



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



Education in the Garden

APRIL 2023
MEMBER NEWS

"Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil." — Bishop Reginald Heber

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

If you are like me, sometimes you might find yourself wandering aimlessly through a nursery selecting plants simply because they have a pretty flower or the leaves are a fun shape or color. While that is perfectly ok, especially for the nursery's bottom line, we might be better off if we bought plants with a specific purpose in mind.

The article in the link below outlines nine things to consider before one plunks down one's credit card at the check out stand. The tips, while logical,

reminded me that with a bit of careful planning, we can meet the needs of both Mother Nature and spark inner joy in ourselves.

Happy purchasing & planting!

https://www.gardendesign.com/ideas/planting.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Plants-with-Purpose-4-6-23



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting April 14

Mary Hurlbut

Mary will discuss the fundamentals of good photography & teach us how to take better photos.

Laguna Presbyterian Church

• 9:30 am social • 10:00 am meeting
see page 3



Recognition Award Nominations

Due April 14 see page 11

Photo Contest Entries

Due April 28 see page 9



Vice President's Message

Sharing Of Ourselves With Care

Spring has sprung, the rain has stopped (for now 😊) and the pollinators are pollinating!

How do I know the pollinators are active? I see them and hear them buzzing around my garden and had a personal encounter with one.



As you know, every general meeting many of you bring your empty egg cartons and I drop them off at the **Laguna Food Pantry**. The March meeting meant a full trunk with overflow in my backseat.



I dropped them off, got a HUGE thank you to the Garden Club for being so generous each month (THANK YOU!!), hopped back in my car and OUCH! There was a honeybee on my steering

wheel. I didn't see it and that bee stung me right on my thumb. I don't blame the bee and feel terrible because now that bee is no longer flying around pollinating our beautiful spring flowers and fruits.



The moral of the story is - support all our pollinators by planting California Native Plants – our native bees, honeybees, bumble bees, bats, moths, butterflies, and my favorite - hummingbirds - and be careful where you put your hand!

Happy Gardening and please continue to bring your empty egg cartons for the Food Pantry!

-Jane Leary



April Speaker

Mary Hurlbut Will Share With Tips For Improving Our Photography of Nature

Laguna Beach photographer **Mary Hurlbut** will give a presentation on *The Art of Garden Photography* at the April 14 meeting.

Drawing on 10 years of experience as a portrait, event photographer, and teacher, Mary will discuss the fundamentals of good photography and teach you how to take better photos in the garden.

Mary is engaging, empathetic and experienced. Not only does she cover the basics, but as a Fine Arts graduate, she shares wonderful advice on creative composition. Mary is inspired by light and humbled by beauty... and still a beach girl after 50+ years!

She considers all of Laguna Beach her "studio" and knows the secret spots, hidden coves, quiet trails, and urban byways. She follows the tides, weather, and seasons of her hometown to get the perfect shot.



Learn some tricks to become an excellent photographer just in time to take that terrific photo of your garden for the Annual Photo Contest! The deadline for the contest is Friday, April 28. Need more info? See page 53 in the member book.



2023 Gate & Garden Tour

Hats On For Our Spectacular Tour on May 6

For the bees, a heavy rain can make their wings wet and heavy which in turn slows them down and causes them to stay in their hive. On the other hand, our gardens are literally giddy with delight over the rain and how beautiful the rain will make them look in just a few weeks; fortunately for the *Gate & Garden Tour*, is when we want the gardens to be at their peak of perfection for our guests!

This year's theme for the homes on the tour is about **"Outdoor Living"**. All of our time from COVID lockdown in 2020-2022 made homeowners much more conscious of the need for outdoor entertaining space. According to an



exclusive January 2021 survey conducted for the International Casual Furnishings Association, people are doing more relaxing, gardening, entertaining, exercising and playing outside. Ninety percent of Americans agree that their outdoor living space is more valuable than ever before. Over 56% of those surveyed were engaging in refreshing their outdoor spaces! The homes on this year's tour homes are great examples of how homeowners have fashioned the environment of their yards to meet the new demands of the ever-changed lifestyle. The beauty of Laguna Beach and more specifically of the *Gate & Garden Tour* is that each year a neighborhood is chosen and then the

search for homes begins. Nancy Englund's initial intent, 19 years ago, when she began the tradition, was to show how a slice of a different neighborhood looked on each tour. To give the tour-goers a peek at how each homeowner chose to interpret their yard space to suit their taste, needs, and budget. That means that every tour will be different because each neighborhood is different, and every homeowner is different. Some neighborhoods lot sizes leave little room for a yard, some have lots on hillsides, some have canyon views; and some have ocean views; and some have no views. Consequently each year the tour is different and the gardens you will see will vary greatly. You are privileged to see someone's private oasis that they have lovingly crafted to bring them joy and are now graciously sharing with all of us. That aspect of each tour is the most special to me, their willingness to allow the public to share what they have created.

So back to bees and hats! I have started creating my "Garden Party Hat" and all my friends have been asking: Will it be pink? Will it have bees on it? Is it a fancy hat? and on and on! My answer is, "You shall see"! But like the gardens that Susan and Nancy have chosen for this year's tour, my hat will be the creation I envisioned. It will be very fun to wear on such a special day, and I hope you will tip your hat to me on that day!!

Tickets are truly selling like hot cakes. So if you have not yet purchased, you better "get er done"! lagunabeachgardenclub.org



Meet Brooke Cuevas & Dana Point Nursery



Dana Point Nursery has a 75-year history in its location. **Brooke Cuevas** is the great granddaughter of the original owners, **Teiko and Harry Otsubo**. Harry and Teiko moved from Utah to Dana Point in 1947 after the end of WWII.



Being of Japanese heritage, the Otsubos lost a grocery store and pharmacy in Los Angeles as a result and were relocated to Utah. They were not sent to a relocation camp but were forced to farm for the government during the war. However, they

were grateful to be American citizens as he was born in Maui in 1914 and moved to Los Angeles in the 1930s. When Teiko & Harry arrived in Dana Point, they saw a stand near the side of the road and decided to purchase it as the start of their nursery. Dana Point Nursery is the oldest operating nursery in Orange County. Teiko ran the business end, including cashier and accountant, while Harry oversaw the planting and growing side of the business.



Harry Otsubo rented different plots of land throughout the city to grow bonsais from the 2500+ seeds from Japan that his father brought with him to the U.S. Harry is an acclaimed expert in the ancient art of bonsai; he has donated many of the bonsais and sold others. Those bonsais (of which there are only 4 or so left now) can be found in many places. Harry Otsubo was

contacted from places all over the world for their bonsais; many grace the Las Vegas City Center. Harry landscaped the Doris Walker house; **Doris**



Walker was a well-known historian of Dana Point and has a park named after her on Old Golden Lantern overlooking the harbor.

Because of Harry Otsubo's spirit and belief of supporting his community, in 1987 the city of Dana Point renamed Searidge Park in his honor, now known as the Harry Otsubo Community Garden, located across from Dana Hills High School on Golden Lantern



and Stonehill. The city rededicated the garden in 2010, and Brooke was the honored guest. I visited the huge garden that has many plots that vary in size. I talked with Dave who was busy amending his soil in preparation for Spring planting. Residents can rent a plot from the city for \$15 to \$75 per year (which pays for the water) depending on the plot size. At one point there was a waiting list of 250 names of residents who

sometimes waited up to 12 years for an available plot. Currently the waiting list is down to about 40.



Dave shared that growing his own vegetables and fruits is wonderful; there is nothing like biting into a homegrown tomato that actually tastes like a tomato. One of Harry's bonsais graces one corner of the community garden

Harry Otsubo worked tirelessly to beautify Dana Point by donating his time, expertise, and materials to enhance public facilities. He has received many awards and accolades: OC Board of Supervisors named him to the Dana Point Specific Plan, named him "Man of the Year in 1982, and commended him in 1980, 1982, and 1983. The County of Orange & California State Assembly awarded him commendations in 2002 for his service and unique contributions to his community.

Katherine Jones, Brooke's grandmother, eventually took over the business after Teiko & Harry passed and continued in her parent's footsteps of running the nursery until she passed in in 2019, and Brooke then took over the nursery in keeping with old-school traditions, supporting the community being one of those traditions. Katherine Jones ran the nursery for more than 30 years. Brooke grew up with her grandmother, Kathy, spending any time not at school at the nursery. Brooke remembers as a kindergartener playing at the koi pond (which is still there). Kathy generously supported many community organizations, including the *Gate & Garden Tour* for many, many years.

Brooke is true to the old-school Japanese ways, "make your own way; the world owes you nothing." She took over the nursery upon the passing of "Katie", her grandmother and best

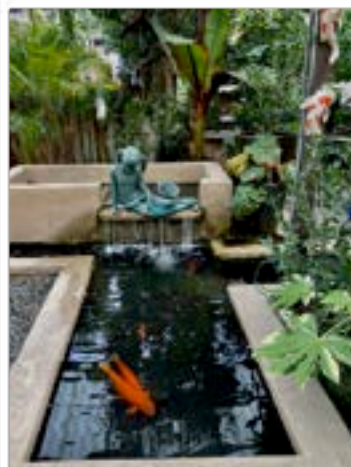


friend. She attended school in Laguna Beach (El Morro, Thurston, and 2 years of Laguna Beach High School & she transferred to Dana Hills High School for her last 2 years). She learned all about the business from her grandmother. Grandma Katie was a shrewd businesswoman. When Brooke wanted to attend classes at Saddleback College, Grandma Tei & Katie told her she didn't have time to work. She learned how to grow plants by trial and error by killing everything 10 times over and eventually bringing it back to life. Common names for plants are not used at the nursery because there are many different names for the same plant. The way she learned the botanical names was that as a kid, her grandmother showed her a plant and then told her to look it up in *Sunset Western Magazine*, then find it in the nursery for a customer. Another go-to book was the *Ortho Problem Book* that focused on pests and diseases and how to solve the same problems; however, she does not use pesticides.



Brooke is 34, has a 5-year-old son, and is engaged to a wonderful man from Ohio. They plan to marry by the end of the year and want to

buy a house in Laguna so that her son can experience the wonderful school system she grew up with. Brooke is also an old soul. Katie was her best friend, her person. Katie married late in life to a man from New York, married in the



courthouse in New York City, and Brooke was their witness. She plans to honor her grandparents by marrying at the same New York City courthouse.

In keeping with the old-fashioned tradition, being true to the roots of the nursery that her great grandparents and grandparents built, she will continue with Katie's philosophy of being honest with customers. Katie would not sell plants that would not grow in this climate. She stood by the quality of her plants; she hand-picked all the plants. Brooke travels all over the country and parts of the world finding plants to bring to the nursery.

One of the changes that Brooke continues that Katie started, is breaking the cycle of allowing work to take precedence over family. Katie's parents spent hours at the nursery. Thus, the reason that Brooke basically grew up at the nursery, spending time with her grandmother. The nursery is known to have infants, young children, dogs so the employees do not miss time with their families. Flexible hours are important to everyone at the nursery. She has many long-term employees because of this feeling of family. Emily has been there 19 years, Pedro 16 years, and Rex 4 years. Rex was the manager of Roger's Gardens for 17 years. When the opportunity to have creative control at Dana Point Nursery arose, it gave him the freedom to be with his family, son, and pets. Rex shared, "Brooke is an amazing business partner." Past employees always come back to visit. One employee who worked there during high school and has since gone away to college comes back on her time off from college to work at the nursery.

Dana Point Nursery has a tradition of supporting great community organizations. Brooke's father is a 5th grade teacher in Santa Ana and the nursery donates to that school garden. Her

stepmother teachers in Rancho Viejo and the nursery also donates to that school garden. Dana Point Nursery has always had their pet charities, which include the local high school and Laguna Beach Garden Club. Katie always gave generous donations to the *Gate & Garden Tour*; when I joined the Garden Club in 2009, the nursery was donating even back then. Brooke has continued this tradition by not only donating the fabulous array of plants & flowers for the Special Raffle of the Gate & Garden Tour but also gift cards to the nursery and trips to resorts. When Brooke creates an arrangement, it has to "speak" to her. Every commission she does for a container arrangement is one of a kind. For this year's Special Raffle, she has selected a fabulous container for the orchid arrangement (she showed it to me and it's gorgeous), plus is including a \$1000 gift card to the nursery.

Come visit Dana Point Nursery, located at 34100 E Pacific Coast Hwy, at the corner of Ruby Lantern and Coast Hwy and you can experience firsthand, what they have to offer: all trees are in 24" boxes, indoor plants, outdoor plants (specializing in citrus, veggies, shrubs, & trees), dry goods, soils, gift items, indoor décor, and candles. There is also an amazing array of cards. Brooke believes that writing a card is special and intimate, that the person took time to pen to paper for any occasion, special or not, says much about that person. Receiving a card in the mail means much to the recipient.

-Lynn Tax



Getting Involved in Our Club

Volunteer of the Month

Susan South was selected as the March Volunteer of the Month. A member since 2021, she gives her time to our group with a cheery smile and a can-do attitude. Thank you Susan for all you give to make the garden club so special!



March Centerpiece

Susan South also wowed the members with her spectacular table scape at our March meeting. Her combination of green carnations and Irish trinkets was a feast for the eye with the vivid color and range of textures. We are very lucky to have Susan “O’South” as our magical centerpiece lady.



Name Tag Wearer

Diane Kloke was selected as the member “caught” wearing her name tag at the March meeting. She has been a member since 2005.



Annual Photo Contest – Deadline for submissions April 28

It's that time again and the deadline to submit is fast approaching. Members submit photographs from their gardens for our annual photography contest. The first and second place entries are featured on the front and back covers of our Membership Book. The winner of the 16th annual contest was Laurie Jocham's photo of her flower garden, and Maggie Siegel's mosaic mailbox surrounded by roses was the second-place winner.

As of April 1, two entries have been received. The speaker at the April 14 meeting is Mary Hurlbut, who will offer tips on how to take fantastic photos of your garden. Please take advantage of this opportunity to have your photo grace the front or back cover of next year's Membership Book. I look forward to your entry.

Photo Contest Rules

1. Photo entries are due Photo Contest chair, Perry Stampfel, by **Friday, April 28, 2023**.
2. Only one entry per Garden Club member is allowed.
3. Renewed membership is required.
4. *Horizontal entries are preferred, but square is OK also.*
5. *Vertical photos will be disqualified.*
6. The entry must be a recent photo of some part of the member's garden.
7. By submitting the entry, the member declares that he/she owns the rights to the photo.
8. Entries will be judged by the Board by the end of the club year.
9. The first and second place winner's photos will be featured on the front and back cover of the 2023-24 Membership Book, respectively.

Submissions should be sent to Perry Stampfel via email. You will receive a reply confirming that your photo has been received. Rules are also listed on page 53 of your Membership Book.

For information contact:

Perry Stampfel 456 Cress Street Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Home: 949-497-7363 or Cell: 949-294-1502

Email: stampfeljax@cox.net or stampfel@icloud.com



Laurie Jocham:
1st place flower
garden

Maggie Siegel:
2nd place mosaic
mail box



Garden Club Members in Action

On Thursday, March 9, the community gathered for the **Sixth Annual City of Laguna Beach Arbor Day Celebration at Moulton Meadows Park**. It was presented by the City of Laguna Beach, City of Laguna Beach Public Works Dept. and the Arbor Day Foundation. The day's highlights included a native tree planting ceremony, tree planting and tree care advice, composting demonstrations, activities and giveaways for kids, the opportunity to connect with community gardening groups, and live music and tree sapling giveaways.

"Laguna Beach's Arbor Day event was a huge success! The community came together and celebrated the importance of native tree planting and energized the youth of our town to carry that message into the future," said City of Laguna Beach Arborist **Matthew Barker**.

LBGC hosted a booth about the club and an art table decorating rocks for children. Members **Nancy Englund, Susan Denton, Kari Nies, Janet Chance** and **Jane Leary** spent the day enjoying the sunshine and the celebration of nature.



Recognition Awards

It's time to look around closely for garden club members you want to nominate for this year's Recognition Awards as listed below. [See page 44 of your Membership Book for more details].

The deadline is April 14th, our next meeting. The nomination form is in this newsletter. You may nominate more than one person in any of the categories. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize your fellow members for their outstanding efforts on behalf of our Garden Club.

There will be copies of the nomination form at the April 14th meeting for your convenience. I'd love to receive many nominations to recognize our fellow members.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or clarification. Lynn Jax Email: lynnmjax@icloud.com or call 949-294-1500.

Previous Recognition Recipients include:

2017

- Club Members of the Year: Carolyn Bent, Linda Homscheid
- Garden of the Year: Nancy Englund
- Gardener of the Year: Lisa Fecteau
- Rookie of the Year: Monette Weiss

2018

- Club Member of the Year: Chris Lutz
- Garden of the Year: Mariann Keenan
- Gardeners of the Year: Synthia Scofield, Marilyn Ghery, Kathleen Kane
- Rookies of the Year: Becky Martin, Norman Powell

2019

- Club Members of the Year: Jeanne Yale, Dalynn Malek
- Garden of the Year: Dana Victorson
- Gardener of the Year: Sherry Stephens
- Rookies of the Year: Patty Gaffney, Susan Denton, Diane Olson

2020-2022

- Club Members of Year: Elaine Davis, Nancy Englund, Lynn Jax
- Garden of the Year: Inge Bunn, Dalynn Malek, Madeleine McLendon
- Gardener of the Year: Sandy Smith, Susan South, Monica Thompson
- Rookies of the Year: Grace Balen, Diane Groh, Mae Ho, Jane Leary, Cookie Lee, Kari Nies, Gay Redcay

Member Recognition Awards



Recognition Award 2023 Nomination Form

Check the category:

- ☐ Club Member of the Year
- ☐ Gardener of the Year
- ☐ Garden of the Year
- ☐ Rookie of the Year (AKA: New Member)

*** Use a separate form for each Nomination.**

DEADLINE: April 14, 2023

Recognizing each other's efforts shows our appreciation towards our own, and to those who are acknowledged by their fellow club members for their spirit of volunteerism, it makes this award of distinguished merit mean so much more.

Nominate a club member who you know has done an extraordinary and/or consistent job for the club.

Name of Nominee: _____
(Please Print clearly)

Please write 2 to 3 sentences of explanation or description of this nominee's efforts for the category for which you nominated. (Use the back of the form, if necessary.)

Please return to Lynn Jax via:

- E: lynnmjax@icloud.com
- or mail to: 456 Cress Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
- or deliver in person at the April 14, 2023 meeting.

Name of person nominating: _____

Email or phone number: _____

225 Members & Counting and Time to Renew Your Membership

I am pleased to announce that we reached our all-time high membership numbers with our 225th member as of April 1, 2023. I am ecstatic!

Welcome newest members to the “best garden club” in Orange County, just ask any of us. To all 7 of our newest members, your name tags will be ready for pick up at the next meeting, April 14. Be sure to stop by the Membership Table so you can be eligible to win this month’s Name Tag winner prize. If you joined online or haven’t attended a meeting as yet, you will also have your name tag waiting for you along with your copy of the Membership Book, which you do not want to be without as it is chockfull of information.

Reminder to all members, don’t forget to wear your name tag for a chance at winning a great gift.

If you have a friend, neighbor, or colleague who might be interested in this fabulous Club, please invite them to attend the meeting to see if we are a good fit. The first meeting is free, and we accept members at any time.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE occurs in April and May. The Membership Table will be set up and ready to accept your renewal. Please come prepared to renew your membership at the April 14 meeting. Every year **all members** renew for the next year; the full year membership is valid from September 2023 through May 2024.

Payment Choices

Dues = **\$65** by CHECK or CASH. \$70 by CREDIT CARD at a meeting or on our website.

Checks made payable to: Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.

To ensure your name appears in next year’s Membership Book, payment must be received by **June 15, 2023**. Complete the bottom portion of the application – PLEASE!

You can renew:

- at the next two meetings (April 14 or May 12)
- on our website www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
(Members Only section – Password: poppy – all lower case)
- use USPS and mail it directly to me at Lynn Jax 456 Cress St, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

And consider making a tax-deductible donation with your renewal. See the application on the next page for more details.

Please feel free to contact me at any time via email lynnmjax@icloud.com or cell: 949-294-1500.

-Lynn Jax, Director of Membership



LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB, INC. 2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ Returning

☐ Lifetime

☐ New

☐ Rejoining _____ Year Joined

- 💰 Complete this form and attach a check for **\$65**, made payable to Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.
Mail to: Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. ~ P.O. Box 362 ~ Laguna Beach, CA 92652
- 💰 Membership can be obtained on our website for \$70: LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
- 💰 Please consider making a tax-deductible donation in addition to membership dues. Donations of \$25 or more will be recognized on the **Wall of Fame** in our newsletter, membership book and website. Donations can offset some of our expenses or can be earmarked for community projects, scholarships, school gardens, etc.
- 💰 All donations are tax deductible and much appreciated.

You do not need to fill out your personal information unless it has changed

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

This Area **MUST be filled out completely**

NAME _____ DATE _____

Your application is considered a photo release, giving Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. permission to use any photos taken at club functions.

Signature _____

Total amount Paid _____ Dues _____ Donation _____

Cash _____ Check _____ Check # _____ Credit Card _____

I can help LBGC with: _____

Hop to it!

Buy your tickets NOW for the
Laguna Beach Garden Club's

Gate & Garden Tour

Saturday, May 6, 2023 10 – 4

\$60 "Early Bird" \$65 after 4/29

NEW! Limited number of \$80 VIP tickets available

For more info &
to purchase tickets:

LagunaBeachGardenClub.org



PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

501(c)(3) Charitable Organization