



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



May 2024

MEMBER NEWS

Cultivating Delight through
Gardening & Community Service

"The month of May
is the gateway to summer."
-Jean Hersey

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

The 2024 Gate & Garden Tour is a wrap, but we still need to keep the buzz going. As spring weather is teasing us with warmer days, we can look to our gardens to help out the bees that are so important to our daily life.

I cannot think of a better way to do this than to add some colorful plants and flowers into our gardens. The article in the link below highlights ten different flowering plants that are not only beautiful to us but they are also very attractive to bees. It's a win-win for everyone.

As we head into summer & a short break from Garden Club, I would like to say that I marvel at the amazing efforts our members gave to making this past LBGC year the tremendous success it was. We are all Delightful!

https://www.gardendesign.com/perennials/pollinators.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_ca



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Inside This Issue

Gate & Garden Tour May 4

A sold out success!

By the time you read this, our 2024 tour will be in the books. Check out photos of our wonderful event on page 5 and soon more will be posted on our website

LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

General Meeting May 10

Jodie Cook

Design Your Garden With Artificial Intelligence (AI)



Laguna Presbyterian Church

- 9:30 am social — treats will be served • 10:00 am meeting (see page 3).



Sharing the Delights

It has been my great honor to serve as your President this 2023-2024 Club year. I could not be more delighted with what we've accomplished together. You will not find a more hard-working Board, committed to *Cultivating Delight through Gardening and Community Service* than this one.

From our support of the Laguna Beach school gardens to the pollinator gardens at Heisler Park and Bluebird Park. Providing support to Hortense Miller Garden and the butterfly garden at Blue Bell Foundation. The pollinator garden at the Sawdust Festival grounds. Tending the Laguna Presbyterian Church rose garden and pocket park. Supporting the Glennwood House kitchen garden and



welcoming their residents into our Hive, bringing us such joy. Providing scholarships to Laguna Beach High School and Saddleback College students. Sawdust Green Day, Taste of Laguna, Arbor Day, Memorial Day, the Patriot's Day Parade (just wait until you see what Diane Klope has planned for 2025!). Participating in Doheny State Park's butterfly garden refurbishment and Earth Day celebration. We have forged new friendships enjoying our Trips & Tours to Descanso Gardens, the Huntington Library and Gardens, The San Diego Botanical Garden, the South Coast Garden Show and the Green Thumb events. You have filled my 'little red pony' with 1,295 empty egg cartons, giving them a second life and providing enough cartons to cover the Laguna Food Pantry's needs for an entire year.

We have forged a new partnership with Laguna Art Museum as part of their Art + Nature program. And we continue to support Laguna Canyon Conservancy, Penny Pines and the Xerces Society.

I have no doubt our 2024 Gate & Garden Tour will be our best one yet. It's the tour and the revenue it generates that allows us to do all the wonderful

community service projects we do. Both the Los Angeles Times and Orange County Register describe us as the premier garden club tour in SoCal. High praise and well-deserved.

Our line-up of speakers is world-class. No one says "no" to speaking to our Laguna Beach Garden Club thanks to our stellar reputation.



Speaking of speakers, who could have guessed that only 18 short months after Matt Willey's 'The Good of the Hive®' presentation at our September 2022 meeting we would have our very own 'The Good of the Hive®' mural gracing the walls at LBCDW? When the mayor says "every time I pass by the mural I smile" you know you've done something good. This mural is a beautiful metaphor for

seeing the connectedness of all things and reminding us that we need to think collectively, like bees, as we work toward solutions for the good of our Hive called Planet Earth.



The crowning delight was the proclamation recognizing the first Saturday in May (coinciding with our annual

tour) as Laguna Beach Bee Day, now and forever more. This provides a special day set aside each year to celebrate bees and the essential role they play in our lives.

We are financially sound. We have grown our membership to over 240 delightful people. We have elevated our presence in the community. Being a member of the Laguna Beach Garden Club is an honor. We are 'not your granny's garden club' and the community knows it. It's a year to be proud of!

Like a healthy hive, it takes every member of the hive doing their part. This

upcoming 2024-2025 club year I challenge each of you to get more involved. Pick something and dive in. Start small. Or start big! I guarantee you will discover more delight and joy in your life and make life-long friends. We will be celebrating our 100 year anniversary in 2028. Get involved now to make the next 100 years even better! -Jane Leary



We REALLY Did It!

Through April 2024 our egg carton count for the Food Pantry is 1295! We've averaged 162 per month since September. Not only are we saving the Pantry 45 cents per carton but we're helping our Hive known as planet Earth by giving these cartons at least two trips into homes before they 'die'.

These photos show the delight **Susan South** experienced while filling up her SUV! Not only did she fill up her trunk, she filled up most of her back seat, too. WOWZA!

Let's do it up big for our May 10 meeting. Get your neighbors and friends to pitch in. I predict we'll exceed my last prediction of 1300 and hit 1500 this year!

Reminder to stack them like the photo. Only egg cartons with lids, please, not the flats that hold more eggs but have no lids. Plastic and cardboard are both welcome. Canned goods are also welcome. Or checks made out to Laguna Food Pantry. It's our last chance until September to show the Pantry some special Garden Club love.



Consider going on- line if you'd like at lagunafoodpantry.org to help the Pantry continue to support nearly 300 families per day with groceries, eggs, milk, and fresh produce.

May Speaker

Jodie Cook

Design Your Garden with Artificial Intelligence

Jodie Cook is a local landscape designer who has been creating gardens for over twenty years. Trained in landscape architecture and sustainable landscape design, she uses the watershed approach, native and low water plants, and nature-based design techniques to create rich, abundant, and joyful landscapes for wildlife and people. Jodie will address opportunities to use our intelligence and artificial intelligence (AI) to design and enhance our gardens. Please join us on Friday, May 10th from 9:30-10:00 a.m. for social time and refreshments, the meeting begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. 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 about the garden club: www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org

Please do not use the church parking lot, street parking is available.



Susan Denton & Karen Nelson - Queen Bees Of The Tour

2024 Gate & Garden Tour

LBGC's Major Fundraiser, AKA Bee Part of the Hive

The planning for this huge party began one year ago and it was evident that the community was “all in” for the annual *Gate & Garden Tour* this year. With 750+ in attendance and over 100+ volunteers, the Laguna Beach County Water District was buzzing with activity on Saturday morning. Guests were greeted at the entrance by the newly commissioned “Good of the Hive” mural by Matt Willey. It was wonderful to see the smiles spread across the faces of guests as they saw the mural for the first time.

The weather the last few weeks created lush gardens but on tour day the skies withheld their rain long enough for tour guests to thoroughly enjoy the day. The excitement in



Continued on next page

the air was palpable as guest waited to board the VIP buses that would whisk them to the undisclosed garden location. This year's gardens were curated with great care to provide an easy walk for guests while providing a delightful variety of garden styles to inspire all who attended. From the spectacular Asian Garden number 1, to the fun of Garden 4, which was also the Waterwise winner, to the cool Zen of Garden number 8 and all in between, each garden was special.

The volunteers were most gracious and kind, which was noted by guests and added to the warmth and hospitality that our club is known for, and draws members to us like bees to a hive!

The Laguna Beach County Water District could not have been more helpful and accommodating to help us make this event the much-anticipated annual community event that it has become.





The day was capped with the awarding of a \$500 Scholarship to **Merrick Vellmure** for his beekeeping efforts, on what is now and forever be known as "*Laguna Beach Bee Day*". This impressive young man is on his way to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and will continue efforts toward our club's goals in his studies in AgriBusiness.



Earth Day at Doheny State Park!

Along with our friends from **Glennwood House**, several Laguna Beach Garden Club members joined forces with Doheny State Park employees to refurbish the butterfly garden. It's located just on the left as you enter the park. We hope it will be a link between our Laguna pollinator parks and Doheny to help support the butterflies and native bees as they move between our beautiful communities.

We cleared ivy and trimmed, planted native plants and even had a tree planted in our honor which we named Molly Maple! She's a beautiful California native big leafed maple tree and is surrounded by native daisies.

Working up to Earth Day held at Doheny on Saturday, April 20 we cleared grass and weeds from a mound near the group picnic tables. And on Earth Day we planted close to 100 plants along with other volunteers from the community who stopped by to help.

I invite you to take a stroll through the butterfly garden soon to enjoy the beauty!

-Jane Leary



Busy Worker Bees at the April Meeting

In addition to the rows of chairs in the center of Tankersly Hall, there are numerous tables that line the perimeter of the room. **John Holcombe**, Co-Treasurer and **JoAnn DeYonker** cheerfully renewed memberships for the 2024-2025 club year, while **Elizabeth Chapel** and her granddaughter made sure the Treat Table was stocked to perfection. It is members like these who make LBGC one of the premier garden clubs anywhere!



LBGC Board Members 2024-2025 From left to right: Blair Contratto- Vice President, Mary Sanchez- Co-President, Nancy Englund- Co-President, Monica Thompson- Recording Secretary, John Holcombe & Jeff Whittaker- Co-Treasurers, Mary & Brian Jones- Co-Financial Secretaries, Karen Nelson- Director of Media & Publicity, Lynn Jax- Director of Membership, Susan South- Director of Ways & Means, Kari Nies- Director of Website, Jane Leary- Past President. Not Pictured- Susan Denton- Director of Gate & Garden Tour. Editor's note- please excuse the poor quality of this photo, they are an excitable bunch!

Mayor Kempf Proclaims Laguna Beach Bee Day - The first Saturday in May -Tour Day!

When the Laguna Beach Garden Club Board began to develop their strategic vision for what was the most impactful thing they could do as an organization for our community, we were immediately drawn to protecting pollinators. It was right up our alley. We were already helping to educate people on being conscious about choosing earth friendly, water conscious planting, and avoiding pesticides, fungicides or herbicides in your gardens.



Then the beautiful mural came into our sights and with your help we were able to make that happen. Then **Blair Contratto** challenged me to make sure that the mural ‘had legs’ and breath of impact for getting the message out over time. I was immediately intrigued about how we as a small community club could do that. As I read about the great work the United Nations did trying to tackle this issue on a far greater scale, I landed on having a **“Laguna Beach Bee Day”**. The goal being that we educate, inform and give practical suggestions on a day when all eyes are on the club.....that would be “Tour Day”! We have the eyes of over 700 guests, the media, local government and homeowners. It is the perfect platform with the help of our incredible partners at the Laguna Beach County Water District to show our guests not only a wonderful day of strolling through gardens but practical ways to help solve global hunger by simply taking steps to save the pollinators of our planet. Using the guidelines that the UN has set forth, we integrated all their suggestions into our tour plan.



How can we do more?

Individually by:

- planting a diverse set of native plants, which flower at different times of the year
 - buying raw honey from local farmers
 - buying products from sustainable agricultural practices
 - avoiding pesticides, fungicides or herbicides in our gardens
 - protecting wild bee colonies when possible
 - sponsoring a hive
 - making a bee water fountain by leaving a water bowl outside
 - helping sustaining forest ecosystems
 - raising awareness around us by sharing this information within our communities and networks;
- The decline of bees affects us all!

On tour day, we awarded a prize to a Laguna Beach High School student who has become a master beekeeper and is exemplifying what we hope the next generation will make standard. A member of Orange County Beekeepers Society sold local honey at our Ways and Means table on tour day. The Laguna Beach County Water District was on hand to give water saving and planting tips to our guests.

We are striving to emulate the seamless and smooth behavior of a hive that naturally is inclined to do the right thing because it benefits the collective. Like humans, bees are incredibly social creatures, who will protect the ones they love and will work together for common goals. It's worth remembering that we can learn plenty from them. - Karen Nelson



SoCal Spring Garden Show • Trips & Tours

The 34th annual Southern California Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza was our last Trip and Tour of the garden club year. A small group of us gathered on April 25 to marvel and draw inspiration from the Fleurs de Villes exhibit of mannequins dressed in lavish, fresh floral ensembles. Brand new member **Leslie Gray** was a welcome addition to our group. No doubt many of you also went to the garden show, at your convenience, over the 4 day span.

The garden show featured over 40 unique plant and garden vendors and eight display gardens designed by top Southern California landscape and horticulture organizations in collaboration with South Coast Plaza merchants to create one-of-a-kind outdoor living spaces with steal-worthy ideas. Among those present were the Master Gardeners of Orange County and Alan Barry, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, Mission Viejo, who spoke at our March meeting.

This year, the trip destinations were solely member recommendations and requests. Adding to the fun were the new members who jumped in and came along. The T&T Team is looking forward to seeing you on our September T&T!

-Patty Gaffney & Synthia Scofield



Time to Renew Your Membership

I am pleased to announce that we have surpassed our all-time high membership numbers with our latest, and as of April 24, 2024, we can boast **241** members.

Welcome newest members to the “best garden club” in Orange County, just ask any of us.

To all 5 of our newest members, your name tags will be ready for pick up at the next meeting, **May 10**. Be sure to stop by the Membership Table so you can be eligible to win this month’s Name Tag winner prize. If you joined online or haven’t attended a meeting yet, you will also have your name tag waiting for you along with your copy of the Membership Book, which you do not want to be without as it is chockfull of information.

Reminder to all members, don’t forget to wear your name tag for a chance at winning a great gift.

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. If they join at the May meeting, it’s included in the next year’s membership (basically a free month of membership – quite a deal).

As the **May 10** meeting is our last meeting for this Garden Club year (2023-2024). If you have not yet renewed, that means you **MUST** renew your membership for the 2024-2025 Garden Club year that starts September 13, 2025.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE continues at the **May 10**, meeting. **ALL MEMBERS** must **RENEW** for the next year; the full year membership is valid from September 2024 through May 2025. So far 138 members have renewed (the number 241 includes the 5 new members) – 57% renewal rate.

Payment Choices:

Dues = **\$65** if paid by **CHECK or CASH**. **\$70** if paid by **CREDIT CARD** at a meeting or on our website. Checks made payable to: Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.

To ensure your name appears in next year’s Membership Book, payment must be received by June 1, 2024.

You can renew:

- at the May 10 meeting
- on our website www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
(Members Only section – Password: poppy – all lower case)
- use USPS and mail it directly to me at Lynn Jax 456 Cress St, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

And **consider making a tax-deductible donation** with your renewal. Donations are tax deductible to extent allowed by law, help the Club offset costs, and fund our great projects, which includes school gardens, scholarships for LBHS seniors and students enrolled in the Horticulture Department at Saddleback College, and our beautification community projects, like our beautiful bee mural, “The Good of the Hive”. See the application on the next page for more details.

Please feel free to contact me at any time via email lynnmjax@icloud.com or cell: 949-294-1500.
Lynn Jax, Director of Membership



LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB, INC. 2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ Returning

☐ Lifetime

☐ New

☐ Rejoining _____ Year Joined

- 🌱 Complete this form and attach a check for **\$65**, made payable to Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.
Mail to: Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. ~ P.O. Box 362 ~ Laguna Beach, CA 92652
- 🌱 Membership can be obtained on our website for \$70: LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
- 🌱 Please consider making a tax-deductible donation in addition to membership dues. Donations of \$25 or more will be recognized on the **Wall of Fame** in our newsletter, membership book and website. Donations can offset some of our expenses or can be earmarked for community projects, scholarships, school gardens, etc.
- 🌱 All donations are tax deductible and much appreciated.

You do not need to fill out your personal information unless it has changed

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

This Area **MUST be filled out completely**

NAME _____ DATE _____

Your application is considered a photo release, giving Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. permission to use any photos taken at club functions.

Signature _____

Total amount Paid _____ Dues _____ Donation _____

Cash _____ Check _____ Check # _____ Credit Card _____

I can help LBGC with: _____

Our Members Continue Growing & Giving

Volunteer of the Month

Our giving member of the month in April was **Carolyn Bent**. Carolyn, a Lifetime Member, has been a member of the Club since 2010. She is the Graphic Arts Design Special Administrator and produces all of the graphics for the Gate & Garden Tour, the Tour brochure and the Membership Book. She is an invaluable asset.



Name Tag Wearer

Chris Lutz was “caught” proudly wearing his LBGC name tag at the April meeting. Chris has been a member since 2006 and is also a Lifetime Member. Chris is known for his extensive Bromeliad garden and for his delicious freshly ground coffee at our meetings.



Centerpiece

This delightful Spring centerpiece for the April treat table is the design of

Krisanna Barbernell, a member since 2015.

Krisanna's designs have graced the Treat table throughout the 2023-2024 club year.



PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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