



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



Education in the Garden

OCTOBER 2023

MEMBER NEWS

"There are no days so delightful as those of a fine October." -Alexander Smith

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Why do we love Fall? Part of it may have to do with the comfort of getting back into a steady routine after summer. During the summer, people tend to travel for vacation and have less predictable schedules. Once fall starts, most people resume their everyday routines, making it easier for friends to get together and socialize.

This was truly evident at our September meeting where friends caught up with each other's lives and met new

members just joining our Club. See page 19 for images of some of the fun on that day.

Our meetings this year have an exciting list of speakers and our Trips & Tours and Green Thumb activities will be rewarding and entertaining. Come join us for all of the fun!



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting
October 13

Caleb Finn

The Circular Solution
Laguna Presbyterian Church (see page 3)



- 9:30 am social
- 10:00 am meeting

New Member Luncheon
October 20

Laguna Presbyterian Church
• 11:00am -1:00pm

Trips & Tours October 27

Descanso Gardens

Self guided tour of the beautiful grounds.

- Sign up at the Oct 13 meeting
- Meet at 8:45am at St. Catherine's Church on Temple Terrace.
- Leaving promptly at 9:00am
- (see page 10)

Green Thumb Craft
November 3

Photography class with Mary Hurlbut
9:30am —
11:30am

- Sign up at the Oct 13 meeting
- (see page 4)



President's Message

Planning For A Safe Future In Our Gardens

What brings you delight?
For me it's photos like
this one of my niece

Chelsea. She's a horticulturist at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. She loves her job and is perfectly suited for it. And no, this photo is not photoshopped! Niece Chelsea has found her delight. Working at the Zoo with the plants and animals is what she was made for.



Delight can be found in memories of dear ones who have passed. My mother-in-law Claudia passed recently at the age of 95. Her memorial was yesterday. Rather than wear black I wore a bright yellow flowered dress. Why? Because she loved gardening and flowers and

wearing black just didn't seem right to me.

Claudia loved "playing in the dirt" more than anything except her family. It seemed the dirtier she got the happier she was. She mowed, trimmed, edged, weeded, raked, and fertilized all herself, never with the help of anyone else except maybe to dig holes for trees. All this well into her 80's.

Her garden was the envy of the neighborhood bringing delight to everyone who passed by. She grew ranunculus, pansies, marigolds, begonias, impatiens, and daffodils, changing them out with the seasons. And tulips. Claudia shared with me that the first bouquet her soulmate Ed brought her were tulips and those became her favorite.

As her health declined, she moved into a board and care home. I would share with her all the wonderful things we do in our Club. The Trips & Tours, our Gate & Garden Tour photos. Our Green Thumb events. The rose garden and pollinator gardens we tend. I would read our Weeder's Digest out loud and tell her all about the scholarships we awarded and the things I learned each month from our knowledgeable and impressive speakers. It was a way to bring

gardening into her limited world even though she could no longer play in the dirt.

I like to think her love of gardening and being connected to our earth contributed to her long, healthy life. I know it certainly brought her delight.

What brings you delight?
Who inspired your love of gardening? What memories do you have of time spent in the garden with loved ones? There is so much to celebrate in this world! Please share your delights with me next time we meet.

-Jane Leary



To plant a garden
is to believe
in tomorrow.

Audrey Hepburn

THE CIRCULAR SOLUTION

Reversing Climate Change & Addressing Food Waste & Insecurity

Caleb Finn, CEO and Founder of Circular, a social enterprise dedicated to reversing climate change and addressing food waste and food insecurity through regenerative agriculture will be the speaker at our October 13th General meeting.

While working as a Civil engineer, Caleb pursued his passion for sustainable living and transformed his suburban Orange County home into a micro-homestead complete with an orchard and vegetable garden. As part of that homestead, he created a system repurposing food and garden waste from his own family and

neighbors with the help of earthworms and chickens. Confronted with the broader



challenges in the global food system, including misuse of food waste, poor food nutrition and quality, rampant food insecurity and commercial farming's drastic impact on climate crisis, Caleb developed the Circular Solution: Collect food waste

from local restaurants and grocers, convert it into the greatest organic regenerative fertilizer known to man - worm castings-then partner with local farms to improve food quality and availability. In addition to winning the UC Irvine New Venture Competition, volunteering as a UC Master Gardener and doing ministry work, he enjoys spending time with his family.



*A nap on an Autumn
day sometimes is all
we need*

Green Thumb Workshop
Photography Class with Mary Hurlbut



Date: Friday November 3rd

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: To be Determined

Cost: \$25

Payable: When you sign up at the October 13th meeting

Class will be capped at 8 people

Laguna Beach photographer Mary Hurlbut will teach a class on iPhone photography and will discuss the basic settings and options found on most cell phones. The first hour will focus on light, composition and editing your photos, and during the second hour you will apply what you have learned.

Contact **Jeanne Yale** if you have questions



Membership News

New & Returning

Welcome to October! I am pleased to announce that we now have **208** members as of September 20, 2023.

If you have not picked up your 2023-2024 Membership Book yet, they will be at tables inside Tankersly Hall for your convenience.

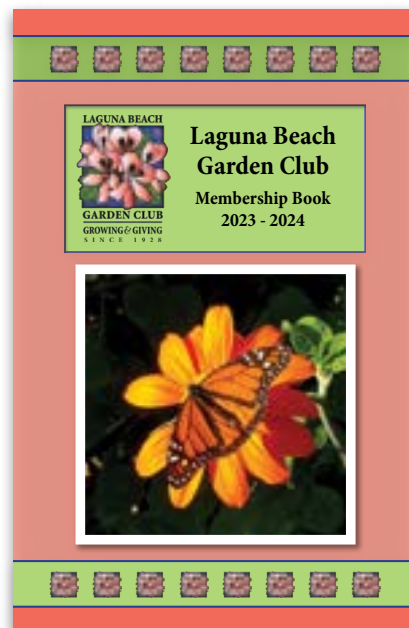
Name tags – reminder to wear yours to receive a ticket to be eligible to win a great prize as a reward for wearing it. If you joined the Club in September, your new name tag will be ready for pick up. If you ordered a replacement or spare name tag, it will also be ready for pick up.

If you joined the Club any time after November of 2022, you will receive an invitation from me via Evite to attend the New Member Luncheon on Friday, October 20 from 11am to 1:00 pm. It's your opportunity to learn more about this fabulous club and meet the Board face to face.

If you have a friend, neighbor, or colleague who might be interested in our Speaker Series, 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 or cell: 949-294-1500.

Lynn Jax, Director of Membership



LAGUNA BEACH



GARDEN CLUB

GROWING & GIVING

S I N C E 1 9 2 8

**You are invited to the
NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON**

Friday, October 20 - from 11am to 1pm

Tankersley Hall

415 Forest Ave, Laguna Beach

Bluebird Canyon Farms September's Trips & Tours

Spirit of the Hive

On September 22, the last official day of summer, **Scott Tenney** of Bluebird Canyon Farms, gave an informational tour to 30 club members and guests over the competing sounds of a chopper buzz and a rooster crow. He spoke of the practical realities of farming this site and its impact and influence on the community. Although unable to co-lead the tour, his wife Mariella Simon was distinctly present with her excellent eye for design and her styling of an old Rancho experience. Scott described the farm, their passion project, as a



partnership where “Everything that is beautiful is Mariella’s doing, and probably everything that is strong is mine.”

Started in 2012, Bluebird Canyon Farms is a

biodynamic urban farm approximately 15 acres in size. The site has a colorful history, originally populated



by Native American people who were ousted by European homesteaders, that in 1926 became the Tom Sawyer Camp for Boys. After the Pearl Harbor attack, the group relocated, and the site was sold and used as a retreat until the early



1960s. Contributing to Laguna Beach’s eclectic past, this land was where “a lot of art and shoes were made.”

“We grow things, teach things and do things,” Scott declared. The **growing** is evident in esthetically terraced beds planted with chilis, squash, purple lettuce and cold crops in winter. The farm also grows both edible and ornamental flowers.

Upon retirement as a geneticist and cell biologist, Mariella focused on a market garden, which established relationships



with local chefs who would plan their menus while “shopping” the farm and where the site would host farm-to-table experiences. She also created a farm stand which is open Tuesdays from 10am to 4pm.

Teaching entails short workshops such as backyard composting, permaculture, or foraging. In addition, Bluebird Canyon Farms has a long-term program which creates a grounding of competency-based skills through exposing young people with cognitive



disabilities to the rhythm of the farm.

The **doing** is the making of such things as breadboards, cutting boards, spice racks, all in the workshop, which was a former three-car garage.



More than beautiful terraced beds, there is a chicken coop, which is home for twelve years to black copper Marans. A metal and stone outdoor kitchen stands amid olive trees, complemented by a rustic table with a tree slab tabletop. There is a fairy circle of polished tree stumps, while further up the canyon is the charming Flower Chateau.

Scott, who is a retired engineer, outlined their biodynamic soil practices including crop rotation and their better-than-organic integrated approach to pest management, balancing pests with their predators.



He has an excellent team and fosters paid interns. During his explanation of the functionality of the water cistern and a sophisticated irrigation system, there were

delights for the eye at every turn. Delight in the smallest details such as a manhole



cover blooming with a four-tiered corolla of lavish petals.

Ending the tour, Scott described the resiliency that is the ethos of Bluebird Canyon Farms. Resiliency manifests in the community with their ability to grow food for their families, to grow abundantly to feed the community through the farm stand and through partnerships with The Salt Horse, a specialty grocery (located at 1360 S. Coast Hwy), and the Mercado Laguna (located at 912 N. Coast Hwy). He urged us to support these enterprises.

Scott mentioned their apiary which is fitting since as a club, we listened to artist

Matt Willey's inspiring talk about "The Good of the Hive." Friday showed the club's sense of community starting with members who drove us to and from Scott's and Mariella's labor of love. Thank you: Brian Jones, Sandy Smith, and Pam Talarico. Thank you: Jane Leary and Dee Perry for arriving at the farm early, redirecting cars to minimize parking impact.

We saw community at Bluebird Park in the glorious array of potluck dishes which ranged from appetizers to an astonishing variety of salads to desserts. In the

club's first potluck in several years and without prearrangement, we brought forth a bounty of no-repeat dishes. And we saw community in how people jumped in to organize the buffet table, brought tablecloths and extra paper goods, and shared photos.

There was delight on top of the beauty and function of the farm when Scott joined us at Bluebird Park bringing his Shiba Inu puppy, Oso or Bear. And more delight when a red crested woodpecker with vivid striping was pointed out. And of course, delight in a delicious lunch next

to one of the pollinator gardens sponsored by our garden club. It was a celebration of community and delight experienced with our hive.



Getting Involved



Volunteer of the Month

The Garden Club is only as strong as the dedication of its members. *September's Volunteer of the Month* was evidence of that dedication. **Sharon Sanger** member since 2022, was honored by **Vice President**

Blair Contratto for her efforts on behalf of the club. She has volunteered at the TOW garden and had met with **Jane Leary, Blair Contratto & Melissa Rapp** to help them put together a member's survey and proposed a Farm to Table event with crops from the edible gardens (schools) as a fundraiser with some Chef collaborations.



Name Tag Wearer

Members getting to know each other is a goal of Membership Director **Lynn Jax. Perry Levers** member since 2010, wore her name tag and her name was drawn as *September's Name Tag Wearer*.

Lynn presented Perry with her prize, a lovely bee tea towel and bee mug.



Friday, October 27

October Trips & Tours - Descanso Gardens

We will do a Self-Guided group tour of the gardens which allows us the most flexibility in headcount. Lunch will be at the onsite cafe with a walk-up service window and seating area.

As usual, a sign-up sheet to join will be available at the general club meeting on October 13th. We welcome drivers - please note your willingness to drive a carpool on the sign-up sheet. **This will be a members only excursion, with a deadline of October 13 to join, no exceptions.**

Please bring your payment to the general meeting, **cash preferred** or a check, payable to Synthia Scofield, and deliver to Synthia no later than end of meeting. The amount will be either \$15 for adult admission, ages 18-64, or \$11 for seniors, ages 65+.

We will carpool from St. Catherine's Church on Temple Terrace. Plan to arrive at 8:45 am, leaving promptly at 9:00am. Parking will be free.

Reminders: Please pay attention to the updates and changes communicated at the general meeting and through Constant Contact email and remember to wear your badge at the Trip & Tour on Friday, October 27.





Hortense Miller Garden wants YOU!

There are many ways to volunteer:

1 or 2 hours a week weeding in the gardens

Becoming a docent for one 90 minute tour a month

Help with publicity and membership

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. If you haven't visited yet, book a tour to check it out at

www.LagunaBeachCity.net

Upcoming events at the Garden: Reservations required

Friday, Oct. 27 at 9:30am in VISTA, CA -

HMG Craft Day at Marsha Bode's Home to make Garden Art and Container Gardens. Bring your clippers and any plants or containers you'd like to donate. We'll beautify the tired garden art and spiff up container gardens to sell at the LB Farmer's Market on November 18. Bring a treat to share at the Pot Luck Lunch. Carpool from Strands Beach at 8:15am to drive to Vista.

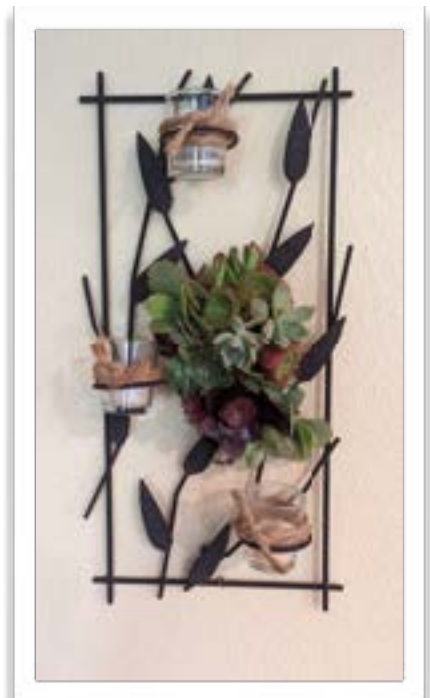
Saturday, November 18 –

Farmer's Market Booth 8am – Noon

You can help set up and man the booth for an hour or two. For more info contact Diane Lannon at

diane.lannon@gmail.com or

HortenseMillerFriends@gmail.com or sign up at the back table with Diane at the Oct. 13 LBGC meeting



Bees are fraught with symbolism, appearing in myths and folklore in many cultures, from the Mayans to the Celts, to the Native Americans. No wonder that they might turn up in my dreams from time to time! According to dream psychology in “Dream Divination,” dreaming about bees indicates something positive. Bees in dreams are linked to efficiency, hard work, and being a productive member of your hive.

The Bee Wall dream began when Matt Willey came to speak to our club one year ago. The entire club was transfixed during Matt’s presentation. As he spoke you could almost hear a pin drop, no rustling papers, no side conversation, just pure, undivided laser beam focus on the beautiful message about the bees symbolism of sense of purpose and connectedness within their hive. The sheer beauty of the altruism that comes naturally to these creatures and the many lessons that they could teach us to improve humanity while concurrently saving ourselves by saving the pollinator population was a complete light bulb moment.



Nancy Englund and I rushed to one another after the meeting and said, “we have to have a Matt Willey bee mural in Laguna Beach.”

Surprisingly many other people joined in the chorus and voiced their desire for the Laguna Beach Garden Club to provide our town with a love letter that could guide the present generation and future ones to a kinder, brighter, and more altruistic future...a legacy!

As we all know, being a bee is hard work, and Nancy and I spent a year feeling very much like bees as we spent hundreds of hours poring over documents to find owners of commercial building walls in

Laguna Beach that might be appropriate for a mural. The obstacles were daunting! Like the bees facing pesticides, pathogens, and parasites, we faced one challenge after another in our quest to find a building owner that had the right building and circumstances to have this beautiful message put on their building.

Then at a chance meeting with our incredible partners at the Laguna Beach County Water District, we hit the jackpot. The irony of the meeting was that we were there to thank them for their partnership and incredible support, which makes our Gate & Garden Tour possible. The cost of renting a venue

the size of the water district would cost the club \$10,000-15,000! When we said goodbye to Arabella, our previous tour venue in 2019, I began the search and went back to the Board in despair that the tour could not go on without a tour venue that would be free! Laguna Beach County Water District came to the rescue with their sense of community and altruism and an offer to not only sponsor but to provide their gorgeous facility for our event.

Then at this serendipitous luncheon, we asked them if there was anything we could do for them. They said, “we have a wall that we have

always wanted to have a mural on that would be educational and uplifting.” Nancy and I practically jumped out of our chairs to spill out the saga of our search and multiple failed attempts thus far.

And that is how the Bee Wall dream began to become reality. We knew we still had several municipal hurdles to overcome like the Water Commission approval, the Art Council approval, and Appeal process approval. We wanted to wait to receive all the approvals before presenting it to you, the members. But the “Bee is out of the Bonnet” because the Water

Commissioner’s meeting was a public meeting covered by the press. So on September 14th, there it was, rough draft and all on the front page of Stu News.

Sian Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager for the City of Laguna Beach and staff liaison to the Arts Commission has been instrumental in her guidance and support through the approval process. The Art Council meeting will be held on November 9th, and we are keeping our fingers crossed for a favorable outcome and hope to deliver the news to everyone at our December meeting.



Want to listen to something fun and informative about your Club
on KXFM RADIO?

Tune into the **ARTWALKING PODCAST** from September 7, 2023 featuring **Leah Vasquez** as moderator and **LBGC's President Jane Leary** and member **Bob Borthwick**, along with dancer **Kristy Melita**, discussing “Dancing in the Garden”.

[ARTWALKING - KX FM \(kxfmradio.org\)](https://kxfmradio.org)

You can download and listen on your morning walk as you enjoy the beauty of our town.

Your empty egg cartons are making a difference in the lives of families with food insecurity!

Last month I delivered 181 egg cartons to the Laguna Food Pantry thanks to you, our generous members, and member **Gail Waite** who collects them from the local realtors and brings that week's collection to our general meeting. My car was almost overflowing! After dropping them off at the Pantry with a note, I received this delightful email from Anne Belyea, Executive Director of the Pantry:

“How lovely, Jane! I love the community’s support! We are so thankful to the LBGC and our local realtors! It’s been almost two years since we had to purchase egg cartons!”

Please continue to bring your empty egg cartons each month stacked like the photo. This simple gesture of kindness from you, our members, saves the Pantry 45 cents per carton which they can use for nutritious food for their clients. Way to go, LBGC!! Let’s fill up my “little red pony” on October 13! -Jane Leary



September 12, 2023

Jane Leary, President
Laguna Beach Garden Club
PO Box 362
Laguna Beach, CA 92653-0362

Dear Garden Club Members and Friends,

Laguna Food Pantry is so grateful for your generous food drive support.

The Garden Club collected 181 egg cartons!

These donations allow the Pantry to remain open and respond to the increased and immediate needs of so many in our community - the elderly, veterans, disabled, homeless, and part- and full-time workers who struggle to recover financially and feed their family.

Your generous donations help provide food to many more of our newly vulnerable and needy neighbors. Thank you for being part of a group that is making an immediate and positive impact in our community.

We truly appreciate your support!

Sincerely Yours,

Maurice Baz
Maurice Baz
Program Manager

18657 Laguna Canyon Road, Unit 8, Laguna Beach, California 92651 • (949) 497-7120 • www.lagunafoodpantry.org



September Raffle

Lucky Winners Help Fund Club Projects

Thank you to all who participated in the September Raffle to make it a great success. The lucky winners are:

Sandy Montag – double winner: Metal Garden Art & Succulent Wreath

Cheryl Czyz – double winner: 2 Gift Cards Laguna Coast Pottery & Honey Basket

Mary Jones – Halloween Basket #1

Mary Sanchez – Halloween Basket #2

Sue Moore – 2 Gift Cards Laguna Coast Pottery

Kari Nies – Glass Garden Art Ornament

Pamela Fraser – Preserves Basket

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

To donate please contact Lynn Jax email: lynnmjax@icloud.com.

See the next page for the Merchant Raffle Request letter that you can use to approach your favorite shop for a donation of a raffle item. Copies of the letter will be available at the October & November meetings.





Dear Merchant,

Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. is requesting a raffle donation for one of our Raffles. Our next raffles will be held:

- **December 8, 2023** at our Christmas meeting – Deadline: December 2, 2023.
- **February 9, 2024** at our Valentine meeting – Deadline: February 2, 2024.
- **May 4, 2024** at our annual Gate & Garden Tour, our major fundraiser for the year. Deadline: April 16, 2024.

Laguna Beach Garden Club is a service organization founded in 1928 that now has more than 200 members from all over Orange County.

The money raised from these raffles is used to fund school gardens, specifically Top of the World Elementary, El Morro Elementary, and Thurston Middle School. Additionally, we offer scholarships to students at Laguna Beach High School and to horticultural students at Saddleback Community College. We also use the money for our monthly educational speaker series and to fund our civic beautification projects within Laguna Beach.

Please complete the attached Raffle Donation Form.

Lynn Jax can be contacted via email or by telephone to arrange for pick-up of any item donated, including a gift card. I am more than willing to stop by at your convenience.

If you prefer mail a gift card, please send to:

Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. 456 Cress Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92652
ATTN: Lynn Jax

Benefits to Donors:

- Recognized with your name & donor level: *(linking your business website to appropriate places)*
 - **LBGC website**, viewed by hundreds of members & non-members annually
 - **LBGC 2024-25 Membership Book**
 - **Gate & Garden Tour Brochure** – given to 600+ ticketholders (local, surrounding areas, & other states).
- Name added to **In-Kind Donor Wall of Fame** – Levels:
 - **Monarch** \$1000 +
 - **Pelargonium** \$500 - \$999
 - **Poppy** \$250 - \$499
 - **Agave** \$100 - \$299
 - **Aloe** \$25 - \$99

Thank you in advance for your generosity. You have always been so generous in the past, and we are most appreciative.

Lynn Jax

Lynn Jax, Director of Membership & Raffle Administrator

E: lynnmjax@icloud.com C: 949-294-1500 or Home: 949-497-7363

Our Federal Tax ID number is listed below.

Laguna Beach Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization • email: info@lagunabeachgardenclub.org

Making a Difference in the Lives of Laguna Beach High School Students

At the invocation for LBHS in June 2023 our Club gave out three scholarships to deserving graduating seniors going on to higher education relating to the field of horticulture. Each sent a lovely thank you card to the Club.

Sylvie Henry said – “out of all my brilliant peers who applied it is such an honor I was chosen for this. It means so much more to know my future in environmental policy will be fueled by the hard work and generous gifts of other environmentalists. I’m so excited to start my career saving the planet and giving back at every opportunity.

From **Molly Starr** – “I am grateful for the opportunity this scholarship will allow me to achieve. This scholarship will allow me to continue my education at the University of Colorado, Boulder in the School of Environmental Design without having to worry about my financial status.”

From **Quinn Butler** – “I cannot thank you enough for your generous scholarship. I was overjoyed because what you stand for means so much to me. I plan to put your generous donation towards my tuition at Western Washington University next year where I will study recreation”.

Our Club is making an impact on the future with our generous scholarship program. Definitely something to be proud of!



Lynn Jax and Jane Leary present scholarship checks to Sylvie, Molly and Quinn

San Clemente Garden Club's Fall Plant Sale October 14



[Click Here to Read the Garden Trellis Newsletter Oct 2023](#)

Join us on Wednesday, October 4 at St. Andrews by the Sea Methodist Church at 1 pm for our general meeting featuring our guest speaker, Gabe Verduzco, an ISA Certified Arborist who will cover the invasive tree insects that are destroying both native and non-native species in Southern California.

The San Clemente Garden Club is holding its Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, October 14 from 8 am - 1 pm, with set up on Friday, October 13. Volunteers are needed both days and you can sign up at the October meeting or just show up the morning of the events.

Join your fellow SCGC members on field trips to the Hortense Miller Home and Garden on Thursday, November 30 and the Ocean Institute on Thursday, December 7 at 10 a.m. You can get more information on both trips and register at <https://www.sanclementegardenclub.com/field-trips>

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

September's Meeting- Fun Times Catching Up With Friends and Recognizing Members' Service to Our Club





Lavender



Daisy



Sage



Lilac



Lily Of The Valley



Rhododendron



Rosemary



Forget Me Not



Calendula



Chives



Mint

Bee Friendly Flowers



Marigold



Goldenrod



Coneflower



Bee Balm



Sunflower



Aster



Mustard Canola



Thyme



Yarrow



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/>