

VOL. 19



GROWING & GIVING

Laguna Beach Garden Club

Weeder's Digest



September 2023

MEMBER NEWS

"Cultivating **Delight** Through
Gardening and Community Service"

*"Remember: Summer love may be ending,
but summer memories are just beginning."*

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

What has the Garden Club been up to over the Summer?

While the Garden Club claims to be "dark" during the summer, as you know that is not the case with gardeners. We are always up to something. We started with activities in May and continued throughout the summer.

In May, club members honored the fallen service men & women at the City of Laguna Beach's Memorial Day observation.

There were several opportunities in May and July to visit

member's gardens and share the bounty of their gardens with a plant & vegetable exchange. Many of us have truly been "Growing & Giving".

In August we had a new opportunity to partner with Laguna Art Museum and the Joseph Kleitsch exhibit. LBGC sponsored two of his painting in the exhibit.

This next Garden Club season is going to be exciting and educational, so come to the first meeting on Sept 8 and join in the fun!

**Come Join in
the Fun**

Events This Month

General Meeting Sept 8

Krystle Hickman- "The ABC's of Native Bees" (see page 4)



Laguna Presbyterian
Church
9:30 am
Social

10:00 am
General meeting & guest speaker

Trip & Tours Sept 22

Location to be announced at the
Sept 8 meeting

Board Meeting Sept 25

President's Message

Welcome to our 2023-2024 Club Year!

I am *delighted* to be your new president! Thanks to recent past presidents **Janet Chance, Mariann Keenan, Nancy Englund, and Lynn Jax** I have “inherited” a club that is vibrant, growing and filled with *delightful* members like you.

We have accomplished so many *delightful* and impactful things as a club thus far and I look forward to continuing this great tradition with each of you.

Soooo.... Are you picking up on my President's Theme yet?

*Cultivating **Delight** Through Gardening and Community Service*

What delights you? Delight doesn't just happen, you have to look for it. Cultivate it. Share it. Daily.

By loving something we allow other people the opportunity to love it, too. Sharing, tapping someone on the shoulder, saying “Hey, look - do you see that... Eden Rose, Halictus Tripartitus, Monarch butterfly, double rainbow, bald eagle?” It's this human connection that helps us all thrive.

The joy comes in the sharing.
And who doesn't need more joy in their life every day?



As a club we share our delight in gardening through our community service. We educate our members and the community with our fabulous speakers program each month (you don't want to miss Krystle Hickman our Sept 8 speaker, she'll explain what a Halictus Tripartitus is!).

Tending the rose garden and *Pocket Park*, contributing to the pollinator gardens at *Heisler Park and Bluebird Park*, supporting the school gardens at *El Morro, TOW and Thurston Elementary Schools*, and lending our support to the *Glenwood House Garden*, and *Hortense Miller Garden* are just some of our community service endeavors.



We support the *Laguna Food Pantry* with our monthly egg carton collection. Our Club

provides scholarships to LBHS students and Saddleback College students with an interest in horticulture, ecology, and conservation.

Our club supports the Cleveland National Forest re-forestation program through our *Penny Pines* donations. We support the *Blue Bell Foundation* butterfly garden by drinking the delicious coffee provided by **Chris Lutz** each month.

We enthusiastically and delightfully participate in the *Patriot's Day Parade* (GO RAKE-ETTES!), and the *Sawdust Festival Green Day*. We never miss the *Arbor Day Celebration* or the *Memorial Day American Legion Ceremony*.



We have fun enjoying and delighting in each other's gardens during our garden open houses and bounty shares (look for more of these in the coming year). With our *Trips and Tours* and *Green Thumb* activities we get to know each other better and share in the delight of seeing new places and learning new things.

In keeping with our mission statement: *"Laguna Beach Garden Club is a service organization committed to the advancement of gardening, horticulture, ecology, and conservation through education and participation in related community projects,"* we have pledged financial support towards the purchase of the South Laguna Community Garden Park. Most recently we supported the exhibition at the Laguna Art Museum – Joseph Kleitsch: Abroad and At Home in Old Laguna - with our sponsorship of two of the delightful paintings by Kleitsch, considered one of the most important artists to have lived, painted and exhibited in Laguna Beach. If you missed the Garden Club's private tour on August 29 I encourage you to visit the museum on your own before the close of the exhibition on September 24. The beauty and joy found in his paintings of old Laguna will make you fall in love with our city all over again.

I invite you to share with me and each other what delights you about your Club, your garden, this beautiful Laguna Beach we call home.

-Jane Leary

2023-2025 President

New Collaboration With Laguna Art Museum

On Tuesday August 29, approximately 70 club members and their invited guests attended a private event at the Laguna Art Museum. This was the first ever collaboration between the Laguna Beach Garden Club and the Laguna Art Museum (LAM) whereby the garden club sponsored two paintings in the current **Joseph Kleitsch** exhibit. The private event was a celebratory recognition of our sponsorship and new collaboration.



Club President **Jane Leary** kicked off the gallery talk with opening remarks. Standing in front of the large 60"

x40", luminescent painting *Untitled* (sponsored by the garden club), LAM Executive Director **Julie Perlin Lee** gave a history of Kleitsch's painting career and his ties to Laguna Beach. She spoke of the gorgeous light in Laguna Beach where gardens thrive as does the art. This LAM exhibit is the largest collection of Kleitsch's paintings ever and holds significance on a national level.

Both Jane and Julie expressed their deep appreciation of the board's decision for sponsorship and of the support of our club members in attending the event. Julie also hinted at potential collaboration opportunities for future events as the Laguna Beach Garden Club grows in a new direction.



September Speaker

Krystle Hickman *The ABC's of Native Bees*

Krystle Hickman, our featured speaker for our September meeting, is a National Geographic Explorer, conservation photographer, TedX speaker and published bee expert. Her topic for Friday, September 8, 2023 will be *"The ABC's of Native Bees"*. Her boxed set of 100 Native Bees of the Western United States flashcards will be available for purchase at the meeting.



Hickman is a self-taught artist, photographer and community scientist motivated by her passion and curiosity about native California Bees. She drives hundreds of miles in a month capturing images of the four endangered bumble bees. She has become a native bee evangelist, spreading the word about their importance to our environment and their reliance on native plants to survive and thrive.



Whenever she is not working on her art or out taking photos, Krystle is self-educating, scouring native bee websites or spending hours at UC Riverside's Entomology Research Museum measuring preserved bee specimens and memorizing their characteristics so that she can better identify them in the wild. There are very few people who are not entomologists taking insect photos, and the list of people willing to take photographs of things that are very small is getting narrower. Krystle



is an incredibly engaging speaker with a superb story worth hearing as was recently

chronicled in a full page spread in the Los Angeles Times earlier this year.

Krystle works with gardens like the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Arlington Garden, regularly photographing and documenting their native habitats. She also collects data on rare bee species in the Mojave Desert, Joshua Tree, Anza-Borrego, the Santa Monica Mountains, yards with native gardens, and more.



Green Day at Sawdust & Succulent Give Away

This year a large group of volunteers gave away succulent cuttings and shared information about the Garden Club at the Sawdust Festival on July 16. Green Day at the "Dust" includes an eagerly anticipated succulent give-away, the bounty of our club's generosity. Thanks to everyone who gave cuttings and those who showed up Sunday to give them away. Interacting with the public boosts our visibility in the community and is a great chance to invite people to meetings to enjoy our speaker series. Please plan to donate succulents or volunteer for the event next summer on July 21, 2024.



Scholarship Winners

The Garden Club Gives To The Future

Saddleback College Scholarships

At the May 12th meeting, the Garden Club awarded two scholarships of \$2,500 each to **Dana Spencer** and **Stephanie Alvarado**, students studying horticulture at Saddleback College. Both women were extremely grateful to receive the scholarships, allowing them to continue their education. Dana Spencer sent a heartfelt letter and copy of her project design for her final exam. We wanted to share with letter with all of you.



High School Scholarships

On Friday, June 2, **Jane Leary** and **Lynn Jax** attended the Honors Convocation of Laguna Beach High School to award scholarships of \$3000 each to graduating seniors: **Sylvie Henry**, **Quinn Butler**, and **Molly Starr**, each pursuing a career in Environmental Science, Marine Biology, Environmental Law and other related fields. To the LBHS graduating seniors, over \$400,000 was awarded by 131 groups, including community organizations, businesses, individuals, teachers, alumni, and memorial scholarships. We are pleased to be part of the close-knit community of Laguna Beach. Your generous donations, success of our *Gate & Garden Tour*, our community businesses and sponsor make these scholarships possible. Thank you for your generosity.



June 3, 2023

Dear Laguna Beach Garden Club Board of Directors and Club Members:

Finally with the conclusion of Saddleback's Spring term I have the time I've wanted to set aside to write the truly heartfelt thank you to the club. The scholarship money that the club has provided me supports me in more ways than you can know. I apologize ahead of time for the overly long thank you. It is very important to me that you know how much this is life altering for me.

The scholarship, of course, helps fund my classes, textbooks and drafting supplies while attending Saddleback's amazing Sustainable Landscape Design program. It also allows me to take the money I would have used toward school expenses and apply it toward the ongoing therapies for my two children with special needs. I cannot express how much these funds have helped reduce some of the financial strain and worry of finding the means for me to attend school. Thank you for the peace of mind this provides. I will not have to choose between providing for my boys or attending my classes.

Beyond the financial, the fact that you chose to support me in my endeavor is simultaneously humbling and so up lifting. It took several years of nervous contemplation for me to decide to return to school and pursue a new career choice. I knew a school experience this time around would be decidedly different than attending college after high school. I've spent many years as either a full-time caregiver or in part-time jobs to help make ends meet.

Landscape Design was attractive to me because of my background in art/design, my interest in gardening/the outdoors, and in the idea of creating sustainable spaces that enhance and contribute positively to peoples' lives. It is also a profession in which I knew of individuals (mostly women/mothers) who have had highly fulfilling and successful second careers. The nature of the profession can also provide the flexibility needed for family responsibilities an attractive prospect given the realities of my life.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in me. And please know how much consideration and thought I've put into pursuing this career path and my appreciation of your investment in me.

When Mary [Jones, co-Treasurer at the time] presented me with the scholarship check, she said you would all love to know what I am getting up to with school. Here are some of the latest projects I am involved in:

- Just completed my urban farming internship at the Rancho Mission Viejo Farm. I will be going back to volunteer with a few of their kids' educational programs this summer.
- Just completed my final exam in which we were tasked with designing a community garden in an underutilized sloped space at Saddleback College. My design focuses on the concept of a 'the summit'-both in the physical sense of reaching the top of a mountain and metaphorical as attaining a hard-earned goal. I utilized the silhouette of the two peaks that makes up the topography of Saddleback Mountain and is the symbol of Saddleback College in many of the design details. I've sent an image of my final design.
- Stephanie (the other LBGC scholarship recipient) and I are one of several leading the resurgence of the Landscape Design Club at Saddleback. The college gets many requests for design work and this group of students provides free conceptual plans for residential and commercial projects upon request.
- Through the Saddleback Club we have obtained a potential project from the non-profit "Access SoCal," which provides wraparound support for recent US asylum seekers from around the world. If we take on this project, we will help Access SoCal create different outdoor spaces on the property surrounding their newly opened location with a focus on the needs of their varied population.

My sendoff is short and sweet. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Have a wonderful summer.

Best-Dana Spencer [Saddleback College Scholarship Recipient 2023]

Recognition & Support

Commemorating Memorial Day

On Memorial Day, May 29, **Jane Leary**, president, attended the city's Memorial Day Ceremony to honor our fallen men and women who served our country. **Lynn Jax** and **Trudy Josephson** accompanied Jane. Many organizations and individuals presented floral arrangements, wreaths, bouquets, and plants to honor those men and women. The Garden Club purchased a Julia Child rose bush to present; it will be planted at the Legion Hall on Park Avenue to aid in their effort to revitalize their rose garden.



Gate & Garden Tour Legacy



Legacy feels like a big concept, but it's simple. It begins in small steps-steps that add up over time. Steps and stories become seeds of legacy that continue to produce fruit year after year, generation after generation.

When I began my interest in becoming the Director of the *Gate & Garden Tour* I didn't want to have it be a "one and done" task. I had the benefit of seeing all the love and hard work that had been put into the endeavor prior to me coming along, and I wanted to add to those efforts and bring whatever skills I had to bear so that hopefully another 100 years from now, the Laguna Beach Garden Club will have had even more opportunities to leave its fingerprints on this beautiful town. Each year the tour tells a story, with each story we keep the legacy growing, and one day these legacies will be tended by the next generation of members.

What drew me to the organization was the way that the Board members worked tirelessly without ever asking for anything for themselves, frequently spending out of their own pockets to get a task completed or to show love to an out-of-town speaker by opening their own home or hosting a cocktail party and giving literally hundreds of hours to execute their positions. The openness in which they approach collaboration with both community members and other non-profits was awe-inspiring. Having been the President of the American Lung Association in my past life, I had witnessed many interactions as a non-profit that were not truly altruistic in the manner that I have experienced with this particular group.

I have decided that this will be the last year that I will be Director or Co-Director of the Gate & Garden Tour. It will be my swan song and I am hoping that someone else will step up for the 2025 Gate & Garden Tour and continue to give it the love it deserves as the main fundraiser of our club. As many of you know, my husband and I have had a very long journey getting our new home built here in Laguna Beach the last 4 years. It is well underway and we hope to be in it by early 2024. Because of how much time this effort took in combination with COVID, we had zero opportunities to travel. So now that we can see the homestretch to our self imposed San Diego exile, we want to start planning some fun after we move back. That means I need to shed some responsibilities in order to accomplish this.

If you tell someone that you are the member of the "Garden Club," many images come to mind of little old ladies drinking tea and talking about Petunias. There is nothing wrong with that, but this group of men and woman on this board are dynamic, intelligent, and incredibly skilled in many areas including finance, horticulture, urban planning, organizational management, leadership, education and so much more. They are the reason that I have no doubt that long after I'm pushing up Petunias, there will still be a Laguna Beach Garden Club and the love that the citizens have for this group will only grow exponentially! What do you want to pass along and multiply in the world after you are gone?

Our Membership Climbs to 192

The Club is pleased to report that we are starting the Garden Club season of 2023-2024 with 192 members, a truly robust number. Thank you to all.

We encourage you to invite a friend to our meetings as our guest to listen to our world-class speakers and at that point if she/he feels we are a good fit, she/he can join. Membership is open to all anytime throughout the year. No requirement to live in Laguna; in fact, 40% of our members live in other communities. Applications are available on our website and will also be available at the meetings.

The new, beautiful 2023-2024 Membership Book will be available for pick up at the September 8th meeting and subsequent meetings. If you can't attend, you can designate a person to pick up yours for you. All newly joined members' name tags will also be available at the meeting. The Membership Table is now located at the back of Tankersley Hall near the kitchen.

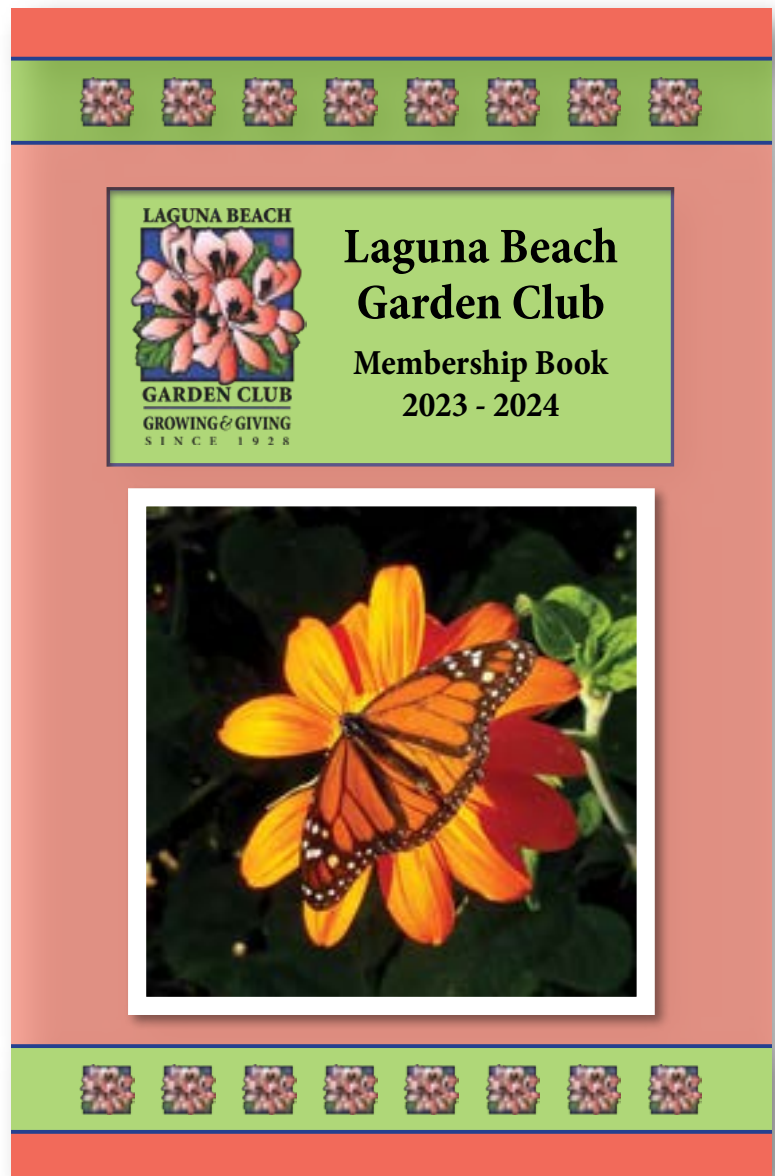
Arrive early (social time is 9:30 to 10am) to enjoy a treat, have a coffee, peruse the Plant Table on the patio for great bargains, and sign up for Trips & Tours and Green Thumb, if you are interested. Please do not park in the church parking lot as our meeting starting and ending times coincide with Pre-school pick-up and drop off.

Reminder to all: wear your name tag to each meeting to receive a ticket for a chance to win a prize. Be sure to receive your ticket. **Perry Stampfel** will be handing them out.

Keep your name tag in a safe place (albeit hopefully a place you can remember). If anyone wants to order a replacement or spare name tag for \$10 (payment can be made at the meeting), please contact Lynn Jax at Email: lynnmjax@icloud.com.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in September.

-Lynn Jax, Director of Membership



School Garden Visit

On Wed Wednesday, May 24, many Board members visited two of the three school gardens we support, Top of the World Elementary and El Morro Elementary. **Kelly Osborne** led the tour first beginning at Top of the World (TOW) to show us the ½ acre plot of land and all it offers to students from kindergarten through 5th grade. There are fruit trees, artichokes plants galore, many raised beds, a demonstration area, teaching spot where students assemble to learn of the day's lesson. The green house is huge and houses a water feature to keep the moisture in and keep the temperature even inside. It is the oldest school garden in Orange County. A recent purchase, thanks to LBGC, is the water fountain. We then carpooled to El Morro where a parent was trimming and cleaning up the area. Their garden is very different and has recently been enlarged. A huge avocado tree looks very healthy but has yet to bear fruit in the past 5 years, so they have no idea what type of tree it is. Wine barrel pots are home to blueberries and other berry plants, even a thornless blackberry bush. A stone owl guards the net-covered raised bed area from overhead predators. We have plans for 2023-2024 to schedule a tour for members of the school gardens.



More School Gardens



TOW SCHOOL GARDEN 2023-24

MONTHLY GREEN THUMB MEETING

8-10AM

FALL: SEPT 1 OCT 6 NOV 3 DEC 1
WINTER: JAN 12 FEB 2 MAR 1
SPRING: APR 5 MAY 3 JUN 7

The garden team meets monthly for refreshments and to maintain our amazing garden! Pruning, composting, repairs and weeding. This is a great time to come and learn more about how to grow edible crops and meet some great people. Join our team. For more information, contact garden@TOWPTA.org

A group of Garden Club members visited the home of **Greg Stewart** in early August to view his collection of night blooming cactus. Greg is an avid collector and wanted to invite club members that were interested, to come to his garden at dusk as the showy 8 inch flowers began to open. The cactus are climbers that are native to Mexico. Members commented that they thought Greg looked familiar. It turns out that he is a retired mail carrier and most of us remembered him as our mailman.



Laguna Beach Garden Club 2023-2024

Monthly Calendar

September

- Sept. 8 General Meeting – Speaker: Krystle Hickman “The ABC’s of Native Bees”
Sept. 22 Trips & Tours – TBD
Sept. 25 Board Meeting

October

- Oct. 5 Taste of Laguna
Oct. 7 Love Laguna Beach
Oct. 13 General Meeting – Speaker: Caleb Finn “Prevent Climate Change and Hunger by Going Circular”
Oct. 20 New Member Luncheon
Oct. 23 Board Meeting
Oct. 27 Trips & Tours – TBD

November

- Nov. 3 Green Thumb - TBD
Nov. 10 General Meeting – Speaker: Jessica Viola “Permaculture: Your Garden as a Place for Living”

December

- Dec. 4 Board Meeting
Dec. 8 General Meeting – Speaker: Lisa D. Foster “Bag Lady: How I Made a Difference in the World and How You Can, Too.”
Dec. 8 Annual Holiday Member Tour – 2-5 pm

January

- Jan. 12 General Meeting – Speaker: Brenda Kyle “Decolonizing in Twelve Not-So-Easy Steps” Your Mind”
Jan. 19 Green Thumb – TBD
Jan. 22 Board Meeting
Jan. 26 Trips & Tours – TBD

February

- Feb. 9 General Meeting – Plant Sale & Open House
Feb. 23 Trips & Tours – TBD
Feb. 26 Board Meeting

March

- Mar. 2 Patriots Day Parade
Mar. 8 General Meeting – Speaker: Alan Barry “Attracting Backyard Birds”
Mar. 22 Trips & Tours – TBD
Mar. 25 Board Meeting
Mar. 29 Green Thumb – TBD

April

- Apr. 12 General Meeting – Speaker: Robin Jones “How to Grow a Monarch Butterfly Garden with Honey Girl Grows”
Apr. 12 Recognition Award Nomination Deadline
Apr. 18 Trips & Tours – Southern California Spring Garden Show – South Coast Plaza
Apr. 22 Board Meeting
Apr. 26 Photo Contest Deadline

May

- May 4 Gate & Garden Tour
May 10 General Meeting – Speaker: Jodie Cook “Design Your Garden with Artificial Intelligence (AI)”
May 20 Board Meeting



Members Share Their Gardening Passion With Open Garden Happy Hour

On May 20, 2023 **Brian & Mary Jones** held an impromptu Open Garden Happy Hour. They invited all of us to see the bursts of colors in their garden.

The day began with heavy mist, and we were a bit worried the weather might keep people away. Not so, as nearly 40 Garden Club members ventured out into the eventually partial sunny day to see what their huge lot had to offer. The garden is full of a variety of plants, edible, rare, and showcase, plus a beautiful collection of handmade bronze wind bells from Paolo Solari at the Cosanti Gallery & Studio in Paradise Valley, Arizona. Mary's roses were also blooming; three of note are Neil Diamond, Sally Holmes, and Golden Celebration.



Maggie Siegel's Garden - Eden Rose Viewing

On Saturday, May 27, **Maggie Siegel** wanted to share her Eden Roses with us all as they were in full bloom. What a beautiful sight we all were fortunate to see. Her Japanese Modern Minimalist multiple gardens afforded us gorgeous ocean vistas, steep staircases down to and up from the rose garden, sand garden, and a Zen Garden, complete with two Buddhas hidden among the bamboo, accessible from the outside on precarious steppingstones; otherwise, it is a peaceful place to ponder by walking out the patio door. Maggie is the only one who maintains the garden. The decorated "mailbox" is her tool shed, so she doesn't have to climb the stairs if she forgets a tool.



Susa South's Tropical Paradise



On July 6, 2023, **Susan South** and her husband, Veeder, graciously opened their gorgeous Woods Cove garden to LBGC members. It was a beautiful morning to explore their eclectic garden which featured a fascinating mix of hydrangeas, hibiscus, ferns, and succulents. Rock walls created a tranquil and private sanctuary. The rose garden, in full bloom, surrounded a bubbling fountain. Their relaxing vine covered arbor provided shade and refreshments for the many members who took advantage of their generous invitation.



Sharon Singer Garden Exchange

Saturday, August 26, **Sharon Singer** hosted the first-ever Garden Exchange for club members. She lives in the Top of the World neighborhood. Sharon is a certified herbalist and is studying horticulture at UCLA. Mostly by word of mouth, she helps individuals and some small businesses install and maintain edible & medicinal gardens. She invited **Tim Culbertson**, who led a hands-on demonstration on how to replant orchids successfully. Everyone could replant and bring home an orchid. What an unexpected treat. He is the “guru gardener” and science teacher at Discovery Prep School in Aliso Viejo. About 20 club members attended and brought a variety of items to exchange. Sharon would like to make this an annual or possibly a bi-annual event.



Raffles Are Coming



We have another exciting Raffle planned to welcome you back to the Garden Club's first general meeting of the year.

The raffle will be held at the meeting on September 8th. Come prepared with cash, check or credit card for your chance to bring home one of the fabulous prizes. A big thank you to all who donated items for this raffle. I definitely am putting my tickets into several bags in hopes of taking one home.

Look for **Pam Bisson** and/or **Gay Redcay** to purchase tickets with cash or check. We also accept Credit Cards; sales are available at the Treasurer's Table near the back of Tankersley Hall.

Ticket prices are always **1 ticket for \$5 or 7 tickets for \$20**.

Wishing good luck to you all.

-Lynn Jax, Raffle Administrator

Let the Egg Carton Collection Fun Begin!

Now that summer is over and we're back in session let's show some GARDEN CLUB LOVE to the Food Pantry!

On Sept 8 and ongoing at every general meeting please bring your empty egg cartons for delivery to Laguna's Food Pantry. For every carton we donate the Food Pantry saves 45 cents. Over the course of a year our Club's donation could save them thousands of dollars, dollars that can go to purchasing nutritious food for those in need.

Please stack your cartons as shown in the attached picture so I can fit more of them into my "little red pony" – I'm expecting a pretty big haul as I suspect you've been collecting them since we last met in May!

Thanks for being such "good eggs"! - Jane Leary



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