles Boissavy, and myself (Sally). Other departments made significant contributions as well, including maintenance, horticulture, and the advancement and kiosk staff. And of course, a great big thank you to all the volunteers that came out to help with the event. Whether you prepared crafts, set-up stations, worked an activity station, or helped clean up afterwards, we cannot even express how invaluable you were to making both nights such a huge success!

Thoughts, suggestions, and feedback are always welcomed. Please send those to registrar@calbg.org. We hope to see you all again next year!
Meet the CalBG Graduate Students!

Oak Notes is currently featuring the newest cohort of Botany graduate students. In this issue, we introduce Garrett Goodrich, a first-year master’s student who will be completing a floristic inventory for their thesis project.

Garrett Goodrich, Master’s Student

I grew up around Claremont, California, and have been enamored with plants since I was young. Although I frequently went camping and hiking in southern California during my childhood, it was only when I went to New York for my undergraduate education that I fully appreciated the remarkable diversity of California’s plants. While attending Vassar College I double majored in Biology and Women, Feminist, & Queer Studies, exploring a variety of approaches to plant research including restoration ecology, plant ecophysiology, invasion biology, biodiversity collections management, and feminist science studies.

My work included three years of applied work on The Preserve at Vassar, a year of herbarium digitization, and a senior thesis on the topic of queer botany. While I’ve become familiar with—and incredibly fond of—the native plants of New York’s Hudson River valley, I am excited to return home to California and learn more about the plants that sparked my passion for botany.

For my master’s thesis, I am writing a flora of the Jennie Lakes Wilderness and Evans Grove Complex in Fresno and Tulare Counties. This unique study site is surrounded on three sides by Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and boasts nine giant sequoia groves, six glacial lakes, and numerous meadows, all spanning an elevational range of 5,000 feet. The area has been heavily impacted by fire in recent years, including major events in 2010 and 2015 that together affected about 50% of my study site. Although fire is a well-documented necessity for the regeneration of giant sequoia groves, the recent increase in the frequency and intensity of fires may pose potential risks to both the sequoias themselves and the remarkable diversity of rare species that grow in their vicinity. Despite its close proximity to national parks, my study area is relatively understudied botanically, which will make future assessments of community change difficult. I hope to provide a clear baseline for future research in the area with my flora, working alongside the other researchers and organizations currently stewarding the region to advance our understanding of these plant communities.

Acorn Member’s Presale at the GNN

by Jen Pizzolo, Interim Director of Advancement

On Wednesday, October 11th, CalBG Acorn Members were invited to an exclusive reception and presale at California Botanic Garden’s Grow Native Nursery. This event is planned by the Advancement Office to
thank our Acorn Members for their support of the Garden. Special thanks go out to the CalBG Volunteer Organization, the Grow Native Nursery team, the Horticulture team, and the Maintenance team for helping us plan this very popular annual event.

At the Acorn Presale, Acorn Members enjoyed a first look at the seasonal opening of the Grow Native Nursery. They also received a special reception sponsored by As You Like It catering. In addition, they had the opportunity to request a personal shopper to help them pick the right plants for their home landscapes!

The Acorn Presale is one of the most anticipated membership events of the year. As always, CalBG volunteers were there to help. From tending the bar to loading plants, CalBG volunteers helped make this event a huge success.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this very popular event!

**The Eclipse**
by Patricia Brooks

On opening day of the GNN, many visitors used special safety lenses to view a partial solar eclipse. If the eclipse had been total, the moon would have covered all of the sun except for a “ring of fire” around the edges. Others saw crescent images of the partial eclipse as it filtered through a leaf canopy: the pinhole camera effect (photo).

**Garden Guide Breakfast**
by Marla White

Many attended the kickoff Garden Guide breakfast. It was an opportunity to gather and review our activities for the adult and student tours. New volunteers were encouraged to shadow veteran GGs on their scheduled tours. More GGs are needed, however. To learn more, please contact Jennifer Scerra at jscerra@calbg.org for more details.

**Floral Displays by Native Designs**

This is one of 30 centerpieces that Native Designs created for the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art gala fundraiser, held at the old train station on September 23, 2023. The volunteers’ work on this project earned $900 for CalBG.

**Thank you, Volunteers**

Patty Nueva España, Volunteer Program Coordinator

A revamped Things That Go Bump in the Night returned for many to enjoy after a long four-year hiatus. This was really the Garden’s first big event in a long time, and was the public ever ready for it to come back! A few of you volunteers were on hand Friday and Saturday nights to engage in fun interactions with the public. At the Crawly Court, kids were encouraged to make spider webs, while families visiting the Night Garden Adventure learned about poisonous, parasitic, and carnivorous plants. In the Owlery, there was a chance to dissect owl pellets as others went on night hikes through the Garden’s communities. Some visitors just relaxed and answered trivia questions. For all of you who were a part of the
action, give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done—it couldn’t have happened without you.

Then just a short week later, was the Grow Native Nursery Plant Sale (It’s been busy at the Garden) and again some of you were on hand helping members and the public get their plants from the display tables to their cars. A rather tricky process, I might add. There was a steady stream of customers on Saturday, while Sunday was a lot quieter. I know the staff really appreciated having the volunteers available to help the process go smoothly.

**Save the Date:**

**The Volunteer Sunset Social:** Wednesday, November 1, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please come to the Garden for a relaxing time with your fellow volunteers. It will be a chance for all of us to spend a comfortable afternoon mixing and mingling. There will be light refreshments on hand and you can enjoy them with a glass of wine or beer. The Social will take place in the California Courtyard.

**Coming Up:**

**Luminaria Nights:** December 8, 9, 10, 15 and 16. Look for sign-ups coming to Volgistics very soon.

**November in the Garden**

by Laura Christianson

The crisp mornings of November bring exciting changes to the Garden. Many of our deciduous trees begin to drop their leaves in true fall fashion. Look for the beautiful leaf colors of our native maples, deciduous oaks, and sycamores. In a “usual” year, most of our buckeyes (*Aesculus californica*) would have shed their leaves months ago, but due to the additional moisture this year the buckeyes on the mesa have been holding fast. In November, however, they should all be leafless, showing off their eerie but beautiful white bark and dramatic form, and weighed down with large buckeye seeds. Some of the most architectural buckeyes are found in our Communities section along the Loop Trail.

Also on the Loop Trail, *Arctostaphylos refugioensis* is the first of our *Arctostaphylos* species (manzanitas) to glitter in white, chandelier-esque blooms this month. Three *Arctostaphylos refugioensis* also decorate our California courtyard, though these have been blooming since September! *Baccharis pilularis* (coyote bush) sets seed into November for a show of big, white, fluffy plumes. As our windy season starts, you’ll often find seeds drifting through the air on the Mesa’s west path where large *Baccharis* line the outer fencing of our Cultivar Garden.

November brings about a chorus of Baja California tree frogs, whose breeding season starts this month...
and continues into July. An early morning visit may
give you a glimpse of this small, local amphibian
hopping across pathways or tucked into plants. We
say goodbye to our pond turtles this month, as they
descend to the bottoms of our ponds for winter
brumation (similar to hibernation). Also notice a
marked absence in butterflies, lizards, and bees as
they begin their own various forms of overwintering
and hibernation.

In your gardens this month, now is the time to sow
wildflowers! If you can, shoot for sowing seeds right
before a two-day rainstorm as continuous cool, wet
weather is an important factor in germination. We
have a variety of seeds stocked at our Grow Native
Nursery and hope you will follow along with our own
wildflower progress.

**Eschscholzia**

by Steve Bryant

“Eschscholzia californica, the first named species of
the genus *Eschscholzia*, was named by the German
botanist Adelbert von Chamisso after the Baltic
German botanist Johann Friedrich von Eschscholtz,
his friend and colleague on Otto von Kotzebue’s
scientific expedition to California and the greater
Pacific circa 1810… (from an earlier Wikipedia
article).” Also of interest, the Bikini Atoll was formerly
named the Eschscholtz Atoll. Sometime between
Jepson (1925) and Munz (1959), someone dropped
the “t” from poor Eschscholtz’s name. It has been the
state flower of California since 1903, thanks to Sarah
Allen Plummer Lemmon (1836–1923), an American
botanist who moved to California in 1869, and for
whom *Baccharis plummerae, Calochortus plummerae,*
etc. were named. Her husband, John Gill Lemmon,
also a botanist, named *Woodsia plummerae* after her.

There are 10 spp. of *Eschscholzia* in CA. *E. lemmonii*
(named after Sarah’s husband), *E. lobbii,* *E.
rhombipetala,* and *E. hypecoides* grow outside of SoCal.
*Eschscholzia ramosa* is an island endemic. Therefore,
I’ll concentrate on the others.

The distribution of *E. californica* (California Poppy) is
almost statewide, and known for covering many km²
with orange flowers in superbloom years. The rim
of the receptacle (ring below the petals) is at least 0.5
mm wide, and is easily visible after petal dehiscence.
Cultivars are now available in several colors. Annual
or perennial. Heavy pollen used as eye shadow or
body paint by some indigenous peoples.
The Foothill or Tufted Poppy, *Eschscholzia caespitosa*, grows as a tuft of leaves with its orange or yellow flowers on stems rising above the tufted base. Widely distributed in the foothills and mountains south from Redding to San Diego Co. It has little or no receptacle rim and flowers are generally smaller than *E. californica*.

There are three desert spp.: *E. minutiflora* (top), *E. glyptosperma*, and *E. parishii* (bottom).

Common in Mojave and Sonoran deserts, *E. minutiflora* has petals not more than 1 cm long and has both basal and cauline leaves (leaves arise from the base of the plant and along the flowering stems). More common in the Mojave, *E. glyptosperma* has yellow petals about 1.5–2.5 cm long, with only basal leaves and each inflorescence (flowering stem) having only one flower. *Eschscholzia parishii* is similar to *E. glyptosperma*, but has both basal and cauline leaves and is more common in the Sonoran Desert.

**Books of the Month**

*Oak Notes* shared the significance of the Kimmerer’s essays in promoting respect for the earth. The new edition includes informative sidebars, reflection questions, and art illustrations that bring scientific knowledge and the lessons of plant life to a new generation. The book would be an excellent holiday gift for readers aged 12 to 18.


Most young readers are familiar with Beatrix Potter’s many children’s books including *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. A recent trip to Windermere, England, reminded me of Potter’s significance as a conservationist, which reaches far beyond the pages of her children’s books. This beautifully illustrated picture book shares Potter’s passion for nature and her desire to do something for the greater good. The book might inspire young readers to reflect on the importance of protecting the native plants and animals that surround us in our own communities. It would make a thoughtful holiday gift for children ages 4 to 8.

**Judy Moffet**

Judy can usually be seen working with the Native Designs crew on their latest project. When she started volunteering at the Garden in 2003 (class of 2004), Native Designs did not exist. Previously, Judy was an elementary school teacher who often included a field trip to the Garden as part of her spring planning. She initially volunteered in the herbarium, then the library, and frequently participated in special events. During her 20 years at the Garden, she has worked on the Goals and Evaluation Committee, been Chair of the former Public Relations Committee, and served on the Hospitality Committee. Judy delights in using floral arrangements to show people how beautiful our native plants are.
Native Designs at the GNN Plant Sale
by Linda Prendergast Photos by Linda Clement and Katina Vlastos

The Native Designs team sold their decorated grapevine wreaths, hand-painted birdhouses, Kokedama balls, Sage wands and Sage sachets at the CalBG fall plant sale October 14. The proceeds from the sale go into the Volunteer Organization, to be used toward the Volunteers’ gift to the Garden or other projects. All told, Native Designs will contribute $1,550 to our treasury.

Watch for the Native Designs Mistletoe Sale at Luminarias!
Quarterly Luncheon

photos by Mara White
Volunteer Sunset Social

Wednesday, November 1
from 4–6 PM
in the California Courtyard

The CalBG Volunteer Board invites you to attend a fall gathering for our dedicated volunteers.

Light refreshments will be served:
hors d’oeuvres, wine, beer & sparkling waters.

A favor of a formal reply, if attending, is requested by October 30th for planning purposes.

Please email Betsy MacLaren Volunteers@calbg.org
Or Patty Espana VolunteerMail@volgistics.com

Your Volunteer nametag will be your ticket for front gate entry into the Garden.
Help support us!

CALIFORNIA BOTANIC GARDEN

VOLUNTEERS

November 8, 2023
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm PDT
2315 Foothill Boulevard, La Verne, CA

Use code FUND4U at online checkout, in the Panera App,
or at the kiosk in-cafe.*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe or enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.**

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