

VOL. 21



GROWING & GIVING

Laguna Beach Garden Club

Weeder's Digest



DECEMBER 2025

MEMBER NEWS

"Serve Our Community, Protect
 Our Planet & Share the
 Love of Gardening"

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need."

-Cicero- Roman statesman, lawyer, and philosopher

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Here we are once again at the crazy busy Holiday season, when time is precious and energy sometimes wanes. This edition of the *Digest* is filled with club events and future activities that are sure to please even the most frazzled elf.

I found this little tidbit about bees that put my harried quest to finish my Christmas cards seem a bit frivolous.

It takes eight bees their entire lifetime to make a single teaspoon of honey. Bees live an average of 30-60 days. They pollinate about 5,000 flowers a day, which is about 150,000 over their lives. However, a single bee makes less than a teaspoon of honey before it dies.

So remember the next time you reach for the honey -it may be just a teaspoon of honey to you, but to a bee it's their whole life. My Christmas cards might be a bit late this year, I going to go out and enjoy the flowers.



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Dec. 12



Jana Johnson
Fluttering on the Brink- Saving the endangered Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly

Laguna Presbyterian Church
 (see page 3)

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

Trips & Tours Dec. 12

Annual Holiday Member Tour
 (see page 7)



President's Message

Winter Solstice and Christmas Traditions

I am pagan at heart, and I love the echoes of the old traditions during this time of year. The history of Christmas is a tapestry woven from different cultural threads. Long before Christianity, many cultures celebrated festivals during the Winter Solstice. During the holiday season, take time to reconnect with the ancient links between this time of year and nature, and rediscover the real spirit of Christmas.

The Roman festival of Saturnalia, celebrated around December 25th, honored Saturn, the god of agriculture. During this time, social norms were briefly flipped, and revelers feasted, exchanged gifts, and celebrated joyfully — possibly a precursor to many modern Christmas traditions. In



Northern Europe, the Norse celebrated Yule, a festival marking the Winter Solstice with twelve days of festivities. Yule logs were burned to symbolize the return of the Sun's light and warmth, while evergreen trees decorated homes as a sign of life amid the barren winter landscape.

Even as modern Christmas has evolved, traces of these nature-based traditions still remain, maintaining a bond with the natural world during the holiday season.

In today's modern world, reconnecting with nature during the holiday season can still hold deep significance.

Decorating a tree, caroling, and outdoor celebrations help maintain the connection between contemporary Christmas traditions and nature.

Although rooted in Christianity, Christmas blends various



traditions that celebrate life's resilience, the return of light, and humanity's connection with nature. Understanding these origins deepens appreciation for the season and encourages more eco-friendly, nature-centered celebrations. This Christmas, embark on a journey to reconnect with the outdoors. Appreciate the beauty of the natural world, cherish its gifts, and tread lightly on the Earth.

Let this season be about finding comfort in nature's beauty and tranquility, and strengthening bonds with one another and with the world around us. Happy Holidays!

-Nancy Englund

For the



financial health and happiness of the club, you must submit receipts whenever you use club funds. If you need help, ask a board member. All Special Administrators have been assigned to a board member who is available to assist them. Remember, any expense over \$300 needs prior approval from the board. Thank you!



The Bee Lives Less Than 40 Days, Visits At Least 1000 Flowers And Produces Less Than A Teaspoon Of Honey. For Us It Is Only A Teaspoon Of Honey, But For The Bee It Is A Life. Thank You, Bees

December Speaker

Jana Johnson

Fluttering on the Brink- Saving the endangered Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly

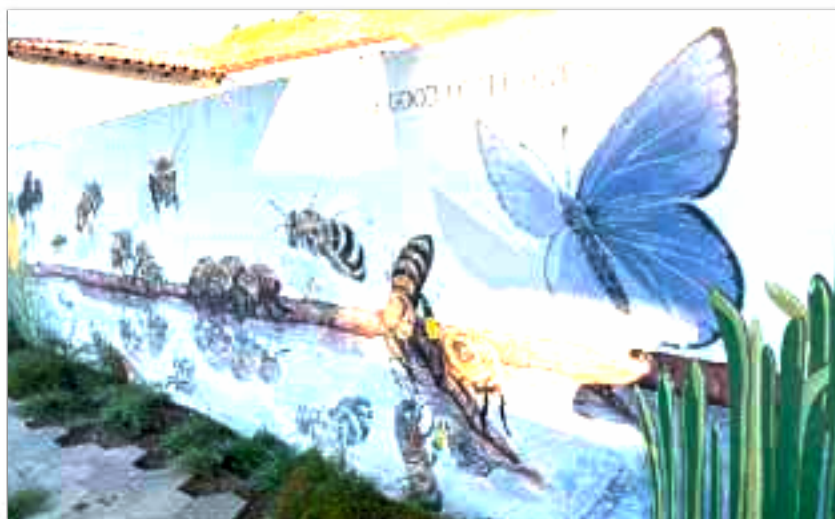
Jana Johnson is a tenured professor at Moorpark College and holds adjunct positions with SMC & UCLA. Her lab at Moorpark College is a grad lab in a community college setting and known as the



Endangered Butterfly Project. Her research is endangered



Lepidoptera and it is her absolute joy to release captive reared endangered butterflies to the wild multiple times each year from the efforts of her community college-based student lab. Jana singled-handedly brought this delicate and beautiful butterfly back from the brink of extinction. The beautiful Palos Verdes Blue butterfly can be seen on the **Matt Willey** mural located at the Laguna Beach County Water District. When the Laguna Beach Garden Club commissioned the



mural Matt felt strongly about including this incredible creature in his effort to bring to light the plight of the pollinators in his mural.

Jana received her B.A. in Biology from UT and briefly pursued a career in pharmaceutical research. She returned to school and received an M.S. in Biology from Texas State University and discovered her passion for Ecology. She went on to receive her PhD in Biology at UCLA.

Please join us on Friday December 12, 2025, at 09:30-10:00 for social time and refreshments, meeting begins

promptly at 10:00AM. Meetings are held at Laguna Presbyterian Church in Tankersley Hall located at 415 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, Ca. Non-members are invited to attend for free on their first visit. For more information on the garden club:

www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org

No parking in the Church parking. Plenty of street parking available.

-Karen Nelson



Getting Involved

Make a Difference — Be the Reason Our Club

Every great garden flourishes because someone cared enough to nurture it. Our club is no different. Our club blossoms thanks to members who step forward, pitch in, and **make a difference**—one small act at a time.

This year, we're inviting every member to help our hive thrive by choosing just two volunteer activities. We call it "**Just Do Two**," but the real heart of the message is simple: **your involvement matters**.

Whether you have an hour, an afternoon, or an occasional morning to give, there's a place for you. From helping set up at a meeting... to joining a garden workday... to assisting with

outreach projects, each contribution enriches the club and strengthens the bonds that make our group so special.

Volunteering isn't just about filling a need—it's about connection. It's how friendships grow, how talents are discovered, and how we collectively support the "Good of the Hive."

Stop by the Volunteer Table at the December meeting—you'll find it on the patio between the Treats Table and the Gift Shop. Look over the opportunities, chat with fellow members, and pick something that inspires you.

Let's come together, get involved, and **make a difference**—one member, two actions, countless rewards.

Sign up to Just Do Two!

Let's Get Involved!



Volunteer Table

Container Gardens

Have you started planning the container garden you will donate to the *Valentine Extravaganza*? For me, inspiration begins with a container. The size, color, and texture of the container influence the design of the tiny garden inside. The good news is that almost anything can serve as a planter! Plant pots, whether terra cotta or glazed, are lovely, but nearly anything you find can be transformed into a planter. Baskets, shells, bowls, and cans can become stylish or quirky planters for your container garden. Thrift stores, garage sales, or "trashquisitions" are perfect sources for interesting containers. To turn anything into a planter, add a hole. Don't have a hole in your container? Then it's a cache pot—don't plant directly in it. Instead, create a container garden in a slightly smaller plastic pot and place that inside the cache pot on a layer of gravel for drainage. Finish the look with moss or stones on top. I can't wait to see what you create!

-Nancy Englund

Tis the Season For Giving to Others

Spark of Love 2025

LBFD 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 all over Southern California. Toys collected in Laguna Beach are given to families right here in Laguna, certain to brighten their holidays.

At our December 12 meeting, you’ll find a table inside Tankersley Hall to hold new, unwrapped toys or sports equipment which our fabulous Laguna Beach Fire Department will pick up during our meeting along with the bikes and helmets so many of you generously donated money towards this year.

Toys must be unwrapped and in their original packaging or box. Sports equipment (balls, tennis racquets, baseball bats, etc.) are not required to have a box or package. The fire department cannot distribute clothing, personal care items, blankets, etc.

Items for older children are in high demand.

You can also drop off your new, unwrapped toys or sports equipment at any of Laguna Beach’s four fire stations:

Fire Station 1: 501 Forest Ave (downtown)

Fire Station 2: 285 Agate St (and Glenn Eyre)

Fire Station 3: 2900 Alta Laguna Blvd (up high)

Fire Station 4: 31646 2nd Ave (South Laguna)

See you all December 12!

-Jane Leary



Gratitude and the Harvest

Bees show gratitude through actions like communal care, a selfless act of defense, and generosity in sharing food, rather than human expressions. Their communal behaviors, such as grooming each other for affection and the sharing of nectar to create honey, can be seen as analogous to thankfulness within the hive.

The Laguna Beach Garden Club emulates the beehive in so many of the same ways. In hundreds of ways daily, I am often astounded by the incredible generosity of members time, talent, and treasure. From giving one another rides to meetings or events or doctor's appointments, to preparing a meal for someone who is ill, to helping to clean up a member's garden. When someone can't make a garden club commitment, someone else jumps in and takes on the task, no questions asked. When a community partner needs a collaboration, we hold up our hand first and ask, "How can we help?" I could not have imagined that this was the group I was signing up to be a part of when I joined. The joy that witnessing these acts of kindness brings me knows no bounds! It gives me hope that in our own small way we can in fact exhibit the change we want to see in the world.

I want to highlight one such "bee" in our hive. **Mae Ho** is a shining star who likes to fly under the radar! But oh boy is she a powerful force in her gracious and quiet manner. If Lynn needs a special raffle prize, Mae is there, If a special event needs her masterful cooking, Mae is there, when Susan Denton is looking for a sponsor for the Gate & Garden Tour, Mae is there, and now as we approach our Centennial year in 2028 Mae has chosen to be a major sponsor of the celebration and its many activities in 2027/2028. She does this to honor her mother June, to show us the incredible example that her mother left for us to emulate. Unpretentious, selfless and discreet and always leading with kindness and appreciation, that is our own Mae Ho. Mae has no fear of getting in and doing the work of a project, or lending of her exceptional critical thinking skills or giving of her treasure. I am in awe and honored to be associated with this lovely bee in our hive.

So let us all be inspired by the many acts of kindness that happen within this beautiful hive day after day and look for ways to keep the ripple moving in our stream to create a tsunami of altruism that will change not only the world at large, but the world in each of our hearts.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." ~ Margaret Mead

-Karen Nelson



Annual Holiday Home Tour

Friday December 12
following the general meeting
2:00pm to 5:00pm.

This cherished, annual event is the perfect opportunity to begin your Holiday festivities. It is always a special time with the lovely decorations, tempting nibbles, beverages and good company.

Locations: We have 3 delightfully decorated homes that will surely spark holiday cheer!

Lois Zeller - 655 Catalina Street, Laguna Beach

Barbee Martin - 26843 Calle Verano, Capistrano Beach

Lisa Goodlad - 911 Calle Nuevo, San Clemente

RSVP: If you did not sign up to attend at our November meeting, please send Mary Jones an email (ibjones@cox.net) or text (949-233-1993) that you are planning to attend so our hostesses can plan accordingly.

-Mary Jones



Members That Make Our Club Special

Name Tag Winner

New member in 2025, **Sharon McNair's** name was drawn by **Lynn Jax** as the lucky name tag wearer in November. Make sure you have your tag on at the next meeting to be eligible for a fun gift.



Volunteer of the Month

Lisa Goodlad was selected at the Volunteer of the Month in November. A member since 2024, Lisa can be found at the social hour before the general meeting helping ElizaBeth Chapel at the treat table or coffee bar.



Fall Decor Graces the Treat Table in November

Kim Allen's creativity got us in the autumn spirit with her wonderful table scape for the treat table at our November meeting. The fall colored natural foliage added a warm touch to the table scape. Kim has been a member since 2025. She gave instructions to Silent Auction winner Lisa Goodlad about the transportation and care of her creation.



Centerpiece Silent Auctions

You can now **bid on the Hostess Table Centerpiece!** Are you planning on entertaining the weekend of our Garden Club meeting? Each month, a unique theme will be lovingly designed, created and donated (not December's) by one of our talented and generous Garden Club Members. A silent auction bid sheet will be next to the centerpiece. Minimum bids start at \$25.00 and bid up at \$5.00 increments. Bidding will close at the start of the general session meeting at 10am.

A giant ***Thank you to Kim Allen*** for creating our fabulous Hostess Table Centerpiece for November and ***Congratulations to Lisa Goodlad*** for placing the winning bid!

December's Hostess Table Centerpiece will be lovingly designed by Carolyn Bent, using her heirloom ornaments. **NOTE: December's Hostess Centerpiece will not be auctioned off**, as Carolyn's Centerpiece will be designed using her cherished heirloom glass ornaments. Thank you, Carolyn! We can't wait to see you work your holiday magic!

- Linda Richardson



**This is not Carolyn Bent's centerpiece,
hers will be much better!**

Membership Update

Welcome to December and all the holiday happenings. I am pleased to announce that we now have **245** members as of November 24, 2025.

Our next meeting is December 12, with social time beginning at 9:30 am and the business meeting starting promptly at 10 am, with another fabulous presenter as part of our Speaker Series.

If you have not picked up your 2025-2026 Membership Book yet, tables will be located inside for your convenience.

Name tags – reminder to wear yours to receive a ticket to be eligible to win a great prize as a reward for wearing it. If you joined the Club in November, your new name tag will be ready for pick up. Any new member who has NOT received your name tag, please stop by and pick it up. If you ordered a replacement or spare name tag, it will also be ready for pick up.

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

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

- **Lynn Jax**, Director of Membership

Gardening Opportunities

Do you love to garden? Would you like to make some new friends gardening? Do you feel like you don't know what you are really doing, but would be willing to learn with your team?

Then come be part of one of our garden teams. We need help on both the Pocket Park Team (across from the Post Office on Forest) and the Rose Garden Team (the garden in front of the Presbyterian Church). I will place you on a team that does that garden once a month, and it takes 1-2 hours each time. The day and time is determined by your team, so there is a lot of flexibility. It is a lot of fun!!!

Please contact Monica Thompson if interested. My number is (949)702-1429, and email is mmehren9@gmail.com.

-**Monica Thompson**- Pocket Park & Rose Garden Special Administrator





November 12, 2025

The Laguna Beach Garden Club is pleased to present this \$1,500.00 grant to the Orange Coast College Horticulture Department.

Our Club is very impressed with your facility and your forward-thinking approach using aquaponics as well as connecting the horticulture department with OCC's culinary department, so students learn to cook what you grow.

It gives us great pleasure to provide funds for seeds for your fall and spring plantings, lettuce seeds for your aquaponics greenhouses, and two PH/EC meters, to support your students as they continue to learn and thrive.

OCC ROCKS!

Sincerely,

Laguna Beach Garden Club
Jane Leary
Scholarship Administrator

PO Box 362 • Laguna Beach, CA 92652
www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

On November 12 Club members **Jane Leary** and **Georgia Zachariah** delivered a \$1500 check to **Joe Stead and Magali Martinez of Orange Coast College**. The grant will be used to purchase seeds for fall and spring plantings, lettuce seeds for their aquaponics greenhouses, and two PH/EC meters

The 200+ horticulture students can earn certificates and AA degrees in subjects like soil science, plant propagation, plant science and plant and tree identification all designed to help them get good paying jobs at botanical gardens, large estates (think Sunnylands in Palm Springs) and hotel gardens (like the beautiful gardens at the Montage) taking them way beyond the mow-blow-go level.

The OCC horticulture department is a beautiful 1.5 acres filled with a variety of plants and trees, 90 garden plots tended by students growing all manner of fruits and vegetables, along with 7 greenhouses, 3 of which are aquaponics where they grow food with no soil and use fish they raise to fertilize the plants! The lettuce tastes amazing and lasts for weeks in your fridge. It's fascinating and uses very little water as it is recycled and used within the system.

Joe and Magali and their team were *thrilled* with our donation which will go a long way to help ensure their students' success.

-Jane Leary



Sign-Up for January Trips & Tours at the December Meeting

Daytrippers, we have a fun T&T planned for a great start to 2026! On **January 28th**, we will tour **Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens**, lunch at Trevor's at the Tracks and then self-tour Mission San Juan Capistrano. Sign-ups will happen at the December general meeting, and please be prepared to pay the tour fees in cash to the T&T duo at the December or January general meetings. You will see reminders and updates at the meetings and in Constant Contact emails.

As usual, we will gather at St. Catherine of Siena Parish for carpools at 9:15 a.m., leaving promptly at 9:30 a.m. Parking is in front of the church and is free; address is: 1042 Temple Terrace, Laguna Beach. We appreciate drivers!

January 28, 2026 T&T Line-Up

1. 10:00 a.m tour of Casa Romantica, 415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente; admission/tour fee is \$8.00. Since this needs to be prepaid, please bring \$8 in cash to Synthia Scofield or Patty Gaffney to either the December or January general meetings.
2. Lunch at Trevor's at the Tracks, 26701 Verdugo Street, San Juan Capistrano
3. For the self tour/wander of Mission San Juan Capistrano, you will pay admission at the door: \$15 for ages 60+ or \$18 for ages 18-59. Address is 26801 Old Mission Road, SJC.

Sign-up at the December 12th meeting or contact Patty Gaffney, Synthia Scofield via text or email.



Need a last minute holiday gift?

Stop by the Gift Shop during our December meeting and take a look at our new merchandise.

As promised we have long sleeve gloves in size medium.

Why not give one of our very own calendars or gift cards
or our hats and aprons?

We will even gift wrap for free!

See you December 12 before, during, and after the meeting.

Merry Christmas from the

-Gift Shop Staff



HOLIDAY SEASON RAFFLE

Our winter raffle to welcome the Holidays will be held at the December 12th meeting. Some of the covetable items include:

- Large Paper White Kit from Roger's Gardens
- Holiday Gift Basket curated by Mae Ho
- Honey Baked Ham
- Succulent Wreath curated by Jeanne Yale
- Hand dyed scarf from Duet

Come early prepared with cash, check or credit card (one ticket for \$5 or seven tickets for \$20). Several Garden Club members will be selling tickets before the meeting and credit card sales are available at the Treasurer's Table inside the Tankersley Hall.



Thank you all who generously donated items and Happy Holiday Winnings!

Vicky Adams-Cuccia Raffle Administrator Team



LBGC shows our generous nature to Laguna Food Pantry!

What a hive! At the November meeting we collected 232 egg cartons, including 55 from Mary Lewis and her neighbors. We also provided 193 lbs of food and \$150 in cash and checks. Kudos to LBGC!

Our club's year-to-date egg carton total is a whopping 869. That's a savings of almost \$400 for our Pantry, which means they have that much more cash to spend toward nutritious food. No doubt with the holiday baking season in full swing you'll have plenty more to bring to our Dec 12 meeting.

A thought – be like Mary Lewis and ask your neighbors to donate their egg cartons. I asked just one neighbor last month and got 4 extra!

Reminder, our Pantry can no longer use plastic. Their need is for cardboard, half or full dozen, clean and with lids. However if you bring plastic 12's or 18's with lids, we'll find a home for them, too.

Shout out to Club member Tom Hensel's son Casey, for being our pickup and delivery service for the Pantry.

See you in December!

-Jane Leary

Looking for the perfect gift for that special someone? Share the experience and make it a day of fun.

Give tickets to our fabulous 2026 Gate & Garden Tour.

Tickets are on sale at Eventbrite on our website,
www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org

Laguna Beach Garden Club's
Gate & Garden Tour



First Saturday in May
Tour tickets make a great gift!

#holidaygiftideas #gardentours #thingstodoinmay



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