

VOL. 18



GROWING & GIVING

Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



Education in the Garden

DECEMBER 2022

MEMBER NEWS

"Santa Claus is anyone who loves another and seeks to make them happy; who gives himself by thought or word or deed in every gift that he bestows." -Edwin Grover

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

This is the time of year when we spend more time with family and friends at social occasions. The question of "What should I bring as a hostess gift?" can come up and the default bottle of wine is usually the answer. (Not that there is anything wrong with that!)

Succulent Queen Debra Lee Baldwin has a different answer and it involves (you guessed it) succulents. The attached video gives step-by-step

instructions for a wonderful alternative to that bottle of wine. (Just click on the image.) I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year of gardening ahead!



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Dec. 9

Nan Sterman

Waterwise Gardener

Laguna Presbyterian Church
(see page 3)



- 9:30 am social
- 10:00 am meeting

Trips & Tours Dec. 16

Roger's & Sherman Gardens

Join us as we visit two beautiful gardens in Newport Beach that have been decorated for the holiday season. (see page 7)



President's Message

Food, Family & Friends, The Holidays Continue!

I hope you all had as wonderful a Thanksgiving week as I did. On Monday, November 21, **John Loomis and I were married!** Thanksgiving itself was a delight: it is our favorite holiday because it is just about family being together and being grateful for one another. Also, I finally perfected a truly flaky pie crust. Overall, I'm very (immodestly) pleased with myself.

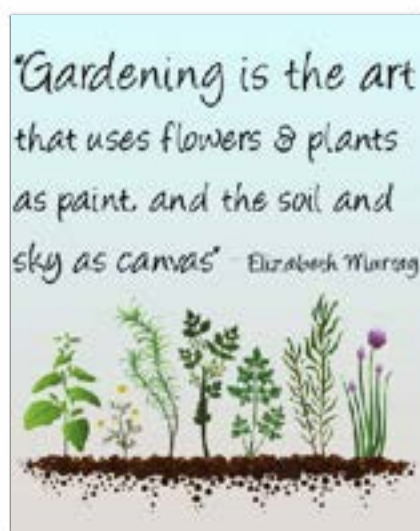
On to the important stuff now. We are in the middle of the perfect California planting season. There was a wonderful article about native plants in the *LA Times* on 11/20/22: well worth a read, and the nurseries are loaded! (See page 10 for the top ten list.) Most of them will give you a discount with your California Garden Club membership card so make sure you pick it up at our meeting on December 9 if you have not already done so. Speaking of the meeting, it is one not to miss, particularly because of the drought. **Nan Sterman** is speaking to us about irrigation. She will be known to many of you as the Waterwise Gardener and I cannot wait to hear her.

Just to remind you, this is season of kindness and generosity. Please bring some food for the Food Pantry and an unwrapped gift for the Fire Department's Spark of Love toy drive.

On December 16, our Trips and Tours will be visiting Roger's Gardens and the Sherman gardens, but more about that on December 9 at our general meeting. In the meantime I wish you all a truly joyous holiday season!-Janet



Co-Vice President Jane Leary runs her first meeting in November for Janet who was under the weather.



Laguna Food Pantry

Members please bring canned goods and boxed foods to our meeting to help support those in need. Fresh produce is always welcome too. Click on this link for the 20 items food banks need most.

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/article/20-items-your-food-bank-needs-the-most/>



Members brought food items to the November meeting for the Laguna Food Pantry. A basket for cash donations was also available. We will be collecting again at the December meeting, please consider making a donation to this worthy cause. See page 13 for a letter from the Laguna Beach Food Pantry.

December Speaker Nan Sterman Will Share Tips For Waterwise gardening

Nan Sterman is a California gardening expert, TV host, and award-winning garden communicator. She is

passionate about waterwise gardens that are not only sustainable and functional, but are also beautiful.

Nan's love affair with plants and growing things started when she was a small child. She tried to hide it the way people hide things they don't understand about themselves, but it wouldn't stay hidden, especially once Nan was in college and stumbled (literally) on Duke University's botany department. There, the California native let her love of plants out of the closet. Through the 1970s and 1980s, Nan was involved in the Back-to-the-Land movement, the precursor to today's sustainability movement. One of those places was a demonstration house in Berkeley California that put Nan in charge of vegetable gardens, chickens, rabbits, and compost. She's grown vegetables and composted every place she's lived since.

Nan was hired as garden editor for *San Diego Home*



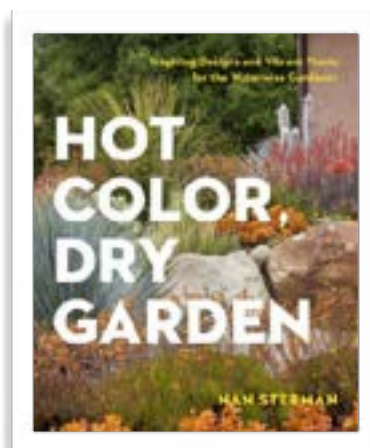
Garden Lifestyle Magazine. Soon, her articles were appearing in *Sunset Magazine*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Organic Gardening*, *Christian Science Monitor* and many other publications including the *Los Angeles Times* and *San Diego Union Tribune* where she has ongoing columns. Gardening books, photography, talks, lectures, international garden tours, and eventually, designing gardens all followed. "I didn't intend to design gardens," Nan says, "but after all those years looking at gardens, talking with designers, dissecting their compositions, combinations, and colors to write about — along with experimenting in my own garden — I realized I had undergone an apprenticeship."

Still, Nan's approach is uniquely her own. Because of her biology background, Nan

understands the plants and the land in ways few other designers do. As a California native, the seasons, soils, and waterwise practices are in her DNA. She has been a long-time proponent of drip irrigation and installed her first drip system in her own garden in 1986.

Nan has spent the past decade perfecting her Easy Seed Starting workshop. She's taught hundreds of people to become confident, successful seed starters in online classes. Her most recent book *Hot Color, Dry Garden* will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Learn more about Nan's drought resistant gardening at waterwisegardener.com



Getting a Head Start For February's Plant & Planter Sale

Plant & Planter Sale Quiz:

What are the three essential ingredients for a container garden?

If you said, "Thrillers, spillers and fillers," you got one right, plants are an essential ingredient.

What are the other two?

Anything can be a planter! Plant pots, either terra cotta or glazed, are lovely, of course, but almost anything you find can be turned into a planter. Baskets, shells, bowls, and cans can be transformed into elegant or quirky planters for your container garden. I am planning to bring a bunch of bright cans planted with annuals for the plant table. Thrift stores and garage sales are great sources for interesting containers. To make anything a planter, add a hole. Don't have a hole in your container? Then it is a cache pot, don't plant it, just design a container garden in a slightly smaller plastic pot and set it in the cache pot on top of a layer of gravel for drainage. For a finished look, top with moss or stones.

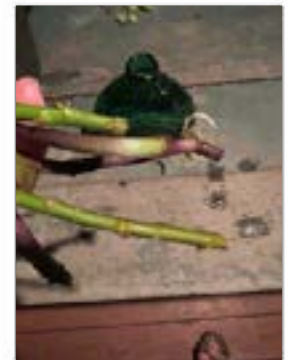


Propagating a plant from a cutting is easy. Cut off a section of stem from a healthy plant, remove all but the top three or four leaves.



Leave the stem long (three or four leaf nodes) but give the stem a fresh cut just below a leaf node because

most plants put out roots from the same place they put out leaves. Stick the stem in a water or in the soil. In two to three weeks you will have a rooted cutting. I always have a bouquet of cuttings on my potting bench and add any pretty clippings. Some root, some don't. They are all lovely to look at.



Ask Nancy Englund for the other two answers to the quiz at the December meeting!

The Plant & Planter Sale is coming up February 10.





Tis the season of showing thanks for all our blessings, although if we would practice being thankful each and everyday we would certainly be a much happier species! Psychologist find that, over time, feeling grateful boosts happiness and fosters both physical and psychological health, even among those already struggling with mental health problems. So let me begin to make myself happier right now! I would like to show gratitude for so many members of the club that have helped me personally with the Gate & Garden Tour since 2018! A huge shout out to **Nancy Englund** for trusting me with her “baby” and graciously accepting the changes that needed to be made to the *Gate & Garden Tour* to ensure that it would flourish and truly provide for the mission of our “hive”. (Yes, I am still on the bee/hive metaphor, please bear with me as I continue to express my “bee love”!) Please indulge me while I say a few special “thank-yous,” first to **Susan Denton** for joining forces with me to help take the tour to yet another level. Thank you to **Maggie Siegel** for always being a sounding board and for jumping in to assist during clutch moments during tour planning season. Thank

you to **Mariann Keenan** being the smoothest site manager you can imagine. **Lynn Jax** for not only doing a spectacular job with the raffle and bar, but always being available to answer any and all procedural issues that arise during the planning stages in the most positive and constructive ways. I cannot say enough about the famous “volunteer wrangler” **Jeanne Yale**, that has taken on this very difficult task for many years, I liken her job to herding cats or Jello! Another feature of the tour that truly puts our tour head and shoulders above the rest is the addition of the plein air painters in each garden. This aspect of the tour is unique to the Laguna Beach Gate & Garden Tour and would not exist without the incredibly creative, **Dalynn Malek**. **Ruben Flores** and his team of plant experts that add the botanist touch by performing the task of plant identification in each of the gardens gives our tour “street credibility” that says although we are fun, we know our stuff. The secret unicorn that makes our tour go “viral” is the brilliant husband and wife team of **Diane Olson and her husband Dan**. Their magical knowledge of using social media to promote the tour increased our reach 10 fold! The polish and professionalism that our tour exhibits to the public is much to the credit of **Carolyn Bent**, who

tirelessly works on any and all things “graphic” from signs, to tour booklet, ads, social media posts graphics and any other crazy thing we think up. **There are over 100 volunteers at this event each year that make this event one of the top 10 garden tours in California, as stated by the *LA Times*.** The members of our hive are a pretty spectacular bunch and year after year, they show up and show warmth and hospitality to all the attendees. That is truly the “secret sauce” that makes the tour such a memorable event for everyone.

The way that bees get help from their fellow hive members when it is time to gather nectar is to do “The waggle dance,” basically shaking their bums to communicate with others of the location of food and the need for help. Apparently when Susan and I got up to speak at our last meeting and did our version of the “waggle dance,” many of you responded and we are proud to announce that we now have all the committee chair positions filled and have had others volunteer for many tasks.

So thank you so much for responding and we wish the entire hive a Happy & Healthy Holiday Season!
Karen Nelson

Tis the Season For Giving to Others

The Garden Club will be collecting donations for Spark of Love Toy Drive. At the December 9 meeting, there will be a table inside Tankersley Hall for you to drop off new, unwrapped toys or sports equipment. We will drop off the toys at the Fire Station after the meeting.

The Laguna Beach Fire Department, in partnership with Southern California Firefighters and ABC7, is again taking part in the annual “Spark of Love” Toy Drive. The campaign collects new, unwrapped toys and sports equipment for underserved children and teens in Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura, and Riverside counties. Toys collected in the respective counties are distributed locally.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Firefighters’ “Spark of Love” campaign, which will run through December 24. The Laguna Beach Fire Department has been involved since the program’s inception.

Any new, unwrapped toy must be in its original packaging or box. Sports equipment (balls, tennis racquets, baseball bats, etc.) is not required to have a box or package. The fire department cannot distribute clothing, personal care items, blankets, etc. The toy drive cannot accept clothing, personal care items, or blankets.

Items for older children are in high demand.

Or if you so choose you can drop off your new, unwrapped toys or sports equipment to any of Laguna Beach’s four fire stations through December 24.

Drop off toys or sports items at these four Laguna Beach Fire Stations:

Fire Station 1: 501 Forest Ave

Fire Station 2: 285 Agate St

Fire Station 3: 2900 Alta Laguna Blvd

Fire Station 4: 31646 2nd Ave

Submitted by: Lynn Jax



TRIPS & TOURS

Christmas is in Full Bloom

Our December Trips & Tours will find us journeying to Newport Beach and Corona del Mar to visit **Roger's Gardens and Sherman Gardens**. Both locations are fully decked out for the holidays and offer wonderful holiday items for sale. **Please sign up at the meeting on the 9th so we know how many people to expect.**

- Date: Friday, December 16 (this is a date change from the date in the Membership Book)
 - Carpooling: Meet at St. Catherine's Church at the corner of Temple Terrace and Oak Street
 - We are leaving the church at 11:45am
 - Come with a full tummy because we are not planning to have lunch as a group.
- Synthia Scofield and Tom Hensel



Members That Make Our Club Special

Name Tag Wearer

Debbie Sugg's name was draw by **Lynn Jax** as the lucky name tag wearer in November. Her prize was a hummingbird feeder, a perfect gift for this avid bird enthusiast. Make sure you have your tag on at the next meeting to be eligible for a fun gift.



Volunteer of the Month

We are truly lucky to have this Volunteer of the Month in our midst. **Wendy Schaller** is a volunteer gardener at the Hortense Miller House and helps to tend the rose garden at the church. Co-Vice President **Jane Leary** presented Wendy with a gift as a token of our appreciation for her continuing efforts.



Fall Decor Graces the Treat Table in November

Susan Scott's creativity got us in the autumn spirit with her wonderful table scape for the treat table at our November. We look forward to see what is in store for us at our December meeting! Thank you Susan.



Blast from the Past – 4 Gardening Books

A friend of mine from high school reached out to me because he knew I was involved in the Garden Club from my Facebook posts. He brought over 4 vintage books (3 copyrights from 1940s and one from 1975) that he thought some of our members might enjoy. They are a bit tattered as they were salvaged from the discard piles from several high school libraries and a public library in Oregon. All will be on display at the Plant Table at the next meeting — and are **FREE** to anyone who would like to give it a home.

1. ***Helen Van Pelt Wilson's Own Garden and Landscape Book*** – © 1975

“One of America’s foremost gardening writers, shares her experience, wisdom, and enthusiasm” from Portland, Oregon. Sample of Table of Contents: Smaller Trees for Planted Place; Evergreens; Flowering Shrubs; Ferns; Roses; Lilies; Ground covers; Pathways, & Charts.

2. ***Your California Garden and Mine*** by Sydney B. Mitchell - © 1947

Sample of Table of Contents: Flowering Fruit trees & Magnolias; Deciduous Flowering Shrubs; Evergreen Shrubs; Sun Roses, Rock Roses, Brooms; Azaleas and Camellias; Perennials; Irises; Chrysanthemums, Geraniums, Fuchsias; Spring Flowering Bulbs; Annuals, etc.

3. ***Gardens for Victory*** by Jean-Marie Putnam and Lloyd C. Cosper - © 1942

Sample of Table of Contents: “V” is for Vitamins; Vegetables without Soil; Culinary Herbs for Carefree Gardens; Cultural Noters for Edible Plants; Kinder Gardens, etc.

4. ***Pacific Coast Gardening Guide*** by Norvell Gillespie - © 1949

Sample of Table of Contents: Ten Commandments for Good Gardening; How to Propagate Plants; Ever-valuable Annuals; Bulbs for Western Gardens; Perennials on Parade; How to Grow Roses/Begonias/Rhododendrons/Fuchsias/Camellias/Azaleas/Lilies, etc.

Submitted by: Lynn Jax



California Native Plants that Make your Garden Smell Terrific

Jeanette Marantos writes for the *LA Times* with her articles appearing often in the Weekend section of the Sunday paper. Appropriately, as California continues in a drought and we search for waterwise plants, her article appeared on November 20. She asked a panel of 15 experts to list their favorites. Here is a condensed version of Top 10 vote getters — in alphabetical order.



1. California laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) — grows 6-60 feet tall [depending on conditions]. The savory leaves can be used in cooking (similar to bay leaves).



2. California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) — often called “cowboy cologne” as showers for the cowboys were rare and it improved their aroma. Its weediness can be tamed with judicious pruning. The aroma is invigorating.



3. Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) — the aroma ranges from tooth-achingly sweet to sharply savory.



4. Coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*) is a tall violet dandelion that smells minty. Indigenous peoples used it a remedy for upset stomachs, sore throats, and respiratory problems.



5. Creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) is an airy green shrub with yellow flowers that mature into cottony fluff balls. It prefers desert sandy soil and smells like creosote.



6. Desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*) is a leggy shrub with gray-green leaves and tall sprays of purple flowers. It prefers sandy, gravelly soils and very little water. Its flowers are a natural for potpourri mixes.



7. Fragrant pitcher sage (*Lepechinia fragrans*) Despite its name, it is not a sage. It has sprays of lavender, bell-shaped flowers and is a favorite of hummingbirds. Its aroma is sweet pungent — delicate and long-lasting with notes of grapefruit.



8. Hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*) has tall & thick magenta blooms whose perfumy sweet scent comes from its large green leaves. It prefers partial shade and not much water.



9. Wolly bluecurls (*Trichostema lantatum*) wins the confectionary aroma award, with a smell somewhere between bubblegum and sage. It is loved by hummingbirds. Water them the first year to get them established, but after that once a month is fine.



10. White sage (*Salvia apiana*) So Cal and northern Baja are the only places where this plant grows natively. Homes, businesses, and roads have mostly wiped it out. It grows readily, has pale silvery leaves with arching spikes of white flowers streaked with lavender. People all over the world buy dried bundles to use as incense.

Submitted by: Lynn Jax with thanks the Jeanette Marantos

Year End Giving And A Tax Deduction Rolled Into One



Consider a Donation to Laguna Beach Garden Club

The end of the year brings thoughts of completing shopping for Christmas gifts, planning the holiday menu, and even being fiscally responsible by ensuring your tax deductions are up to date. Before making any donation to a charitable organization, my husband and I thoroughly research it to look into how much goes to administrative costs versus the goal of the charity. Rest assured 100% of all donations to Laguna Beach Garden Club go directly to our community projects. We have no CEOs or any employees whose salaries we pay; we are entirely a volunteer service organization dedicated to “growing and giving.”

If during this Holiday season, you find it in your heart to give to the Club to help us continue our “giving” to our community, which include:

- Scholarships to LBHS graduating seniors who wish to pursue a career in ecology, horticulture, environmental studies, etc.
- Scholarships to Saddleback College Horticulture students working toward a degree in that field
- City beautifications projects, such as:
 - School gardens at El Morro & Top of the World Elementary and Thurston Middle School
 - Pocket Park & Rose Garden at Laguna Presbyterian Church
 - Sister Cities Garden in Heisler Park
 - Garden by the Sea at Main Beach
 - 4 pollinator gardens so far (one in Heisler Park, two in Bluebird Park, one at the Sawdust Festival) with more in the works
 - Glenwood House vegetable garden
 - Hortense Miller Garden
 - Bluebell Foundation Butterfly Garden
 - Laguna Canyon Foundation
 - Two bottle filling stations (the Water District & Main Beach)

Your generous donation would be much appreciated. As an added bonus, your name will be “*in lights*” on the **Wall of Fame**, which is updated as donations are received, and will appear on our website, in the *Weeder's Digest* (this publication), in the 2023 Gate & Garden Tour Brochure, and then again when the 2022-2023 Membership Book is published. Wall of Fame categories are:

- Major: \$5000 +
- Rose: \$3000 - \$4999
- Monarch: \$1000 - \$2999
- Pelargonium: \$500 - \$999
- Poppy: \$250 - \$499
- Agave: \$100 - \$249
- Aloe: \$25 - \$99



Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization, thereby making donations tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donation checks payable to **Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.** can be mailed to **PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652** or for more information or to donate using a credit card, please go to LagunaBeachGardenClub.org/donate/

In sincere appreciation,
Lynn Jax, Donor/Sponsor Special Administrator

Laguna Beach Garden Club's Wall of Fame

Donors, Sponsors, and In-Kind Donors 2022-2023

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ROSE: \$3000-\$4999

Laguna Beach County Water District
Team Laguna Real Estate

MONARCH: \$1000-\$2999

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LAGUNA BEACH



GARDEN CLUB

GROWING & GIVING
S I N C E 1 9 2 8



November 11, 2022

Laguna Beach Garden Club
PO Box 362
Laguna Beach, CA 92652-0362

Dear Garden Club Members and Friends,

Laguna Food Pantry is so grateful for your generous food drive support.

The Garden Club has collected 300 pounds of food and \$220 in donations!

These donations allow the Pantry to remain open and respond to the increased and immediate needs of so many in our community - the elderly, veterans, disabled, homeless, and part- and full-time workers who struggle to recover financially and feed their family.

Your generous donations help provide food to many more of our newly vulnerable and needy neighbors. Thank you for being part of a group that is making an immediate and positive impact in our community.

We truly appreciate your support!

Sincerely Yours,

Melinda Salem
Program Manager

A great gift to give to your friends and family! Share the experience and make it a day of fun. Give tickets to our fabulous 2023 Gate & Garden Tour. Tickets are on sale at Eventbrite, there is a link on the LBGC website.



PO Box 362 • Laguna Beach, CA 92652

www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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