



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



JANUARY 2023

MEMBER NEWS

Education in the
Garden "Responsible Gardening"

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul." -Alfred Austin

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Puddles are a diverse lot. They can be small or large, shallow or deep, long lasting or gone in a matter of hours. Puddles provide small, but important, reservoirs where seeds of many plant species germinate. In some cases, the seeds have chemical inhibitors in them, which prevent the seeds from germinating until after a period of heavy rainfall.

Puddles also allow worms to rise to the surface more easily, much to the delight of the local bird population. Additionally they help to deep water trees that have been rather thirsty these past few years.

So when you're next out & about after or during heavy rain, keep an eye out for puddles. Remember the life that depends on them and, if you can, try not to disturb them. Perhaps capture the joy of jumping over — rather than in — them. They are not just a nuisance, but a key to a nuanced and biodiverse local community.



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Jan. 13

Ron Vanderhoff

Roger's Gardens expert will speak about making good plant choices (see page 3)



Laguna
Presbyterian
Church

9:30 am social
10:00 am meeting

Green Thumb & Crafts Jan. 20

Drill Holes- Plant Shells

9:30 am at
Jeanne Yale's
home (see
page 7)



Trips & Tours Jan. 27

Village Nursery -

Huntington Beach

Meet at 9:15 am at St. Catherine's on Temple Terrace to carpool (see page 4)



President's Message

Fresh Starts & Giving To Others

Happy New Year to all of you! Now that the seasonal rush is over it is time to return to our gardens. If you are like me those gardens have been somewhat neglected. Although we are still in the midst of a catastrophic drought, the rains this past month have been wonderful and hopefully the predicted La Niña will fade away. Meanwhile I have grown a huge crop of "Undesirable Things," so it is time to get back to my favorite job: weeding. There is nothing better than grubbing around in the dirt on your hands and knees pulling them out and smelling the wonderful smell of newly turned soil! Your mind drifts away and all problems vanish, at least for a little while.



It is also time to prepare for spring. Shrubs need trimming, roses pruning and the vegetable garden needs to be prepped. This year it will be particularly important to plant salad greens as the lettuce



fields in Salinas (America's salad bowl) have been devastated by disease with no relief in sight. Unfortunately, bunnies and gophers also love those tender young greens, but they look so adorable....



Above all, enjoy this relatively peaceful time in your gardens. A 19th century English poet wrote "A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot!" Words to live by in our increasingly rushed lives.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on January 13. Take care and stay well.

-Janet

Giving to Others

Club members shared the Christmas spirit by bringing in cans of food for the **Laguna Beach Food Pantry** and toys for the **Spark of Love Toy Drive** to the December meeting. Pictured here with V.P. **Jane Leary, Paramedic Luther** from the LB Fire Dept. thanked the members for their support in these worthy causes.



January Guest Speaker Ron Vanderhoff

The Choices We Make- How Plants & Garden Centers Can Have a Positive Impact

The global impact of local garden centers will be addressed by **Ron Vanderhoff**, General Manager of Roger's Gardens at our January meeting. Ron will share examples from *Roger's Gardens* and his own horticultural and botanical life. Ron will explain the positive impacts from the plant choices we make, the ways in which we manage our gardens, the resources we use and impacts of our decisions. Ron will show positive examples of successes and opportunities, so that all of us can garden not only for a beautifully result, but with a gentle impact on the planet. Topics include gardens as habitats, biodiversity, climate change, organics, water resources, invasive species, waste and recycling and other touch-points along the way. In an increasingly urban society, gardens are the window into nature for many people. Our

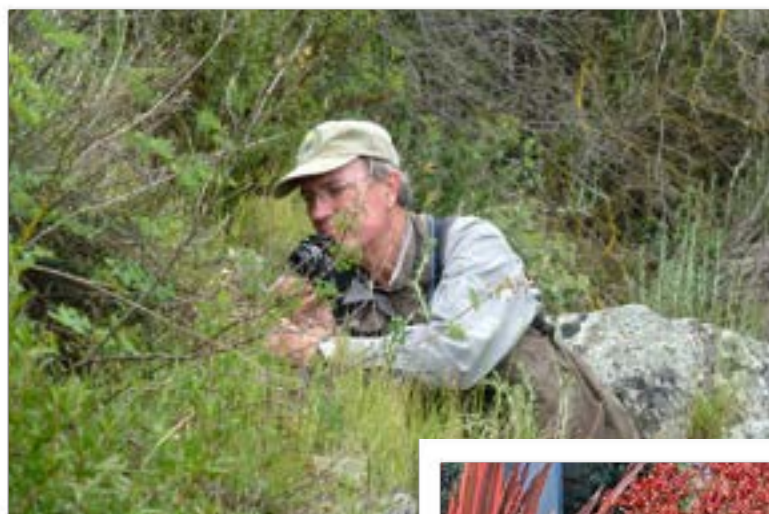
opportunity, as garden leaders is to help others peer through that window and ultimately to embrace nature.

Ron shared his plant point of view on the Roger's Gardens web page recently. He wrote:

"I'm convinced – gardeners love the outdoors, love nature and

place into their gardens these folks are increasingly weighing things like water needs and climate suitability. Gardeners are asking good questions and they're reading the fine print on fertilizer labels, soil amendments and pest controls. Indeed, gardeners are in touch with nature and they want their gardens to contribute to the health of the planet, purifying our air and water, supporting pollinators, birds and wildlife and cooling the environment.

"When it comes to being a good citizen, gardeners really do want to 'do the right thing'. But, often gardening can become complicated and confusing.



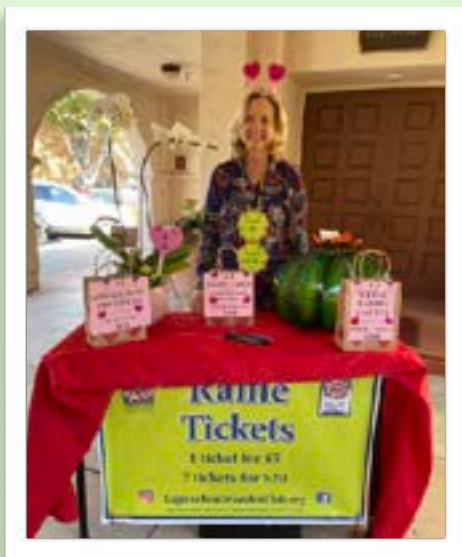
love the earth more than most people. That's why we garden, to be closer to nature. So when it's time to make decisions about the plants to

So many plants and so many details. Gardeners sometimes just don't know what the "right thing" is."

CLUB NEWS

Upcoming Raffle – February 10 Meeting

If you have something you would like to donate to the Raffle in February, contact Lynn Jax.
Email: jax@cox.net or call home 949-497-7363 or cell: 949-294-1500.



Trips & Tours

We will be going to the *Village Nursery & one other stop in Huntington Beach*. Meet at St. Catherine's Church on Temple Terrace at 9:15am on **Friday, January 27**. We will leave at 9:30 am sharp.



It's nice they warn us that shopping with or without abandon could occur!

The Valentine Container Garden Sale will be the highlight of the February meeting



Love garden club? Show your love for LBGC by inviting friends to the **Plant & Planter Sale & Auction** February 10. Club membership and gardening questions will also be answered at this fund-raising event.

In addition to the gorgeous container gardens created by club members and available in the silent auction, there will also be plants, crafts and a boutique version of *Norm's Plant Sale Table* with vintage items for sale. Two Master Gardeners will present information and answer questions during the meeting. Invite your

friends to come to this fun event. Purchases can be made using cash, check or plastic.

Are you planning to donate a container garden to the silent auction? The internet is brimming with gorgeous container ideas, plus whatever catches your eye at the nursery is sure to appeal to others. Bring your creation early, 9am, and have a price in mind. More inspiration? Or need help turning a found cache pot into a plantable planter by giving it a hole? Please come to the Green Thumb event Friday 1/20 at Jeanne Yale's house.

Growing & Giving Continues

Membership Update 2023

As I type this article on December 30, 2022, I say good-bye to last year and hello to 2023. I received a total knee replacement for Christmas, December 19, and my recovery is slow so as of this typing I doubt I will attend the January 13 meeting. I am sorry to miss Ron Vanderhoff presentation.

Our membership numbers rose up to 209 in December. Bring a friend to our next meeting. The first meeting is free to see if the club is a good fit. Name tags and Membership Books will be at the meeting for those of you who have not as yet picked them up. If you ordered a name tag, it will be on the table.

Reminder: Wear the name tag to be eligible to win a great gift.
-Lynn Jax

Ways & Means

Come visit us at the Ways and Means table at the next meeting. I am testing this sun block sleeve and I find it to be comfortable and it stays in place. If it is chilly, it warms me and they also keeps me a bit cooler in the sun. You can test out a sleeve at the January meeting. We have some to sell at \$5.00 a pair.

-Elaine Davis

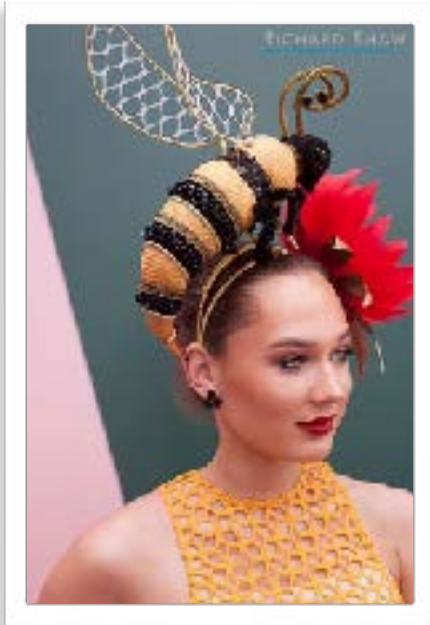


Diane Groh & Elaine Davis with the ever changing display of Ways & Means items that are available for purchase at every meeting.



Gate & Garden Tour 2023

The calendar has turned yet another page and we find ourselves in 2023! Like the bees that I am so fond of, I encourage you to embrace yourself and others as a complete ecosystem. If you can find out what made a person angry, violent, pitiful or depressed, it becomes easier to forgive their faults. Why waste your precious calendar days being angry or resentful or unproductive in any way!



Speaking of calendar, we are in full **Gate & Garden Tour** mode, as committee chairs get together, at the first meeting of this year on January 11th, to plan yet another blockbuster tour. **We are adding a fun feature to the tour this year, we will be having a garden party hat contest.** As our fearless president, **Janet Chance** pointed out, our tour date coincides with the coronation of King Charles III. We could not imagine a more fun reason to add a hat contest to the tour! This “fresh off the press” information is being given to you early so you can begin to plan your magnificent hat that you want to show off at the event on Saturday May 6th.

In the bee kingdom, the queen runs the whole hive and she also produces chemicals that guide the behavior of the other bees. That being said, I’m sure that Janet will be wearing a hat that will set the tone of fun and whimsy for the rest of us! We are thrilled to announce that **Kate Guerra Hershey**, a brand new member of our club, has stepped up to chair this new aspect of our tour, we shall call her the “Hat Queen” or “Mad Hatter” if she prefers!

The other new feature we have added this year is a VIP ticket that is available for \$80, this includes a food ticket, a drink ticket and allows for flexible time for entry to the event. The regular timed entry is \$60 and VIP tickets are currently available for sale at Eventbrite now.

Looking Ahead...

Krystle Hickman will be our guest speaker in September 2023. She is a photographer with a special interest in bees. She is a TEDx Speaker, artist, community scientist and photographer based in Los Angeles, California. We are very excited to have her share her discoveries about bees at our first meeting of the club year.

<https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/story/2022-12-15/california-native-bee-photographer-krystle-hickman>



Green Thumb Friday

January 20 • 10 am– 2pm

Drill Holes! Plant Shells!

Create a planted shell to hang in your garden.

Bring a shell with or without holes for hanging.

Shells will be available for purchase. Some cuttings available.

Bring a planter, we will be drilling holes and planting succulent cuttings in shells.

Bring cuttings to share with the group.

We will also discuss good container garden design to inspire your donations to the Plant & Planter Sale.

Home of Jeanne Yale, 502 Pearl Street, Laguna Beach
Questions: Nancy Englund NancyEnglund@icloud.com



Our Members Shine



December Volunteer of the Month

Debbie Sugg's name was chosen as the Volunteer of the Month. Debbie has hosted the garden club in her bird-friendly back yard, as well as previously serving as Plant Table coordinator. She always volunteers at the Gate & Garden Tour and has been a garden docent. Thank you Debbie!



December Centerpiece

Krisanna Barbernell created this stunning holiday centerpiece that evoked the feeling of the season. The mix of berries, pine, and spruce was spectacular.



Susan South provided the beautifully abundant autumn table decor at our November meeting. Her photo did appear in last month's Weeder's, however someone else's name was listed instead of hers. Damn auto-correct- that's my story and I'm sticking to it.



Proud Name Tag Wearer

Lynn Jax gave a prize to **Shari Yamamoto** as a reward for wearing her name tag at the meeting. Wearing one's name tag helps to welcome new members to the club by letting them know everyone's name.

December Trips & Tours

Thirty Garden Club Members enjoyed the splendid Christmas decorations at Sherman Gardens and Roger's Gardens on December 16. The colorful displays and numerous opportunities for shopping made the afternoon a delightful excursion for all.



Make These 5 Resolutions Now & You'll Have Your Best Garden Yet

New year, new beginnings! While you're busy making your [list of 2022 resolutions](#) (you know, eat healthier, get more exercise, maybe even start a daily meditation practice), remember the other areas in your life that bring you joy, like your yard. In fact, gardening can help you to achieve all three of those previously mentioned goals, so it can really pay off to carefully plan for the upcoming growing season. Why not make a few resolutions that will inspire you create an even more gorgeous, fruitful, and satisfying garden in the new year? Here are five to get you started.



Resolution 1: Keep Your Tools Organized

You obviously need the right [tools to accomplish just about any garden task](#), and while it's easy to toss your [favorite gardening gloves](#) or best set of pruners in a random bucket in the back corner of the garage, you'll curse yourself next time you need them and can't find them. Instead of wasting time hunting, resolve to get your tools organized and keep them that way. When your tools are always at the ready, you'll be better able to take care of your yard.



Resolution 2: Prepare for Pests

No matter what region of the country you live in, you'll deal with unwelcome visitors to your garden, such as deer, rabbits, insect pests, and weeds. But don't let that discourage you! Instead, resolve to be ready. Regularly [scout for weeds](#) that can pop up whenever the ground thaws, and remove them ASAP. If an area like your veggie garden usually attracts pesky bunnies, fence it off before you sow seeds. Certain species of plants have more pest issues than others (for example, ash trees inevitably will attract emerald ash borers that will kill them) so research any new plant you want to add to your garden to make sure it won't create headaches. Lots of problematic yet [popular plants such as roses](#) and tomatoes have disease- and pest-resistant varieties to choose from, so look for those when choosing what to grow.



Resolution 3: Improve Water Conservation

Although this goal is especially crucial in drought-prone areas, gardeners in every region can conserve water. [Mulch is your friend](#) because it helps the soil hold onto moisture for your plants. Add at least a 2-inch layer wherever you have bare soil. And try choosing plants native to your region; they're better able to thrive without a lot of extra watering and other pampering. For areas of your garden that may need more water, such as lawn or a vegetable garden, [an irrigation system with a timer](#) can really help use water more efficiently.

Continues on next page



Resolution 4: Take on a Challenging Project

Part of the fun of gardening is trying something new, whether it's a weekend project like [making your own concrete containers](#) or [freshening up your garden beds with some dramatic edging](#). Or maybe you'd like to try [building your own trellis](#) or [creating a broken brick patio](#)? The possibilities are endless, but no matter what you choose, you're bound to gain new skills and a sense of accomplishment. And if a project doesn't quite work out, consider it a lesson learned and start a new one!



Resolution 5: Enjoy Your Outdoor Space More

Just 20 minutes a day outside in nature can lower your stress levels, so make it a priority to literally stop and [smell the flowers](#) once in a while. Spend a few moments watching the birds and butterflies doing their thing while you enjoy your morning coffee. Or if you've [got a patio or deck](#), add a few containers and comfortable seating to make it a more welcoming place to hang out. No patio, no problem! How about building a fire pit for your family to gather around? The more you can make your outdoor space a pleasant and relaxing place to be, the more you'll appreciate all the hard work you're putting into it.

Article shamelessly “borrowed” from *Better Homes & Gardens* by by [Nicole Bradley](#). Click on the blue highlighted words to go to more information on the web.



I hope everyone enjoyed some holiday fun and is having a great start to 2023. May it be your

Best Year YET!

We don't typically leave town for Christmas (it's hard to leave this beautiful sunny warm weather!) but this year my husband Greg and I took a drive up the central coast on our way to visit family in my hometown of Fair Oaks (near Sacramento).

Much to our delight we stumbled upon the **Monarch Butterfly Grove in Pismo Beach**. It's a publicly owned, protected overwintering site for our Western Monarch Butterflies. It generally has one of the largest overwintering populations because of its tall eucalyptus trees and Monterey cypress trees which provide shelter and thermal stability.

Look closely at the picture and you'll see clusters of these magnificent creatures huddled along the branches. Those darker shapes aren't leaves, they're *Monarchs*!

While we didn't witness a cluster burst (it was too chilly and cloudy) there were some flying around up high, delighting everyone including us.

I smiled thinking that some of these beauties may have benefited from the Garden Club's native milkweed pollinator gardens and the native milkweed planted in your *very own* gardens.

Hail to the Western Monarch Butterflies, with our help, may they thrive!

For more information on how to support these magnificent creatures go to www.westernmonarchtrail.com

-Jane Leary



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