



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



Education in the Garden

OCTOBER 2021

MEMBER NEWS

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all." -Stanley Horowitz

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Fall is a special time of year, when we say good bye to the bright colors of summer and hello to the warm and cozy colors of autumn. Mums, pumpkins, and gourds beckon us at the garden centers asking us to take them home and decorate our porch or patio with their fall flair.

Plans for family gatherings are being made for the upcoming holiday season and little ones are busy conjuring up their Halloween costumes. If you missed our first LBGC meeting in September, plan to attend the October 8 meeting. I

know you will enjoy seeing long time friends and getting back into all that garden club membership has to offer. I hope to see you there.



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting October 8

Tom Betts-Aranda

Native Plants in Private Gardens

Laguna Presbyterian Church (see page 3)

• 9:30 am social • 10:00 am meeting

SmartScape Expo 2021
October 9

Laguna Beach Water District

303 3rd Street Laguna Beach

8:00am — 2:00pm (see page 4)

Green Thumb Crafts
October 16

**Halloween
Gourds**

9:30 am at the home of
Eliane Davis
15.000 (see page 6)



New Member Luncheon
October 20

11:30 at the home of
Dalynn Malek

Trips & Tours October 22

Tree of Life

Nursery Meet
at 8:45am at St.
Catherine's Church
on Temple Terrace.
Leaving promptly
at 9:00am (see
page 5)



President's Message

Speaking to Our Gardens, Family, & Friends

Dear Members,
Thank you all for a wonderful September meeting. Ninety members including several new members attended our first in-person meeting since February 2020. The outdoor refreshments were enjoyed; the plant table was hopping, and many members were able to pick up their Membership Books and name badges too.

October is a fun month and a favorite for me. It's a great planting season and a transition time in our gardens. I find it so interesting how life in our gardens is so like our own lives. We pick the plants we love much as we pick friends and close family members. We tend the plants with fertilizer and water, our time and care. Some of us, myself included speak to and with our plants. There is so much solace to be found in a garden.



It is the same with our friends and cherished family members... *We speak with them regularly, send them cards and or gifts and share our hurts and joy.* As with our gardens, friends and family members offer us love, comfort and care when we need it just as we offer it to them.



As you might guess, a very dear family member passed away recently, and I've become reflective along with being sad. *The members of our club are among the kindest and caring to be found.* Being involved and leading this club right now is an honor and a blessing. The friends I've made here are helping me through this difficult time, taking the responsibility of our upcoming meeting and generally tending to me as though I am a favorite plant in their gardens.



This is, I think the best we can do for each other.

Thank you, my friends and fellow members.

Mariann

Our landlord, Laguna Presbyterian Church has asked us not to park in their parking lot behind the church on meeting days. So I am asking all of you, please help us to be good tenants.

- Mariann

Native Plants In Private Gardens

Tom Betts-Aranda shares his wealth of knowledge at our October meeting

We have the pleasure of having **Tom Betts-Aranda** as our guest speaker at our October 8 general meeting. His specialty is in designing gardens where he has the opportunity to incorporate native plants into private gardens. He has landscaped homes in the La Jolla and South Orange County areas including his own small-scale patio gardens to provide sustenance for the local pollinator populations.

Having grown up in New England before moving to Southern California, Tom has been gardening since he can

remember. He began designing gardens while he was involved with his passion for training and riding horses as a dressage instructor. He enhanced his education in landscape design by attending classes locally to better develop his knowledge and understanding of how to use native plants to enhance gardens.

Tom recently started his own company called *Navito Landscape Designs* and is moving forward to complete his design credentials and working with clients.



Pumpkin display at Dana Point Nursery

SmartScape Expo 2021 Succulent Cuttings Needed

The Garden Club participates annually in SmartScape, a community event, sponsored by Laguna Beach County Water District. The 12th annual event will be held on **October 9** from **8 AM to 2 PM**. This year those volunteering at the event will give away succulent **cuttings donated by you all**, offer a rock painting activity, and provide free gardening advice on planting, watering, and sun and shade.

The volunteer Sign-Up is complete. But please mark your calendar and stop by to see all the booths of vendors. To date, this year's participants include Bolsa Chica Conservancy, City of Laguna Beach, Rain Barrels Int., South Coast Water District, Soil Retention, Honey Girl Grows, Imperial Sprinkler supply, California Native Plant Society, Laguna Ocean Foundation, Master Gardeners, Wyland Foundation, Boys & Girls Club, Laguna Canyon Foundation, Laguna Beach Fire Safe Council, and Bluebelt Coalition, besides Laguna Beach Garden Club.

This is a free family event; attendees can take advantage of free landscaping consultations, meet with local landscape and irrigation professionals, purchase CA-friendly plants, and learn about available rebates on water efficient devices. State and local Covid precautions will be in place, including crowd control and masking.

What we need from you are succulent cuttings.

Several places for you to donate:

1. My home: 456 Cress Street, Laguna Beach.
2. The LBGC meeting Friday, October 9 – boxes will be near the entrance to Tank Hall.
3. The Water District at 8 AM on Oct. 9 – 306 Third Street, Laguna Beach.

Any questions contact Lynn Jax via email E: jax@cox.net or call C: 949-294-1500.



Membership News New & Returning

We are happy to announce that as of September 10, we now have 171 members; 6 members returned to the fold and 4 decided the Garden Club was a good fit. Welcome everyone. Our new members are:

Rejoined: Pat Acree, Ann Christoph, Rosa Goldfind, Vicki Gumm, Laura McCants, Kelly Osborn

Newly joined: Chris Bassett, Harry Huggins, Lauren Jarvis, Fritz Werner

The New Member Luncheon is set for October 20; at Dalynn Malek's home. Members who joined after November 2019 will be invited to attend as COVID put a crimp in our ability to hold an in-person get-together last year.

Wear your **Name Tag** to each meeting for a chance to win a **special prize**. Those wearing their name tags will be given a ticket and entered into the drawing. Take your name tag home; it is the new policy that you are responsible for your own name tag. We will not be collecting them at each meeting. I have ordered name tags for all new members, which should arrive by the October 8 meeting. You can pick it up at the Membership Table located on the patio of Tankersley Hall.

Those of you who took advantage special offer to order a spare or replacement name tag; they will be ready for you also. If any other members would like to order an extra name tag, please sign up at the Membership Table or send me an email. Replacements costs will be what the Club is charged (anywhere from \$8-10).

To those of who did not attend the September meeting, please check in at the Membership Table to pick up your new 2021-22 Membership Book, and if I have your name tag, it will be waiting for you as well.

Lynn Jax, Director of Membership

Email: jax@cox.net

October Trips & Tours

Tree of Life Nursery, It's Not Your Big Box Nursery

If you're a fan of California's native plants, you probably already know about **Tree of Life Nursery** on Ortega Highway in San Juan Capistrano. If you've not been here, you need to visit!

Tree of Life has some of the usual suspects-sages and grasses, but also one of the best selections of Manzanita varieties in one place! And, great native flower seed!

This is not a traditional "City" nursery! If you see a plant you like in a 5 gallon pot, there may very well be a full grown tree or shrub on the property you can look at to

see what the plant looks like all grown up!

The staff is knowledgeable and friendly. If you are unsure, just ask!

We will be venturing to the San Juan Capistrano location on **Friday, October 22**. Meet at St. Catherine's church at 8:45 to carpool, we leave promptly at 9:00am. Wear comfy shoes to wander the property. Sign up at the October meeting so we know how many people to expect.



September Raffle Winners

The lucky winners of the September Raffle are:

Elizabeth Kramer – Succulent Wreath

Linda Middlebrooks – double winner-Metal Turtle and Talavera Butterfly

Diane Kloke – Talavera Tall Pot

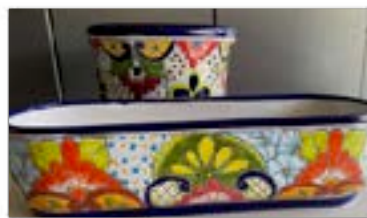
Krisianna Barbernell – Garden Tools & Long Gloves

Gloria Potocki – Talavera Oblong Pot

Gloria Cleary – Orchid/Succulent Arrangement

Stay tuned for December Raffle. Any Christmas-oriented items or cute gift items are welcome additions.

To donate please contact Lynn Jax email: jax@cox.net



October's Green Thumb Craft

Halloween Gourds

You will love decorating whimsical or beautiful gourds
at the home of **Elaine Davis**.

Decorate a gourd with paints, pens, wood burner, and other tools.
Use pictures and trace or freehand you design onto your gourd.

- October 15

- 9:30am

- \$15.00

RSVP 949-510-7858



Volunteers The Heart of Our Club

September Centerpiece

The beautiful and creative centerpiece arrangement for the September meeting was made by **Krisanna Barbernell**. The variety of flowers and plants effectively captured the transition from summer to fall with the colors and textures she used in her arrangement.



Volunteers of the Month

The Garden Club is only as strong as the dedication of its members. September's Volunteers of the Month were evidence of that dedication.

JoAnn DeYonker, Jackie Knauer, Ingrid Cebula, Monica Thompson, Sandy Smith, Cookie Lee, and Marilyn Alexander were honored for their efforts on behalf of the club. We are all grateful for their donation of time.



Members Answer the Summer Survey

Karen Nelson Highlights the Results and Introduces Herself

The Laguna Beach Garden Club Board of Directors

would like to take a moment to say “thank you” to our members! During the summer we sent out a survey to get a better understanding of what our members would like to experience in the coming 2 years. We wanted to hear about the kind of speakers you are interested in, what kinds of things you like to see posted on our *Facebook* page & *Instagram* pages, and what you want to see in the newsletter, as well as what are your favorite parts of this incredible organization!

We heard you loud and clear on the types of speakers that you would like to have in our 2022-2023 line-up. Vice President **Janet Chance** had already been on the right track with the speakers she has booked for this year and is now even more energized to fulfill the wishes that were expressed for 2023.

We also understand that everyone would love to know more about our members as well as to tour member’s own gardens. You expressed that you want to get to know about existing members that you have not yet met. We are hard at work

on both of those requests. Our President, **Mariann Keenan** will be coming up with the best way to highlight new members so that we can all get to know them and hopefully start finding ways to incorporate new folks into our groups when we are planning on attending a *Trips & Tours* event, or just going out to lunch after a meeting. After all, that was the number one thing that everyone said was there favorite part of the club... socializing!

So I will start off by introducing myself. My name is **Karen Nelson** and I’ve been a member since 2016. I lived in Laguna Beach till 2020 and then moved to a high rise in San Diego for an urban adventure. I recently purchased a home in North Laguna and am hoping to have the remodeling done in time to return by summer of 2022, fingers crossed! I’m married to Kirk and we have a son who is 25 and lives in San Diego in his own high rise 4 blocks away! (Yes, he is a huge draw for us to move!)

I have volunteered to help with the raffle at the Gate & Garden Tour, worked on registration at the garden tour and chaired the Gate & Garden Tour in 2019 & 2020. I currently serve on the

board as Director of Media & Publicity and will volunteer to work registration for the Gate & Garden Tour 2022, plus whatever our fearless leader, **Susan Denton**, asks me to do. Every job has been a complete pleasure, and everyone I have met along the way has become a dear friend.

I’ve learned so much about gardening, but more importantly I have met some of the most incredible women who I have the honor to call my friends. I hope all of you will have the same great experience.



Getting on the bus after a wonderful afternoon at Lotusland, Karen Nelson, Susan Denton, Jeanne Yale and Diane Lamboley enjoyed this summer time *Trips & Tours* adventure.

SEED SAVING WORKSHOP

The Ecology Center (32701 Alipaz Street, San Juan Capistrano) is offering a Seed Saving Workshop on October 16 from 10 am to 1 pm. Registration is required prior to the workshop; fees can be found on The Ecology Center website: <https://the-ecology-center.ticketleap.com/workshop-seed-saving/>

Participants will learn about the rich tradition of seed-saving and spend time in the expansive field at the Ecology Center collecting seeds from the center's latest harvest. Growing and collecting seeds for future crops used to be an important part of all farming practices. These cultivated seeds developed varieties of strong and diverse plants. However, with the rise of industrialized agriculture came to loss of genetic diversity in crops and the knowledge needed to produced exceptional seed.



During the workshop, attendees will learn all aspects about crop seed, plant life cycles, seed saving techniques, and equipment and terminology important to understanding seed-saving. The workshop will end with a end with a community seed swap, so think twice before you throw your excess produce into the compost bin.

IT IS TIME TO SEW OUR FAMOUS GARDEN CLUB APRONS

We will meet at the home of Elaine Davis

Sewing skills needed: can sew in a straight line

Bring your sewing machine. scissors & pins

Tentative date WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 AT 10 AM.

(Let me know if you need another date or time)

RSVP WITH TEXT TO 949-510-7858



September 10 - Our First In-Person Meeting in Two Years

Ninety members gathered for our first in-person meeting since the beginning of COVID. Speaker **Bob Borthwick's** informative presentation kicked off the year's speaker series. **ElizaBeth Chapel & Linda Middlebrooks** coordinated the treats buffet table while **Mariann Keenan** and **Janet Chance** honored the Volunteers of the Month including **Cookie Lee**. Mariann bought some raffle tickets from intrepid seller **Pam Bisson**. **Norman Powell** oversaw the plant table and the wide array of items donated by members.



Georgia Zachariah, Cheryl Czeyz, and Norman Powell checked out items for sale on the plant table. Always willing to help, **Susan Denton** worked the membership table at the meeting. The latest edition of the membership book was distributed by **Marian Keenan** and **Jeanne Yale**. **Sue Scott** looked over the raffle items. Volunteers with smiling faces, **Jackie Knauer** and **Diane Klope** helped with some of the first meeting of the year duties, while **Janet Chance** wrote a note to the members about the guidelines for social distancing.



Southern California Vegetable Planting Chart by Greg Alder

Greg Alder, our speaker for March 2022, has created a single-page chart that shows the best planting months for the most common vegetables, making it easier to see the whole planting year at a glance. It can be a single piece of paper to pin up as an easy reference.

Although there are other charts available about planting, he wanted one based on results he has observed in his own garden and others in the Southern California regions. The chart shows the best, most reliable months in which to plant each vegetable; although there is wiggle room, for example, if frost doesn't happen in your region then February is fine to start tomatoes.

See his website: www.gregalder.com

Taken from: *THE YARD POSTS* - food gardening in Southern California, September 17, 2021

THE YARD POSTS

Southern California
VEGETABLE PLANTING CHART by GREG ALDER

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
BASIL				///	///	///	///	///					* Planting dates shown
BEANS			///	///	///	///	///						
BEETS	///	///	///	///					///	///	///	///	
BRASSICAS	///	///							///	///	///	///	
CARROTS	///	///	///							///	///	///	* Sowing dates 1-2 months earlier
CILANTRO	///	///	///							///	///	///	
CORN			///	///	///	///	///						
CUCUMBER				///	///	///							
EGGPLANT					///	///							* Brassicas: broccoli cabbage cauliflower etc.
GARLIC										///	///	///	
GREENS	///	///	///	///	///				///	///	///	///	
LETTUCE	///	///	///							///	///	///	
MELONS				///	///	///							* Brassicas: broccoli cabbage cauliflower etc.
ONIONS										///	///	///	
PEAS	///	///	///							///	///	///	
PEPPERS					///	///							
PUMPKIN / SQUASH			///	///	///	///							* Brassicas: broccoli cabbage cauliflower etc.
SPINACH	///	///								///	///	///	
TOMATOES			///	///	///	///							



Scott Daigre from Tomatomania will be our speaker in January. I subscribe to his newsletter. Here are some tips he offers for fall planting and preparing for spring.

Fall is prime time for lettuce, radishes, beets, shallots, arugula, chard, carrots, etc. Coast Hardware has donated seed packets, which will be available at the **October 8 meeting** for you to take home.

Prepare for spring now this fall.

1. **Compost** – make your own by piling up leaves, grass clippings, or whatever you have available. Wet it and turn it occasionally. Decomposition happens so that by spring you will have broken-down organics. It will help your garden by leaps and bounds.
2. **Cover Crops** – are easy beneficial and often pretty. A great idea if you aren't going to plant a fall garden. Legumes, grains, vetch (scrambling herbaceous plant of the pea family), clover, and other green covers collect nitrogen from the air and trap it in the roots below. This builds soils area a busy garden season.
3. **Leaves** – collect them, mulch with them, shred them if you can. Pile them all over your quiet summer garden or in a new area for cultivation next spring. During spring turn these into the soil to provide nutrients for your spring plants.

Check out the Tomatomania website: tomatomania.com/shop.

Another Tidbit: I found an article about offerings from some public libraries across the country.

Seed Sharing: “Librarians have become farmers, or least farming midwives, since 2004 when the Hudson Valley Seed Library sprouted the Gardiner (NY) Public Library. Since then free seed-sharing programs have opened across the country, specializing in heirloom or uniquely local flowers, vegetables, and other plants. The idea [is] to teach people about regional flora, expand seed access and help preserve biodiversity.”

Tool Time: “Need a saw hammer, weed whacker or unusual screwdriver? The Berkley (CA) Public Library’s Tool Lending Library is one of the oldest in the country, recently branching into kitchen tools, dehydrators, Instant Pots, ice cream makers and more.” [See Tool Lending Catalog]

Taken from Parade Picks magazine, LA Times, Sept 5, 2021.

Plant People – series Plant PPL by *LA Times Aug 25, 2021*

The *LA Times*, Saturday section, often has articles about plants. This article features 20 young people who are nicknamed Plant People (or Plant PPL) who are Plant Influencers (who knew that was a thing?) on Instagram. The *LA Times* interviewed them to feature their best plant care tips and gardening advice. I thought I would select a few for each our Newsletters.

• **Courtney Warwick** from Long Beach, CA: 1. **Less is always best.** Under watering is always better than too much and helps to avoid root rot. 2. **Wipe your plants leaves.** Dust can block the sunlight, which can prevent photosynthesis. Try this biweekly.

• **James Monroe:** 1. **Basic soil for succulents.** Succulents need soil that drains well. Try this simple mixture of cactus mix, pumice or perlite, and earthworm castings. 2. **Soil moisture & pot openings.** The amount of space that succulents fill in the opening of a pot will alter the evaporation and affects how long the soil will retain water. Opening filled completely does not afford much space for evaporation; soil will remain wet longer. Some space



available allows for evaporation; soil stays moderately wet. Open space allows soil to dry the quickest. Check out his website for more tips: www.unknownsucculents.com

• **Ken Sparks** – known as The Farmer Ken in South LA: 1. When planting **fruit trees that typically grow in distinct winters** (apples, peaches, nectarines, pears, cherries, etc.) in our warm climate, keep in mind chill hours (hours below 45 degrees). Grow low-chill cultivars of these plants. Favorites are Anna apple, Golden Dorsett apple, Florida Prince peach, and Panamint nectarine. 2. Fruit trees are either **self-pollinating** (produces pollen on its own) or require a **second tree for pollination**. The Anna apple is self-pollinating but if there is another self-pollinating tree nearby even if it's a different variety, the yield of fruit will increase drastically. If only purchasing one tree, make sure it's self-pollinating. Email: FarmerKenOfficial@gmail.com
Submitted by: Lynn Jax



Blueberry Oatmeal Breakfast Bars/Cakes

Gluten free, dairy free, healthy, and easy.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup whole oats
- 1 cup oat flour (oat flour can be made by grinding 1 cup of oats to food processor)
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup almond/oat milk (any type of milk can be used)
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup fresh blueberries (can substitute frozen blueberries)
- ½ cup chopped nuts (walnuts, pecans, almonds — your choice)
- 1/3 cup shredded coconut (Optional)



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 8-inch square pan or a muffin tin.
2. Combine whole oats, oat flour, brown sugar, salt, & baking soda together in a bowl.
3. Stir in almond/oat milk, eggs, butter, vanilla extract until well combined.
4. Fold in blueberries and nuts.
5. Spread mixture into prepared pan & top with shredded coconut (if using)
OR Fill greased muffin tin space about ¾ full.
6. Bake in preheated oven until edges are golden brown:
For Square pan: Bake 35 minutes & coconut is brown.
For Muffin tin: Bake for 20 minutes & edges are golden brown.
7. Cool in pan or muffin tin for 10 minutes before cutting into squares or removing from muffin tin.

Wall of Fame 2021-2022

Donors

Major Donor: \$5000+
Rose: \$3000-\$4999

Monarch: \$1000-\$2999
Joe Smisko

Pelargonium: \$500-\$999
Mae Ho
Linda Moore

Poppy: \$100-\$499
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Carolyn, Bent
Janet Chance
Blair Contratto
Harriette Craig-Neghabat
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Dean Day
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Perry Stampfel
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Sponsors

Rose: \$3000-\$4999
Team Laguna Real Estate

Monarch: \$1000-\$2999
Nelson Family
The Smith Group Coldwell
Banker Realty

Pelargonium: \$500-\$999
Susan Denton
Mariann Keenan
Mike Johnson Group – Company
Laguna Nursery/VisionScape
Plant Depot

Poppy: \$100-\$499
Team Laguna Real Estate

In-Kind Donors (goods or services)

Rose: \$3000-\$4999
Dana Point Nursery

Monarch: \$1000-\$2999
Dana Point Nursery

Pelargonium: \$500-\$999
Jesse Bartels
Marlo Bartels
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The Laguna Beach Dojo
Madeleine McLendon
Lori Nayeshalski
Diane Olson
The Ranch at Laguna Beach
Tentacle Arts
Total Wine & More

Poppy: \$100-\$499
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Elaine Davis
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Madeleine McLendon
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Lori Nayeshalski
OC Succulents
Plant Depot
Rock Martin Jewelry
Roger's Gardens
Roger Taft
Jeanne Yale

Aloe: \$25-\$100
Fawn Memories
Lumberyard Restaurant
Madeleine McLendon
Temecula Olive Oil Company



P.O. Box 362
Laguna Beach, CA 92652
www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

For additional pictures of Laguna Beach Garden Club activities and information, go to our wonderful web site produced by Kari Nies

<https://www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org/events/club-albums/>