



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



May 2025

MEMBER NEWS

Sowing Seeds of Wonder through
a Community of Gardeners.

"Horticulturally, the month of May is opening night, homecoming, and graduation day all rolled into one." Tam Mossman

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Another successful *Gate & Garden Tour* has blossomed and wowed all in attendance. The amazing efforts of the committee chairs and our membership have made this tour one of the premiere garden events of southern California. We have a lot to be proud of.

As we head into summer & a short break from Garden Club activities, 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 Sowing the Seeds of Wonder!

If you would like to further your gardening education in the next few months, the UC Master Gardeners of Orange County are offering several classes and events to enhance your gardening skills & empower your green thumb. Here is a link to their newsletter for more information. Happy planting.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQbdrWCzVjqLjgDcnFZrqJmHbSK>



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Inside This Issue

Gate & Garden Tour May 3

A sold out success!

By the time you read this, our 2025 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 9

Christopher Regan

Celebrating 100 Years of Water with the LBCWD



Laguna Presbyterian Church

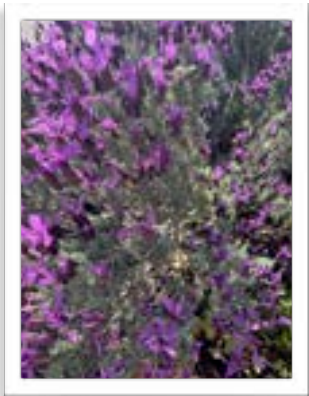
- 9:30 am social — treats will be served • 10:00 am meeting (see page 3).



President's Message

Happy May, Garden Friends

Spring has officially sprung, and I hope your gardens are blooming with color and life. One of my favorite plants -Mexican sage --is in front of our home. Its vibrant purple blooms are a true sign that the growing season is in full bloom.



My husband and I have been loosening the soil, pulling weeds, and making room for our new additions, tomatoes, blueberries and more. The blackberries are blooming, and the lemon tree is



thriving in its new spot.

I hope to see everyone on Bee Day May 3 at our **Gate & Garden Tour!!!**

Our next meeting is on May 9, and the last one for the season, (until September 12 when we begin the 2025-2026 Garden Club Season). As you know for the past several years, we have partnered with Water District as the host venue for the Gate & Garden Tour. The Water District is celebrating its 100-year anniversary, and Christopher Regan will explore his deep knowledge of all things water-related: scarcity, conservation, watersheds in the garden, reclamation, desalination and more.

-Mary Sanchez

May Weeder's Digest Contest

To celebrate the outstanding **2025 Gate & Garden Tour**, search through this edition of the newsletter to find all of the bees including this one (example below) that are buzzing on the following pages. Submit your answers to Karen Nelson by text to 949-280-4417 by 4:00pm Thursday, May 8. Bee happy hunting!



May Speaker

Christopher Regan, Assistant General Manager
Laguna Beach County Water District:

"A Century of Water Service"



Christopher Regan has led an impressive 32-year career as a leader and innovator working in the water industry.

For the past 19 years, he has served as the Assistant General Manager at the



Laguna Beach County Water District, overseeing public affairs, marketing, public relations, water use efficiency efforts, water education and information technology. Christopher will guide his audience on a historical journey from 1925 to the present, illustrating how the development of water infrastructure transformed a quiet beach village into the vibrant Laguna Beach we know today. The Laguna Beach County Water District celebrates their 100th anniversary this year and is the host to our popular *Gate & Garden Tour*.

Christopher's talk will delve into the transformative impact of water on Laguna Beach's growth and prosperity, current and future water sources and

important tips for gardeners. Please join us on Friday May 9, 2025, at 9:30-10:00 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.

-Blair Contratto

THESE PLANTS WILL SELF-SEED AND COME BACK EVERY YEAR!



CALENDULA



BLACK-EYED SUSAN



COLUMBINE



CLEOME



SNAPDRAGON



SWEET ALYSSUM



HOLLYHOCK



COSMOS



FORGET-ME-NOT

WWW.GARDENLOVERSCLUB.COM



Laguna Food Pantry Needs More Egg Cartons!



The Pantry has gone through a lot of their stash of egg cartons and are now ready for more!

Bring what you can, clean and with lids, cardboard or plastic to the May 9 meeting and I will fill up my little red wagon and deliver them with a smile.

Please stack them as you see in the photo.

Feel free to save them over the summer and bring them to the September 12, 2025 meeting (first one of our 2025-2026 Club year!) so we can start them off with a nice stash for fall.

Any questions please reach out to Jane.

-Jane Leary



2025 Gate & Garden Tour

A+ to the Garden Club Hive

Laguna Beach Garden Club's 2025 Gate & Garden Tour was a huge success despite the drizzle. As one tour-goer cheerfully said, "the drizzle and gardens go together perfectly". That's the spirit!

The hive was fully buzzing with each aspect of the tour from the cheerful reception at the check-in booth to the hospitality of the cookie and botanical water ladies, the incredible courtesy of the bus docents and security staff, to the fun of the bar, raffle and food stations, it was all top-notch. The gardens were a delight to everyone. It was so fun to see the smiles on people's faces as they emerged from each garden. The garden docents were the chef's kiss to the experience at each home. Our hat contest was delightful and added another layer of charm and whimsy to the tour. As per usual our raffle prizes were spectacular and gave guests another way to participate and join in on the fun of the day.

Nancy Englund & Susan Denton hit it out of the park with the curated gardens chosen for this year's event. We are forever grateful to the generosity of the homeowners that open their gardens for our event.



Huge thank you to this stellar hive for pulling off a massive event that has become the pride of our Laguna Beach Community and a real feather in the cap for our club.

-Karen Nelson





Continued on next page





Trips & Tours

Sheila Peterson's Terraced Haven

On yet another gray and chilly morning, Daytrippers enjoyed the unique experience of exploring the home and gardens of **Sheila and Jimmy Peterson**. A magnificent 14,000 sf home on a 13 acre lot, their home, garden and surrounding grounds speak of their devotion to family, and family activities, whether indoor or outdoor. Sheila talked not only of her gardens' progression and her plant choices but also of the annual family gathering for the 4th of July, including 15 grandchildren and the following week of "grands camp."



The long driveway up to the property was casually formal, lined with elegantly narrow Italian cypress trees, interspersed with the gray foliage of sage and verbenas, and it led to the double gated entrance and circular driveway of the home.

Sheila's gardens have both structure with mass plantings in the landscape along with the sprawling charm of Santa Barbara daisies mingling with nasturtiums amongst reblooming irises. Everywhere we turned, there was something new to discover! Sheila has even more plans for making the property special, including a vineyard and landscaping around the beautiful infinity pool.



With the infinity pool, basketball court, putting green, indoor racquet ball court, video arcade room, horseshoe court, plus all the seating vignettes on terraced slopes or in the field of wild mustard overlooking Mission San Juan Capistrano, there was so much to savor, an invitation to linger and appreciate the Peterson's vision of a family compound and SoCal indoor-outdoor life. We were all awed, and inspired, for our own gardens and homes. - *Patty Gaffney*





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. **Mary Jones**, Co-Financial Secretary and **Jane Leary**, Past President cheerfully renewed memberships for the 2025-2026 club year, while **Synthia Scofield & Patty Gaffney** register Daytrippers for the next Trips & Tours. It is members like these who make LBGC one of the premier garden clubs anywhere!



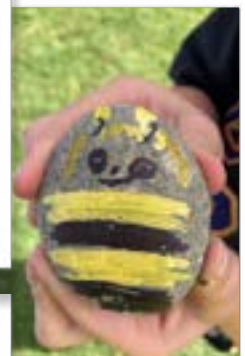
LBGC Board Members 2025-2026 From left to right: Nancy Englund- President, Karen Nelson- Publicity, Monica Thompson- Recording Secretary, Blair Contratto- Co-Vice President, Lynn Jax- Director of Membership, Susan Denton- Director of Gate & Garden Tour, Mary Sanchez- Past President, Susan South- Director of Ways & Means, Mary Jones- Co-Financial Secretary, Kari Nies- Director of Website. Editor's note- please excuse the poor quality of this photo, they are an excitable bunch! Not pictured- Brian Jones- Co-Financial Secretary, Jeff Whittiker & John Holcombe- Treasurers and Bonnie David- Co-Vice President.

Laguna Beach Arbor Day 2025

Laguna's Arbor Day celebration was held at Aliso Creek Park on April 24, and of course our Club was well-represented by **Mary and Brian Jones, Mary Sanchez** and her granddaughter **Taylor Sanchez, Susan South, Greg Frock** and **Jane Leary**. The kids had fun rock painting and wow, we have some talented little artists in our town!

A beautiful California Sycamore was added to the park which will no doubt be enjoyed by all for years to come.

-Jane Leary



Summertime Refresh and Reset

I can't believe that that May 9th will be the last garden club meeting of the 2024/2025 season. We will resume on September 12th. Your Laguna Beach Garden Club Board has another incredible year planned for your enjoyment in the 2025/2026 season. They have been working hard all year behind the scenes to plan the most enjoyable speakers and activities to make your club experience exceptional. All these Board members are very hard-working folks who take their jobs seriously and put great effort into making your membership a fulfilling experience. And they are all volunteers who give greatly of their time, talent and treasure to fulfill their responsibility to you, the club members.

Summertime breaks offer a valuable opportunity for both reflection and renewal. This period offers an opportunity to reflect, plan, relax, and recharge, fostering personal growth and a renewed perspective.



This period can be used to reflect on what's currently working well, identify areas for change, and set intentions for the future. The summer break can also be viewed as a time for redemption and transformation, allowing individuals to break free from old cycles and create a healthier, more fulfilling life.

With that in mind, I hope you will consider your involvement in the Laguna Beach Garden Club and whether increasing your participation in some manner might lead to a more fulfilling life by stretching your comfort zone, challenging you to make new friends and meet new people. The payoff for you would be huge! The health benefits of volunteering are improved mental health, lower stress, increased physical activity, better cognitive function, lower risk of depression, greater sense of purpose, more social connections, and bonus, a stronger immune system!

One of my commitments to myself is that each new garden club year I will try to make at least one new friend that I engage with regularly and can truly call "friend". This 2024/2025 year I have had the great pleasure of getting to know **Bonnie David** and **Jane Barnes** and **Monica Thompson** on a much closer level. I now have three more spectacular woman in my "friend arsenal", what could be better than that. If I had not been volunteering for the club, our paths would not have crossed and that would have been a huge loss for me.

Enjoy your summer with family and friends, vacations and total relaxation. We eagerly anticipate welcoming you back September 12th with open arms and an exciting lineup. Whether you are a seasoned gardener or budding enthusiast, the upcoming year promises to be full of enriching experiences and delightful camaraderie. So, mark your calendars, enjoy your summer, and get ready to embark on another year of blossoming friendships and blooming gardens with the Laguna Beach Garden Club!

-Karen Nelson

Time to Renew Your Membership

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE continues through May.

The Membership Table will be set up in its normal place in Tankersley Hall near the French doors and ready to accept your renewal. Please come prepared to renew your membership.

ALL MEMBERS must **RENEW** for the next year; the full year membership is valid from September 2025 through May 2026. Applications will be available at the **May 9** meeting.

Payment Choices:

Dues = **\$70** paid by **Credit Card** (at a meeting or on our website) or \$5 discount if paid by **Check** or **CASH**.

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, 2025**.

Please complete the bottom portion of the application!

You can renew:

- at the next meeting - **May 9**
- on our website 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 include: 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 below 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

Please see the Application on the next page.

If all your contact information is the same, you only have to fill out the **BOTTOM SECTION** & sign it.





LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB, INC. 2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ Returning

☐ Lifetime

☐ New

☐ Rejoining _____ Year Joined

- 🌱 Our annual membership is \$70. Payments can be made online at LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
- 🌱 We offer a \$5 discount for payments by cash or check. 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**
- 🌱 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 membership book, Gate & Garden Tour brochure, 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 _____

MOBILE PHONE _____ LANDLINE _____

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 **Vicki Borthwick**. Vicki, has been a member of the Club since 2022. She volunteers her time to enrich our Club.



Name Tag Wearer

Lynette LaRoche was “caught” proudly wearing her LBGC name tag at the April meeting. Lynette has been a member since 2013 and has served on the Board of Directors..



Centerpiece

This delightful Spring centerpiece for the April treat table is the design of ElizaBeth Chapel, a member since 2003. ElizaBeth claims this was just a bunch of weeds she collected than threw into a vase. She definitely has a creative green thumb.



Weeder's Digest Monthly Contest

Sue Stewart had the eagle eye for the month of April as she counted the correct number of Easter eggs that were hidden throughout the April edition of the Weeder's Digest.



PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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