

VOL. 20



# Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



FEBRUARY 2025

MEMBER NEWS

Cultivating Delight through  
Gardening & Community Service

*"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy,  
they are the charming gardeners who make our  
souls blossom."* -Marcel Proust

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Winter in southern California can be chilly,

well our definition of chilly, and so we might find ourselves spending more time indoors curled up on the couch reading a delightful new book or binge watching a new series on Netflix.

This doesn't mean that our gardening skills need to hibernate. The link



below takes you to Roger's Gardens website where a list, complete with photos, of houseplants & their health benefits is outlined. So have fun updating your perfect indoor living space. Lunch at Farmhouse is optional.

[https://www.rogersgardens.com/blogs/current-news-events/which-indoor-plant-is-best-for-you?\\_kx=eKMSSDhT4gj5Ew-cvpBgUDvsKh9194fDYwYnqEwPx8.HmkVAP](https://www.rogersgardens.com/blogs/current-news-events/which-indoor-plant-is-best-for-you?_kx=eKMSSDhT4gj5Ew-cvpBgUDvsKh9194fDYwYnqEwPx8.HmkVAP)

for-you?\_kx=eKMSSDhT4gj5Ew-cvpBgUDvsKh9194fDYwYnqEwPx8.HmkVAP

COME JOIN IN  
THE FUN

## Events This Month

General Meeting  
February 14



### 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 (see page 3).

### Trips & Tours February 26

### San Juan Capistrano Nursery Crawl

Sign up at the February 14 meeting (see page 4)



### Green Thumb March 7

### Mosaic Tile Making with Sharon Stephens

Sign up at the February 14 meeting (see page 15)



## President's Message

# Sowing Seeds of wonder Through a Community of Gardeners

**W**elcome! I am looking forward to our Open house, Valentine's Day boutique, and auction sale on February 14th. I hope you can join us and bring your checkbook! I shared lots of pretty items in the boutique that I hope will be loved in your home. **It is also the ONLY opportunity to buy tour tickets for \$50 (cash or check, no plastic).**



I have been busy designing and replanting my collection of planters in my backyard. Because of La Nina, this winter has been cold, dry, and windy, so I put the plant creations for the boutique in my She-Shed. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that they flourish in that protected environment! It is so rewarding to see plants thrive from my efforts and realize small changes can make a big



impact. I am so inspired that I plan to purchase a small greenhouse this year to protect seedlings. I can imagine all the herbs and vegetables I can grow in a warm, cozy greenhouse protected from the wind.



In other parts of my garden, my Meyer's Lemon tree is blossoming profusely, promising a big harvest I love Meyers lemon flavor in my glass of water daily and our guava is abundantly producing which lots of antioxidants. If you enjoy guava, feel free to reach out. We love to share the harvest as long as we have

enough to make a few guava pies!

I have learned so much through my involvement with the Laguna Beach Garden Club and the larger community. It is wonderful to share our joy and ideas for gardening.

Wishing you Happy Valentines Happiness and health!

- Mary Sanchez &  
Nancy Englund Co-Presidents

## February Newsletter Contest

The winner of the January Newsletter Contest "Know me, Know my Pet" was **Patricia Weier**, a Lifetime member since 1998.



February's Contest is to **Find the Hidden Hearts** (like the one pictured below) that can be found throughout this edition. Send your entries to Jane Leary- [janeleary12@gmail.com](mailto:janeleary12@gmail.com) by Thursday, February 13, by 5:00pm. Happy counting!





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



**T**he February meeting is our Valentine Plant & Planter Sale, Open House and Boutique, a fundraiser for scholarships and school gardens. There will be plenty happening. Inside Tankersley Hall, we will have a silent auction of container gardens made by our members, along with a raffle filled with treasures. This is your only chance to purchase Gate & Garden Tour Tickets for \$50 (cash or check, no credit cards), sign up for Trips & Tours, and visit our gift shop featuring garden club merchandise and Master Gardeners ready to answer your questions. Outside in the courtyard, we will sell plants and boutique items, a more inspiring version of our monthly plant table, as well as the usual coffee and refreshments. Here is the meeting schedule so you don't miss anything.

- 9:00 a.m. Please arrive early if you are bringing a container garden for the silent auction so we can display it with bid sheets by 9:30. Helpers will be available to assist you in carrying items from your car.
- 9:30 Refreshments and coffee available in the courtyard  
Plant Table & Boutique opens  
Sign up in the courtyard for the T&T to Tree of Life Nursery on February 26  
Silent auction opens – remember to freshen your bid or pay the “Buy it Now” price or risk someone outbidding you.  
Raffle tickets available: one ticket for \$5 or seven tickets for \$20  
Buy Gate & Garden Tour tickets for \$50 (cash or check)  
Do you need a new hat? Check out the Gift Shop  
Master Gardeners will be seated at the cashier table to answer questions
- 10:15 Meeting begins
- 10:30 Drawings for volunteer of the month, name tag wearer and raffle winners
- 10:35 Vice President Blair Contratto will present the Strategic Plan. Members will participate in a gallery walk to see all the planned activities leading up to our 100-year celebration and choose where you will be involved.  
This is also an opportunity to freshen your bids in the silent auction.
- 11:20 Silent Auction Closes
- 11:45 Cashier closes. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards



## CLUB NEWS

### Valentine Raffle



A special Valentine's Day raffle will be held at the February 14th meeting. Some of the enticing items are.....

- \*Beautiful succulent wreath
- \*Lovely Valentines basket with goodies galore
- \*Prized \$100 gift card from Laguna Coast Pottery
- \*Fun basket of wine and Yeti tumblers

Please come prepared with cash, check or credit card. One ticket for \$5.00 or seven tickets for \$20.00.

Several garden club members will be selling tickets and credit card sales are available at the treasurer's table in Tankersley Hall.

Tickets will be sold from 9:30AM to 10:15AM. The winners will be announced at 10:45AM.

**You will have 45min to ensure you have the best opportunity to come home with a great gift for that special someone!**

Thank you to all who generously donated items.

*-Polly J. Parkey*  
February Raffle  
Administrator Team



## T & T Update

### February Trips & Tours Change

Daytrippers, we are having to pivot from the plan to tour the Getty Center in February. Instead we will visit a line-up of nurseries - **San Juan Capistrano**. The preliminary plan is to visit a T&T-first, **Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery**, and then **Plant Depot** and **Tree of Life Nursery** which is a particularly popular request.

For our February SJC nursery crawl, we will carpool as usual from St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, and we appreciate our drivers. Please take note of the T&T chart at the general meeting and Constant Contact emails for updates on departure time and lunch details. Sign-up with the T&T team at the February meeting.

As for the Getty Center, this destination still features prominently in our planning. With their strict requirements of exact head and vehicle counts no later than 2 weeks prior to the visit, this does not align with our current process timeline of T&T sign-up. Therefore, in the next garden club year, we will plan our visit at a more optimal time and then take sign-ups earlier than usual, at the prior month's general meeting.

Thanks for your flexibility as we all pivot together.

*-Patty Gaffney & Synthia Scofield*

## January Trips & Tours - The Ecology Center

The January T&T kick-started 2025 with an enthusiastic and curious crowd of 34 day-trippers touring **The Ecology Center** under the auspices of Johnny Wilson, Farm Manager. Many thanks to all our carpool drivers, some of whom are new members.

Located in San Juan Capistrano on a historic agricultural property, we walked the pathways of the Market Garden, a two-acre farm within the farm, employing a Parisienne farm growing emphasis focused on growing 60 chef driven ingredients every day. We saw the rows of crisp greens and fennel, varieties of dormant peach trees in the Fruit Forest, sunflowers and other blooms, all in contrast to the urban sprawl surrounding the farm. Beyond the Market Garden were the tractor-style fields of larger volume, less diverse, crops, currently strawberries and brassicas.

We learned of the history of the land, the prior farming families of the area, the establishment and growth of The Ecology Center. We learned of their mission, their regenerative farming practices, their future plans for a bio-regional seed initiative launching soon with a seed lab and for a cut flower stand where half the Market Garden will become a flower garden in the March timeframe. We also had the opportunity to meet two graduates of the Apprenticeship Program who were so capable and successful that they were hired full-time by The Ecology Center and to hear about the vision of this apprenticeship program.

And after our tour, with the rich topsoil dust on our shoes, after hearing-seeing-smelling The Ecology Center ethos, we topped it off with a literal farm-to-table lunch at their **Campesino Cafe** rounding out the full sensory experience. We filled the cafe tables with orders of wood fired pizzas, salads, egg toasts and sandwiches and pesto quinoa bowls, all of it vibrant and delicious. At the **Farm Stand**, of course we shopped: cool tees, veggies and other ingredients from the Market Garden, pantry items such as strawberry jam, half loaves of sourdough focaccia, chocolate chip tahini sesame cookies. Yum!

Our last stop was **Seaside Growers Nursery**, a gem hidden down a driveway and across the train tracks. A unique aspect was that half the main area was reserved for shade plants and the other half for sun, and all well curated. Our members were busy finding treasures to pot up for their Valentine's planter creations and other unique specimens.



Continued on the next page



It was delightful to witness such a well-attended T&T in the January sun, our daytrippers fully engaged in a dialogue with Johnny, feasting on nourishing food and then being creative designing their auction items. For our T&T tribe, it was an excellent start to 2025!

*-Patty Gaffney & Synthia Scofield*





## *Winter in a bee's life as well as yours!*

In February bees build up their population for the coming season. These brilliant creatures understand that they need to prepare for the next “season” of their life. Their hive works to keep them warm and nourished in anticipation of the next season. In other words, it is not a passive process to successfully get to the next phase. The same goes for many of our members who may have just retired, or are suddenly empty nesters, or have sadly lost a partner.

That is where the Laguna Beach Garden Club comes into play. If you are reading this, it means that you already took the step of joining and forming a hive of your own. Every bee in the hive has a role to play, whether it is the job of the Queen to lay all the eggs, or the drones to provide food, or the bees that press their bodies together to create enough warmth to survive a winter. There is no “lone wolf” in a hive, everyone belongs, and everyone has a task and is part of the greater good of the health of the hive.

I did a deep dive into over 10 articles regarding the best way to find purpose in retirement and best mental health practices for folks over 55. There was so much overlap in all these great articles written by experts in this field! Staying socially active and seeking out new and challenging pursuits ranked high on all the lists. Staying physically active was equal to the requirement for socialization but gave the bonus result of better weight management and better overall cardiac function. Volunteering and giving back ranked very high on all the lists as well. Doing for others not only helps to get you “out of your head” and put trivial things in perspective that can cause anxiety, but making a positive impact on the lives of others and will provide a legacy to all who participate. Volunteering also helped meet the recommendation for maintain meaningful connections. Cultivating and keeping social connections is always important for your overall well-being. Engaging in social activities not only helps with feelings of isolation but exposes you to new experiences and perspectives that you may not have gained alone. Many false narratives are all in one’s head when not exposed to new ideas.

The collaborative nature of garden club projects encourages teamwork and community involvement. By committing to get involved in a deeper way with your garden club ensures that 1) You are taking the lead in being responsible for your wellbeing 2) You are involved in an organization that is helping to cultivate community character in the most positive, non-political and kind way. 3) Garden Clubs foster a culture of environmental stewardship among their members and the broader community and build community bonds.

So once again, I bring forth a challenge, try something different this month. Maybe attend a club board meeting, all members are welcome. Look in your member handbook and find a Trips and Tours event or Green Thumb activity and sign up. Seek out any one of the board members and share with them what your skill set is and ask how you can be of service to the organization and its mission. Although the board does an excellent job putting out all these opportunities for you to engage in, ultimately you need to make the move to make things happen. Step up and perform a spectacular service for yourself this month!

*-Karen Nelson*





## Theodore Payne 2025 Native Plant Garden Tour



Following our delightful December meeting with speaker Katie Tilford on the WWW of Wildflowers, we wanted to share information with our members on the upcoming Native Plant Garden Tour. Open the attached link:

Theodore Payne Foundation  
[store.theodorepayne.org](https://store.theodorepayne.org)  
to learn more about this  
engaging two day event



### Too Much Egg Carton Lovin'

Is it possible to show too much love to the Food Pantry? Well, yes, it is! Which is to say our Club did such a great job of providing them with egg cartons that they have run out of room to store them.

Since September 2023 we've provided a total of 2812 cartons, saving the Pantry \$1265, which they've used to purchase nutritious food for the families they serve. A fantastic savings for the Pantry and for the environment as we have given the cartons a double life.

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE PLEASE DO NOT BRING EMPTY EGG CARTONS TO OUR MEETINGS.**

I will let everyone know when they need more. Until then you can use the cardboard ones to grow your seedlings, the plastic ones organize nails and screws, or any other creative ways you come up with and then recycle as allowed.

Thank you from the Pantry and from me! -Jane Leary





# 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 February meeting.

**When:** Saturday, March 8, 2025

**Where:** Laguna Beach HS  
Parking lot on Park Ave.

**Time:** 10 am arrival. Please be prompt, Parade starts at 11.

**Dress:** Comfy shoes, blue jeans, white top, Garden Club apron, hat decorated 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)
- 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](mailto:kloke@cox.net), cell 949-280-4568 -Dian Kloke



## Volunteer of the Month

Lynn Priest was selected as **Volunteer of the Month** of January Along with Elizabeth Chapel, Lynn, a member since 2014, is our Queen of Hospitality.



## January Centerpiece

Theresa Cavanaugh worked her creative magic with this beautiful arrangement for the January meeting's treat table. She has been a member since 2021.



## Name Tag Wearer Winner

Sue Moore was "caught" wearing her name tag at the January meeting she has been a member since 2021.



## Membership News

### Welcome to February!

**I am pleased to announce that we now have 247 members as of January 20, 2025**

Our next meeting is February 14, and such a fitting date as it is our annual **Valentine Plant and Planter Sale, Open House & Boutique**. For our newest members, this meeting is very different than we usually have. There will be several activities happening:

1. **Planter Container - Silent Auction** - where many of members create one-of-a-kind gorgeous container that you can bid on and take home.
2. **Plant Sale** table
3. **Boutique Items Sale**
4. **Raffle** - where tickets are \$5 for 1 ticket for 7 tickets for \$20 - fabulous items from local businesses, etc.

For all of the above activities, we also take Credit Cards, besides cash or checks. So come prepared to spend and take home some fabulous items.

5. **Gate & Garden Tour tickets** on sale for a discount to members - At this meeting and **ONLY** this meeting, it is an opportunity for members to purchase tickets at a discounted rate. **\$50 per ticket** and you can purchase as many tickets as you like. The only caveat is: **CASH or CHECKS ONLY to purchase the tickets - no Credit Cards accepted for the discount rate.**

6. **Volunteer opportunities** in preparation for our **100-year anniversary** - since the Garden Club was organized in 1928. 

**2024-2025 Membership Book** If you have not picked up your 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 January, your new name tag will be ready for pick 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, this is a perfect opportunity as it is an Open House, 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](mailto:lynnmjax@icloud.com) or cell: 949-294-1500.

*-Lynn Jax, Director of Membership*





## January Meeting Memories





## **Hortense Miller Garden wants YOU! Volunteer opportunities abound!**

We have volunteers at the garden on Wednesday & Thursday mornings from 9:30am – Noon or so to get your hands dirty. If you can join us for all or part of that time, we'd love to have you join us.

If you'd be interested in becoming a docent, you could join Dalynn Malek, Krisanna Barbernell, Cyndie Metz and Diane Lannon to give one 90 minute tour of the house and garden each month. Or, you could help with publicity, writing articles about upcoming workshops and events. You could even become our Workshop Coordinator! We also need help with grant writing. There are many ways to help. Depending on how much time you have, as little as a couple hours a month can help.

It's a fun group of men and women that tend to the 1958 Historic Mid-Century Modern home and 2.5 acre hillside wild garden just down the street overlooking Boat Canyon in North Laguna. If you haven't visited yet, book a tour to check it out at [www.LagunaBeachCity.net](http://www.LagunaBeachCity.net)

For more info contact Diane Lannon at [HortenseMillerFriends@gmail.com](mailto:HortenseMillerFriends@gmail.com) or sign up at the back table with Diane today.

### **Hortense Miller Garden**

### **Open House Preparations**

**Friday, Mar. 28** – Flower arrangements made

**Open House** Volunteers Wanted

**Sat. March 29** from 10am – 3pm

2 or 3 hour shifts available. Join the fun!

Refreshments, Membership, Bus check-in,

Volunteer help, Garden Boutique Sales

Contact Diane Lannon: cell: 949-374-2696 or

[Diane.Lannon@gmail.com](mailto:Diane.Lannon@gmail.com)





## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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  
Cell: 949-294-1502

Email: [stampfel@icloud.com](mailto:stampfel@icloud.com)



Examples of possible entries for the contest left to right: Paul Wenger, Perry Stampfel, & Diane Kloke



## GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS

Peas don't like too much water.

Potatoes don't like tomatoes.

Potatoes don't like cucumbers.

Potatoes and cabbage are friends.

Do not plant beans with onions or beets.

Beans love carrots.

Beets love onion, cabbage, potatoes.

Tomatoes love carrots, peas.

Cabbage does not like radishes.

Carrots and onions do well together.

Marigolds can help repel pests.





## Broken China Mosaic Green Thumb

On Friday, January 17, one of our new members, **Sharon Stephens**, hosted a class on how to make a mosaic tile from pieces of broken china (Pique Assiette) and other pieces of glass, pottery, jewelry, or figurines. Sharon has been creating gorgeous pieces of mosaics for ten years, which adorn her spacious yard, pool area, and atop fence posts. The worktable was set with 10 stations plus her demonstration area. Safety is important so protective eyewear was provided along with all the tools we needed. After a short introduction on how to use the tools, called nippers, we all moved over to the area where the breaking of plates would happen. A plastic bag keeps the shards in one location, and to keep a particular design on a plate intact, we were advised to cover the design with clear packing tape before we used the hammer to break the plate. Then we were set loose to create a design on a template so that it could be transferred to the quarry tile when the design was ready. Nippers in hand we went to work. When our individual designs were ready, Sharon showed us how to mix the thin set and slather it like icing on the quarry tile. Sharon offered sound advice and helpful tips to each of us individually as she roamed from student to student, like a born teacher. Each of us created a gorgeous piece to take home. Most of us were there for 4.5 hours.

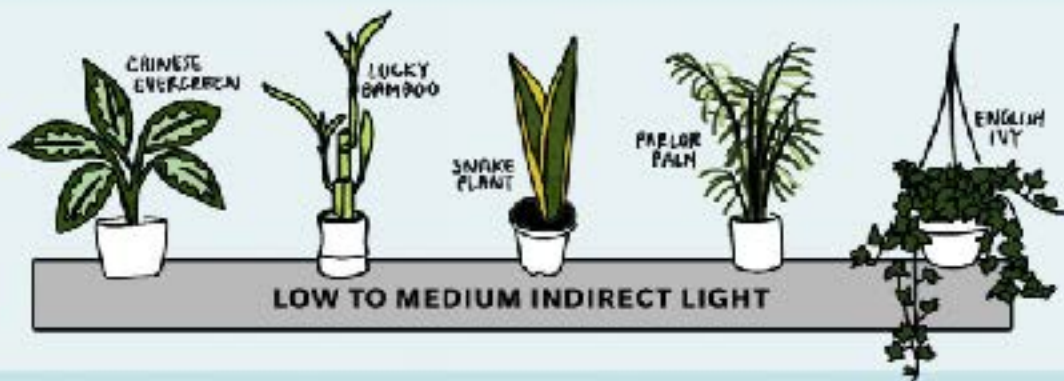
**Sharon is holding another class on March 7. Sign up for this fun Green Thumb project at the February 14 meeting.**

Thank you for hosting and sharing your creative expertise with us. *-Lynn Jax*



# Low-Light Indoor Plants

THAT THRIVE IN NEAR DARKNESS



PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

[www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org](http://www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org)

501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

