



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



APRIL 2025
MEMBER NEWS

Cultivating Delight through
Gardening & Community Service

“Don’t wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden & decorate your soul”. — Luther Burbank

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Hopefully you by now have taken a few photographs in your garden to submit to the annual photo contest (see page 7). Each of our gardens is a statement of our personal style, artistic passion, and our joy found in digging in the dirt, so take a few pictures to share the beauty that is found in your landscape. Whether your planting area consists of a collection of pots on a balcony or a garden big enough to meander about for hours (think Hortense Miller’s fabulous property), we each can find a lot to

be grateful for the wonderful gardening weather that we have here in southern California. Spring is the traditional time of planting and April is National Gardening Month, so hit the nursery of your choice and adopt some new plants to bring more plant pleasure into your life. Here is a link to the Garden Design website, where you might find some planting inspiration.
<https://gardendesign.cmail19.com/t/i-e-fdkiyz-stlxukti-th/>

COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting April 11

Ken Lee, PhD

“Inspiring the Next Generation of Gardeners Through Sustainable Horticulture”

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



Recognition Award Nominations

Due April 18 see page 12

Photo Contest Entries

Due April 18 see page 7



Trips & Tours April 23

see page 5

President's Message

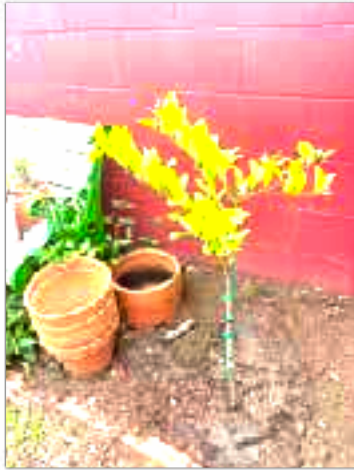
Spring into Action, Happy Gardeners!

Dear
Members
and Garden
Enthusiasts,

Spring has sprung, and the garden is calling! The lengthening days and gentle warmth are the perfect invitation to join the bees and immerse ourselves in the joys of planting, thriving, and nurturing or to plan our new garden as we stroll the well-stocked shelves of our favorite nurseries.

It's a delightful time to put on our gardening gloves and witness the magic of nature unfolding. Imagine the vibrant tapestry of colors and textures that will soon grace our gardens! Are your gloves worn out? Get new ones at the meeting. Check the Gift Shop for pretty pink or purple gloves—one pair for \$7, three pairs for \$20—the perfect gift to celebrate Spring!

Personally, I'm thrilled to be relocating my herbs from their winter haven in the she-shed to their permanent outdoor planters. While installing a new greenhouse remains a tempting prospect, for now,



the simple act of tending to my plants outside is my cherished form of garden therapy.

The sight of grapevines bursting into bloom and the ripening loquat fruit is truly a springtime spectacle. I've decided to free my root bound Meyer lemon tree from its pot and plant it in the ground— I can hardly wait for the fragrant blossoms and sun-kissed fruit!



This season is brimming with anticipation and the satisfaction of seeing our efforts come to blossom. Embrace the energy of spring and make the most of this productive time. Savor the delights of springtime and the rewarding experience of nurturing our gardens while we thrive.

Happy gardening!
Warmly,
Mary Sanchez



April Speaker

Inspiring the Next Generation of Gardeners through Sustainable Horticulture

Professor Ken Lee is the Chair of the Department of Sustainable Horticulture and Landscape Design at Saddleback College. After working in the landscape design industry and teaching part-time for over 35 years, he decided to pursue his passion for teaching and mentoring students full time. Since 2012, he has been offering courses in sustainable horticulture and landscape design at Saddleback College inspiring many of our LBGC scholarship recipients.



Dr. Lee has played a leading role in many college activities, including curriculum development, online education and Career Technical Education (CTE). Currently he serves as Co-chair of the CTE Committee and CTE Faculty Liaison for the College. Voted Professor of the Year, and the President's Award for Distinguished Service, Professor Lee was honored to receive the Angel of The Earth Award by colleagues and students.

Professor Lee earned his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Seoul University, Korea, in 1980 and his master's degree in landscape architecture from Cornell University. Professor Lee's professional architecture projects extend from South Korea to China, to the East Coast and across California, including village revitalization, playgrounds, performing arts centers and much more.

Please join us on Friday April 11, 2025, at 9:30 am -10:00 am for social time and refreshments. The meeting begins promptly at 10:00 am.

-Blair Contratto
Vice President

April Weeder's Digest Contest

Join the fun and hop around in the weeds to find the hidden colored Easter Eggs. Search high and low to fill your basket. You can boast if you find the most!!!

Send your egg count to
SusanSouth3@cox.net
by Thursday, April 10

Winner will be announced at the General Meeting on Friday, April 11.
Happy hunting!

Here are the eggs that are hidden in the rest of the newsletter. (These 9 are part of the count)



Garden Tours Leave Legacies

The history of Garden Tours is a rich one that spans all continents and eras. In the United States the famous White House Garden Tours were started by Patricia Nixon in 1973. The Biltmore Estate and its gardens opened for public tours in 1930 to support finances during the Depression. But the granddaddy of them all is the Chelsea Flower Show in London! The origins go back to the society's first lavish outdoor entertainment party at its Chiswick Garden in 1827. The Chiswick Garden parties quickly established themselves as one of the principal attractions of the fashionable season.



As a huge horticultural event and a key fixture in the social calendar with coverage by the BBC, it now reaches millions of

viewers. Currently the Chelsea Garden Show covers over 11 acres, The Great Pavilion alone is 3 acres and additionally has parking for over 500 buses. They limit ticket sales to 40,000 per day. (Ok Susan, when you read this don't swoon thinking about how to manage that!) The Chelsea Flower Show generates around \$6.5 million dollars each year and all these proceeds are directed toward good causes such as "Grow Your Own Campaign" to encourage people to grow their own food, and "Britain in Bloom" a competition that recognizes and celebrates efforts of towns and villages to maintain and improve green spaces.

The Laguna Beach Garden Club Gate & Garden Tour, with a 20-year history, raises funds for the club's work and fosters community by bringing people together to appreciate and learn about gardens. Nearly 100 years ago, the club's founders engaged in various projects such as Victory gardens during wartime, creating gardens for soldiers' recovery, and enhancing the city with trees. They were dedicated volunteers eager to improve their town and the lives of those around them. They understood that volunteering means doing for the good of others without asking for anything in return. The actual definition of volunteering is a service provided without the expectation of a reward. If you are getting something for it, it's just not volunteering. Little did the founders know they were living the ethos of "For the Good of the Hive".

Mother Teresa, 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner awarded for her humanitarian work, believed that true fulfillment and purpose come from dedicating oneself to serving others and making a positive impact on the world. She made it sound so easy, if you have hands and a heart you can do it. But she had one more requirement of her volunteers, you had to come with a smile and with a spirit of cheerfulness.

I ask that we collectively contribute to making the *2025 Gate & Garden Tour* the most successful tour ever and recognize the incredible efforts put in by **Susan Denton** to make this huge event come together.

"A life not lived for others is not a life" a quote from Mother Theresa. -Karen Nelson

Tickets can be purchased at lagunabeachgardenclub.com



New Officer Nominations

We will vote at the April 11 meeting to elect this slate of officers. If you want to serve on the board, please get in touch with a board member. You may notice that financial positions have remained the same. We are looking for someone to become the treasurer. Computer literacy is essential.

2025-2026

Laguna Beach Garden Club Slate of Officers

President – Nancy Englund

Co-Vice-Presidents – Blair Contratto & Bonnie David

Recording Secretary – Monica Thompson

Director of Membership – Lynn Jax

Financial Secretaries – Brian & Mary Jones

Treasurers – Jeff Whittiker & John Holcombe

Director of Gate & Garden Tour – Susan Denton

Director of Ways & Means – Susan South

Director of Media & Publicity – Karen Nelson

Director of Website – Kari Nies

Past President – Mary Sanchez



April T&T Surprise!

No, not an April Fool's prank but a unique opportunity: the April Trips & Tours on Wednesday the 23rd, will be a visit to a large private garden in San Juan Capistrano. Details on departure time and lunch will be unveiled at the April general meeting and the Constant Contact email updates.

We will carpool as usual from St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, and we appreciate our drivers. Please sign-up with the T&T team at the April meeting.



Getting Involved in Our Club

Volunteer of the Month

Ingrid Cebula, was selected as the March Volunteer of the Month. A member since 2015, and a Master Gardener, she gives her time to our group with a cheery smile and a can-do attitude. Thank you Ingrid for all you give to make the garden club so special!



March Centerpiece

Pat Addis' lovely centerpiece decorated the lucky treat table at the March meeting. Her floral arrangement had just the right combination of spring flowers and Irish green. Pat has been a member since 2024.



Name Tag Wearer

Carolyn Muzyka was selected as the member "caught" wearing her name tag at the March meeting. She has been a member since 2022.



Weeder's Contest Winner

Sue Stewart's eagle eye spotted the 3, 4, & 5 leaf clovers sown throughout the March edition of Weeder's Digest. She was the winner of the Shamrock contest.



Annual Photo Contest – Deadline for submissions April 18

It's that time again and the deadline to submit is fast approaching. Members submit photographs from their gardens for our annual photography contest. There are 2 contests: one for the Front Cover and one for the Back Cover featured on our Membership Book. The winners of the 18th annual contest were the front cover by Linda Richardson's photo of Western Honeybee perched on a Chrysanthemum and the back cover by Nancy Englund's photo of a Western Honeybee.

Photo Contest Rules

1. Photo entries are due to the Photo Contest chair, Perry Stampfel, by **Friday, April 18, 2025**.
2. Garden Club members may submit one photo for the **FRONT** and one for the **BACK** cover.
3. Renewed membership is required.
4. Photos must be **HIGH-RESOLUTION**. If using iPhone or Android when sending the photo, be sure to send the photo in "ACTUAL SIZE" – not small, medium, or large. Minimum photo size of 4,000 KB is required.
5. To win the **FRONT** cover contest, the photo must be **horizontal or square**.
6. To win the **BACK** cover contest, the photo must be **vertical or square**.
7. The entry must be a **recent** photo of some part of the member's garden.
8. By submitting the entry, the member declares that he/she owns the rights to the photo.
9. Entries will be judged by the Board by the end of the club year.
10. The winner's photo will be featured on the front and back cover of the 2025-26 Membership Book.

NOTE: We encourage a variety of photos, including but not restricted to garden settings or features, mass plantings, and flowers.

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 47** of your Membership Book.

For information contact:

Perry Stampfel
456 Cress Street
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

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

Email: stampfel@icloud.com



Mary Jones 1st Place 2023
Monarch butterfly on a
Mexican Sunflower Torch

Brian Jones 2nd Place
2023
Bolivian Sunflower

2025 Ladies of Laguna & Annual Hat Contest

Susan Denton has chosen three very deserving, community spirited woman for this year's *Ladies of Laguna* title. **Laura Ford**, the Founder of the Pollinator Protection Fund, **Simone Adams**, Co-founder of the Laguna Beach Library Fairy Garden and **Amy Amirani**, Water Commissioner for the Laguna Beach County Water District are women who represent the best of Laguna.

2025 Hat Contest Categories: Start creating your entry today!

1) Best in Bloom - A celebration of floral beauty, this category invites contestants to craft hats adorned with flowers, greenery, fairy gardens, and butterflies.

2) Pollinators Paradise - Inspired by Laguna Beach Garden Club's commitment to environmental preservation, this category highlights the essential role of bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Participants are encouraged to design hats to pay tribute to these vital creatures.

3) Garden Party Glam - A fusion of elegance and garden party sophistication, this category is perfect for those who love classic yet fashion-forward styles. Whether vintage inspired or sparkling with

haute
will

couture elements, these hats
turn heads.



Niguel Botanical Preserve In Its Glory

On a gray, chilly, and lightly drizzling morning, sixteen daytrippers were rewarded with colorful blooming vistas, the fresh layered fragrance of cowboy sage cologne, and fresh mist on the honeyed blossoms of the Niguel Botanical Preserve.

We were also treated to a spontaneous tour led by Monty McDivitt, President of the Preserve, who called out the Latin species names often along with the common names of various plants. He highlighted special aspects of some plants, such as the grape soda scent of a purple blossom and pointed out unique plants like the Catalina Island mountain mahogany, a rare species of the rose family, endangered in its original habitat of South Catalina Island by grazing pressures of introduced bison.

The Niguel Botanical Preserve, an 18 acre public garden, showcases plantings from the Mediterranean climate regions of the world, creating beautiful, sustainable environments with low water needs. These environments provide habitat for various species of birds and important pollinators, such as butterflies, hummingbirds and bees.

Monty declared that March is the best month to catch the garden's beauty and scent and indeed it was glorious! After our fortuitous tour, many of us decamped to the nearby, and appropriately, Mediterranean restaurant, Zesty Olives. Again club members were met with great service and hospitality by the owner of this family owned and run restaurant, and we enjoyed a zesty lunch.

It was a lovely day, lucky in many ways, and so delightful to welcome new members to our day-tripping tribe. -Patty Gaffney





Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade 2025

"For the Good of the Hive", a natural instinct of bees and also of Laguna Beach Garden Club members, was perfect for our parade entry theme this year. We had a lovely mild day with sunshine, blue skies, and the fun of participating in our parade!

Thanks go to the enthusiastic Garden Club members who participated and flashed smiles and waved hands. The Rakettes Drill Team carried Bee Placards and blew into Kazoos to imitate "Buzzing Bees" while rotating around the flower laden golf cart. Two members wore very "on theme" Bee costumes.

Nancy Englund and Tom Hensel rode in the most gorgeous golf cart ever, decked with so many fresh flowers! Carolyn Bent, the flower wizard, spent two days working her florist magic in my garage, and my husband Cort and I proudly drove it down the hill on parade day.

Our efforts brought us the trophy for 2nd place in Community/Service! Our efforts also serve to promote our club, pass Garden Tour cards to the crowd, and to introduce the Garden Club to our community.

"AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!"

-Diane Kloke



Member Recognition Awards 2025

It's time to look around closely for garden club members you want to nominate for this **year's Recognition Awards** as listed below. Any member who you see go above and beyond to help the Club achieve our mission is eligible. [See page 57 of your Membership Book for more details].

The deadline to submit your nominees is April 18th. The nomination form is in this March newsletter and will also be in the April 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. This award has significant meaning to its recipients because it shows appreciation for outstanding efforts and the spirit of volunteerism.

There will be copies of the nomination form at the April 11th meeting for your convenience. I'd love to receive many nominations to recognize our fellow members. Use a **SEPARATE FORM** for each **CATEGORY**.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or clarification. Jane Leary Email janeleary12@gmail.com or call 706-716-1207.

Previous Recognition Recipients include: [Please do **NOT** nominate a previous winner for the same category as we'd like to spread the love around.]

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
- Gardeners 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

2023

- Club Members of Year: ElizaBeth Chapel, Lynn Pries, Kari Nies, Karen Nelson, Pam Bisson
- Gardens of the Year: Brian Jones, Susan Denton
- Gardener of the Year: Ingrid Cebula
- Rookies of the Year: Kate Hershey-Guerra, Blair Contratto, Vicky Adams-Cuccia

2024

- Club Members of Year: Bee Mural Team (Blair Contratto, Nancy Englund, Jane Leary, & Karen Nelson) and Melissa Rapp
- Garden of the Year: Monica Thompson
- Gardener of the Year: Helga Yaillen
- Rookies of the Year: Mary Koebler, Mary Lewis, Joann Trejo-Magee, Jeff Whittiker



Recognition Award 2025 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 18, 2025

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 Jane Leary via:

- E: janeleary12@gmail.com
- or mail to: 31566 Scenic Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
- or deliver in person at the April 11, 2025 meeting.

Name of person nominating: _____

Email or phone number: _____

Bienvenuto from Italy

My husband, Perry Stampfel, and I are spending the month of March in Tuscany, Italy. We are enjoying the amazing food, wine, countryside, mountain top towns, art, agriculture, and historical sites. We have experienced lots of different weather ups and downs, from rain, to icy gusty winds, to calm nearly 60° weather. We are about halfway through our trip so far, but I thought I would share a few photos of some of the places we've seen. As you know, Italy is a Mediterranean climate as is Southern California; however, this is definitely mountain country, where we are so far, and the temperatures are much more dramatic than where we live. But I noticed some of the flora in the is similar to what we see; they seem to like succulents and cactus grows profusely here.

We started in Pienza, the surrounding area of Multipuciano and Multicino are known for its amazing wine called Brunello. And this entire area is also known for its pecorino cheese, which can vary from the city to city and tastes different depending on how long it is aged. They definitely cook their pasta more al dente than I usually do, so I think I will change my ways once I return home.

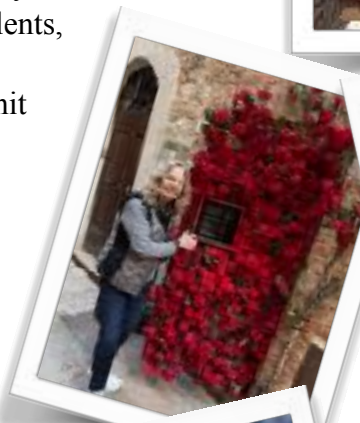
We have taken advantage of three separate wine tasting tours so far. Each very different, one in a private castle, the second a private three course lunch, and a third in a very rustic small vineyard.

Perry is a terrific tour planner, among his many talents, so he finds many out of the way places that most tourists don't flock to. But of course we will also hit some of the "Must See" places that make Tuscany famous. Here are some highlights of our stops (besides the ones listed above); Siena, Monteriggioni, Radda in Chianti, Peccioli, Volterra, & Pisa. Still to come are Lucca, Florence, Bologna, Verona, Turin & end in Milan.

In two days we will be taking a tour of a marble quarry in Carrara (where Michelangelo procured his marble).

Arreverderci - see you at the April meeting.

Outdoor cafe in Pienza
Wine window in Pienza
Fabulous dinner
Umbrella & Lynn in Radda in Chianti
Leaning Tower in Pisa



Time to Renew Your Membership

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE occurs in April and May. The Membership Table will be set up at the back of Tankersley Hall near the kitchen and we will be ready to accept your renewal. **Please come prepared to renew your membership at the April 11 meeting.**

ALL MEMBERS must **RENEW** for the next year; the full year membership is valid from September 2025 through May 2026. Applications will be available at the meeting.

Payment Choices:

Dues = **\$70** paid by Credit Card (at a meeting or on our website) or \$5 discount if paid by **Check** or **CASH**.

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 1, 2025.**

Complete the bottom portion of the application – PLEASE!

You can renew:

- at the next two meetings (April 11 or May 8)
- on our website www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org Use this to get an application form that can be filled in on-line (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

Consider making an extra donation with your renewal. Donations are tax deductible, to extent allowed by law, help the Club offset costs, and fund our great projects, which include: school gardens, scholarships for LBHS seniors and students enrolled in the Horticulture Department at Saddleback College, and our beautification community projects, like our beautiful bee mural, “The Good of the Hive”.

See the application below 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



PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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