



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



FEBRUARY 2022
MEMBER NEWS

*Celebrating Art &
Science in the Garden*

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."

-Lady Bird Johnson

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

There is just something therapeutic about digging in the dirt. A friend of mine from the Sacramento area started a garden at her elementary school and she found that the kids got just as much joy from tilling up the soil as they did from harvesting the veggies they grew.

Turning over fresh soil, adding in nutrients, and then carefully placing seeds or seedlings into the ground is a

time honored practice that lets us know that spring is on its way and new life is about to grow. We carry on.



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Feb. 10

Container Garden Auction

Bring your floral donation and/or bid on other members' creations. Any size, any theme is perfect! Laguna Presbyterian Church

- 9:00 am floral container drop off/delivery,
- 9:30 am Social & Auction bidding
- 10:00 am Meeting indoors (see page 3).



Trips & Tours Feb. 24

OC Succulents and another location to be announced



President's Message

Planning, Planting & Preparing

Dear Members,

It is February again. The most important date is not Valentine's day on the 14th, but **Friday the 10th** when we have our yearly **Plant and Planter Sale!** It is open to the general public so members, hear my call and show us how creative you can be with things that will become containers for beautiful plants. The containers can be whimsical or practical. I am scouring my garage for anything I can use, but I think my Home Depot buckets won't make the cut!



This past month has been busy: my roses are pruned and fed, all the natives are coming up and the ceanothus and Bee's Bliss salvia have begun to bloom. I spent the last three days in Arizona pruning the vines at the winery of which my husband is a part owner: 8 hours a day for 3 days straight, and oh, my aching paws and whiskers! We'll go back in July and pick the grapes. It is so hot then that we get up at midnight and pick until 8am when it becomes too hot. Next time you have a glass

of wine, drink a toast to the winery workers. It's not an easy job.

See you all on the 10th.

-Janet Chance



Janet modeling an example of a creative garden hat to kick off the new "Garden Hat Competition" for the May 6 Gate & Garden Tour.

Welcome to February!

I am pleased to announce that we now have **213 members** as of January 27, 2023.

Our next meeting is February 10 with our annual Valentine Container Auction, Plant Sale, fabulous Raffle, & new this year Norman's Boutique Table. This will be a great event.

By now you have received an email or text from me regarding picking up your 2022-2023 Membership Book and possibly your name tag. As always you can pick up your Membership Book and/or name tag, at the Membership tables inside the meeting hall. 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 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.

Please feel free to contact me any time via email:

jax@cox.net

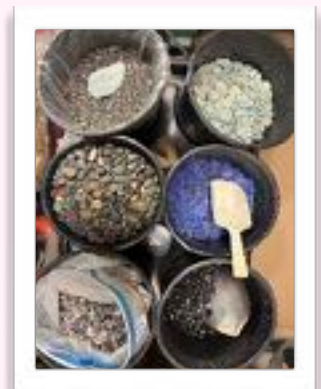
or cell: 949-294-1500.

Lynn Jax,

Director of Membership

The Container Garden Auction will be the Highlight of our February Meeting

Did you put together a container garden for the auction on February 10? Thank you so much! Do you feel something is missing to give it pizzazz to stand out from the rest? You are in luck! You can visit **Mariann Keenan** at the “Zhuzh Table” located to the left of the door and zhuzh it up! Add top dressing or an ornament to make your container garden more stylish and eye-catching. **If you are bringing anything, a container garden, plants, crafts or vintage items for the boutique, please plan to arrive at 9am.** Volunteers will be available to help you carry your donations to the appropriate spot. The boutique and plant sale will be outside in the courtyard, container gardens for the silent auction will be inside Tankersley Hall. Bring friends, too. Certified Master Gardeners will be answering questions plus bargains and many unique objects for sale. **Plus a chance to buy Gate & Garden Tour tickets without service charges. Timed entry tickets will be \$50 for club members!** The February meeting is our other big fund raiser. Funds raised go to school gardens, scholarships, civic beautification and to hire world-class speakers for our monthly presentations.



Gorgeous container gardens will be the focus of the February meeting but bidding will pause while certified **Master Gardeners and club members Ingrid Cebula & Diane Groh** help you get ready for your warm season vegetable and herb garden followed by Q&A on anything, including questions about how to become a Master Gardener.

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained to help residents of Orange County become better gardeners. Using a variety of activities such as workshops, lectures, and a garden hotline, these volunteers answer questions about home horticulture, sustainable landscaping, and integrated pest management using University of California research-based information.

After their training with University of California Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners are qualified to help the public with problems in many areas including: food gardening and preservation, effective irrigation, composting, and plant problem diagnosis.

Ingrid Cebula became an MG in 2000. You may have encountered her at Sherman Gardens where she is a volunteer and a docent. She helps maintain the CA native plant garden at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, active with the OCMG Speaker's Bureau. Ingrid gives talks on a range of gardening topics all around South OC.

Diane Groh became an MG in 2005. Her gardening interests are primarily edibles. She has spent the last 8 years helping to maintain the drought tolerant landscapes at the South Coast Research Station in Irvine. She sits on the Laguna Niguel Library Board, the Aliso Niguel Democratic Club Board, and the Laguna Niguel Woman's Club Board. She also volunteers at the CREER Food Bank.

CLUB NEWS

February RAFFLE

In addition to our Valentine container silent auction, we will also have some fabulous items available at the raffle at February 10th meeting; the items include:

- Metal barrel cactus
- Mosaic heart
- Wood -burned Bee image from Matt Willey (September speaker)
- Gift Cards from Laguna Coast Pottery
- Gardening Books
- Succulent Wreath by Jeanne Yale
- Valentine Basket w/ bottle of wine & other Valentine-related goodies

We accept cash, checks, and credit cards. Raffle ticket prices are **\$5 for 1 ticket** and **\$20 for 7 tickets**. Come prepared and rub that lucky penny. What a great way to shop for a unique gift for that special someone or even yourself.

You can purchase tickets before the meeting and after the short presentation.

Write your name **LEGIBLY** (*please*) on **ONE** portion of the ticket with your phone number & place the tickets in as many bags as you wish.

The drawings will be held at the close of the meeting.

Winner need not be present. We can arrange for pick-up of your winning item/s when I contact you.

-Lynn Jax



In The Community

School Gardens

Kelly Osborne is the Club's liaison for School Gardens, school board member, & district school-wide garden coordinator. She reports:

The Top of the World Elementary, El Morro Elementary and Thurston Middle school gardens are thriving this year.

The rain and cool temperatures are advantageous for the cool-season crops that the students have planted.

El Morro is having a terrific year with new regular lessons for every classroom as well as hands-on experiences with planting and weeding in their garden.

Thurston has installed its new greenhouse and **Top of the World** is working hard in its huge space with yields like celery and Romanesco.

Top of the World Elementary - Tree Pruners Needed

Kelly is asking for 3 volunteers to help to show parent volunteers how to prune fruit trees. A group of 10-20 parent volunteers meet for coffee in the garden and work on the trees. Three volunteers would be terrific.

Date: Friday February 17 Time: 8am – 10am

Where: Top of the World Elementary School

Contact: Kelly Osborne by email or phone. She lives 1 block from the school and you can meet at her house at 7:45 am and she will take you over to the school.

Email: kellylosborne@gmail.com

Phone: 949-702-4522

Drilling & Planting on a Fun-Filled Morning

On January 20th, seven Garden Club members participated in the Green Thumb workshop that took place in **Jeanne Yale's** garage and was led by **Nancy Englund**. Participants created mermaid themed container gardens. Nancy supplied the shells, soil, potted succulents and many decorative sea-themed items used to create the gardens. Some of the creations will be available to bid on at the Plant & Planter sale. Participants also had the opportunity to drill holes in pots that they brought

using a standing drill press and diamond tipped hole saw. Jeanne and Nancy plan to offer this as an annual event using the Yale drill press.

It was a beautiful sunny day after our recent rains and everyone had fun and reported that it was an entertaining and productive event. People were inspired by the selection of shells and array of succulents. And many were happy to be able to drill holes in favorite pots that they are now able to use as planters.



January Trips & Tours Visited 3 Tustin Favorites

On Friday, January 27, plant expert and garden center owner **Gary Matsuoka** spoke to our group, approximately 16 of us, about bare root roses and fruit trees and the importance of starting plants in appropriate soil. His business, **Laguna Hills Nursery** (1829 N. Tustin Avenue, Santa Ana), is a longtime nursery offering an array of plants, flowers, trees & soils as well as gardening classes.

If you missed his informative and entertaining talk, you will have another chance as we plan to invite Matsuoka to speak to the club next year. We bought interesting plants and stocked up on Gary's Blend potting mix before heading right down the road to two more nurseries: Site One (which used to be Village Nursery) at 1582 N Tustin St, Orange, and Upland Nursery, right next door at 1518 N. Tustin St. Both had a good variety of plants; Upland had an especially excellent shade or indoor plant selection. We then had lunch at Green Tomato Grill.

Join us on February 24 for our next adventure in the plant world.



Fun with a
micro lens
and plants



Members who ventured to the gardens included: Kathy Goodwin, Jodie Goodwin, Diane Kloke, Pam Talarico, Lois Zeller, Susan Heinz, Carol Mitchell, Debbie Sugg, Monica Thompson, Regina Hartley, Georgia Zachariah, Lorna Larson Paugh, Janet Chance, Helga Yellen, Diane Lannon, Mariann Keenan, and Synthia Scofield. (Sorry if someone was accidentally left off the list.)



Laguna Beach Garden Club Gate & Garden Tour

The weather lately certainly screams “winter,” at least it does for us California folk! But believe it or not, it is only about 45 days until spring arrives. Unlike the Queen bee who is busiest in the summer months when the hive needs to be at maximum strength, our hive needs to be at maximum strength to create a world class garden tour in the Spring.

That being said, it's time to think about what task you want to work on to help the *Gate & Garden Tour* be a sensational success! If you are hospitable and friendly, perhaps working at the refreshments and botanical water station, where you get to greet our guests and offer them some of our home baked delights is your jam. Perhaps you are an incredibly great salesperson, charming, charismatic, and can sell ice to Eskimos, then you are perfect to help sell raffle tickets. Perhaps you are very organized and exceptionally detail oriented and friendly, then registration might be a great use of your skills.

Are you a social, outgoing connoisseur of alcoholic beverages and find the “Cheers” bar environment your happy place? Then working the margarita bar might just be your calling. If spending a day in an idyllic garden and joining others in admiring the creativity of the space, then being a garden docent in one of our 11 gardens is for you. Perhaps you are an incredibly focused honey bee that prefers a specific task that you can do and doesn't require lots of socialization, then tour day set up and take down might be just the job for you. Every member has skills that can be put to great use on tour day! Please see **Mariann Keenan**, who is the official volunteer wrangler this year and have her add your name to her list.

As has been the tradition since 2018, we sell discounted tickets to our members at the February general meeting. **The regular timed entry ticket will be available for members for \$50 and the VIP ticket, which includes a food and drink ticket as well as flexible entry time will be available for \$70.** These tickets are currently on sale for \$60 and \$80 respectively on Eventbrite. These will be available for sale to members who can purchase as many as they would like for cash or check only. This means you will also save the \$5 fee that you would have to pay on Eventbrite. This is about a 23% savings on your ticket price.

We are so appreciative of the strong force of nature that is our membership. Volunteering and giving freely of your time, talent or treasure is one of the best ways to connect to your community, a way to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships by committing to a shared activity. Volunteering is a two-way street; It can benefit you as much as it the cause you choose to help. **I'm so proud that my generation of garden club members is making a huge difference in so many lives in Laguna Beach!**

-Karen Nelson



*Get the perfect Valentine's gift
for your special someone!*

Give the gift of an incredible experience
at Laguna Beach Garden Club's

Gate & Garden Tour

Saturday, May 6, 2023

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

NEW! Limited number of \$80 VIP tickets available

For more info and to purchase tickets:

LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

Arbor Day 2023 in Moulton Meadows!

On Thursday, March 9 from 3-5pm, join the Garden Club and many other civic groups at Moulton Meadows to celebrate Arbor Day!

A tree will be planted! Rocks will be painted! Fun will be had!



Getting Involved

Patriots Day Parade

Calling all Garden Club members for the lifetime experience of marching in our ***Patriot's Day Parade*** and showing off what a force we are for the community of Laguna Beach. Remember, marching with our club is camaraderie, fun, and all downhill!

Check your calendars and sign up at the Feb. meeting.

When: Saturday, March 4

Where: Laguna Beach High School Parking lot on Park Ave.

Time: 10 am arrival. Please be prompt as the Parade starts at 11am.

Dress: Comfy shoes, blue jeans, white top, Garden Club apron, decorated hat with flowers

Comfort: Water, sunblock, tissue, phone if desired, lipstick with color, sun glasses.

Parking: Park in a neighborhood to avoid meters. The parade ends at city hall.

Jobs: Garden Club banner (2 people)
Garden Tour banner (2 people)
"Rakettes" (drill team that will learn an easy drill)
Ladybug spinners (5 people)
LBGC signboard carriers (7)
Walkers with flower baskets (you bring the flowers) (4 people, I have blue baskets)
Lots more members to pass out Garden Tour postcards and wave to the crowd!

Everyone please participate! The more the merrier! Let's show our community all that we do and all of our spirit!

For questions, contact **Diane Kloke:**

kloke@cox.net, 949-497-1866, cell 949-280-4568



Members of the Month

Pat Acree was selected as volunteer for the month of January. She has been a member since 2009.



January Centerpiece

Diane Lannon worked her magic once again with this beautiful arrangement for the treat table. Diane has been a member since 2009 and is a Lifetime member.



Name Tag Wearer Winner

Kat Meehan was "caught" wearing her name tag at the January meeting she has been a member since 2017.



Time to Plant Wildflowers for Spring

Once again Jeanette Marantos, who writes a garden column for the *LA Times*, offers suggestions to those who want wildflowers in their garden by Spring.

Because of the recent deluge of rain in So Cal, it's not too late to create your own super-bloom in your garden. Seeds benefit from winter rains because they need moist conditions to germinate to push their roots deep into the soil. Wildflowers are self-seeding, so once you get a good bloom, let them go to seed and they'll pretty much take care of themselves.

Here are some tips to get started:

1. Purchase good seed, especially seeds native to California. The two best native plant nurseries are: Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano and Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley. You can purchase online also.
2. Choose a place to plant & do the prep work in advance: clear weeds without compacting the soil & lightly cultivate. Use a metal rake or hula hoe to rough up the first 3-4 inches of soil. Remember not to plant seeds during or right after a heavy rainstorm.
3. Remove any weed sprouts to give your wildflowers a fighting chance. Use a hula hoe or pull weeds by hand.
4. Size up your planting area. Read the seed packet to see how much area one packet covers & buy enough to cover the area you want to plant.
5. Mix your seeds with native soil. Fill a 5-gallon bucket halfway with soil from the garden where you intend to plant & then use your hands to thoroughly mix in the packet or packets of seeds. Mixing seeds with soil from the garden (not overly wet or dry) makes it easier to evenly scatter them around in the growing area.
6. Lightly rake over the seeded area after you sow, using a leaf rake to "neat" the seeds into the soil. If rain is expected in the next day, let the rainfall soak the seeds into the ground. If not, use the "shower" nozzle on your hose to help settle the seeds into the ground. Germination typically takes 10-14 days.
7. Be sure not to kill your sprouts because you will want to continue to weed but sometimes the emerging wildflowers might appear like a weed. Let it grow a little longer until you can identify what's coming up.
8. Try planting in containers. Theodore Payne has special wildflower mix for pots that calls for containers at least 12 to 14 inches wide and 6 inches deep, but other experts suggest the minimum depth should be at least 4 inches. The bigger the container, the more you can grow.

Summarized and submitted by: *Lynn Jax*

Source credit: Marantos, Jeanette. "Want Wildflowers This Spring? Act Now," 22, January 2023, *LA Times*, L5.



Busy Gardener Month by Month

SATURDAY, FEB. 11, 11 AM – 12 PM

***Hosted by* Laguna Beach Library
363 Glenneyre**

***Creating and maintaining a beautiful
garden is all about timing – doing the
right thing at the right time of year.***

***Whether you are new to gardening
trying to figure out how to get started,
or a pro looking to simplify your
gardening efforts, this class is for you!
An OC Master Gardener will present a
month-by-month calendar of the
top garden jobs.***

Free, open to the public

No Registration Required

**Presented by the
UCCE Master Gardeners
of Orange County**

mgorange.ucanr.edu

mgorange.ucanr.edu/Gardening_Hotline/



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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 is Laurie Jocham's photo of her flower garden [front cover], and Maggie Siegel's mosaic mailbox surrounded by roses is the second-place winner [back cover].

Photo Contest Rules

1. Photo entries are due Photo Contest chair, Perry Stampfel, by **Friday, April 28, 2022**.
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



Wall of Fame 2022-2023

SPONSORS

ROSE: \$3000-\$4999

Laguna Beach County
Water District
The Smith Group

MONARCH: \$1000-\$2999

Maggie Siegel
Whole Foods Market

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