



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest

COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting April 12

Maureen Gilmer

Maureen Gilmer, who is among the leading horticultural writers in America, will share her love of the gardening heritage of California. Laguna Presbyterian Church • 9:30 am social, 10:00 am meeting (see page 3).



Trips & Tours April 26

Birds, Bagels & Brew

We will visit Debbie Sugg's backyard wildlife sanctuary in Lake Forest 9:30am-1pm. (see page 6 for more details)

Meet at 8:45 am at St. Catherine's on Temple Terrace to carpool. We leave promptly at 9:00 am.

Celebrating Art &
Science in the Garden



APRIL 2019
MEMBER NEWS

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul. –Alfred Austin

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Garden Design Magazine is a treasure trove of beautiful garden ideas and amazing photography of gardens of all types. I look forward to receiving my emailed issue and have garden envy quite frequently from the featured gardens. In the latest issue, Jan Johnsen wrote an article called *8 Landscape Design Tips For Creating an Enticing Garden*. We all have different sizes of gardens (or decks or patios), but I think her



eight tips can be adapted to gardens of any size. It is all about the visual experience as well as the physical experience in a garden, and Jan's tips can be scaled down for a smaller space quite easily. Here is the link to her article, enjoy:
https://www.gardendesign.com/landscape-design/tips.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8-Design-Tips-ICYMI-4-4-2019

President's Message

Showing Your Love for Mother Earth

You can't have butterflies without having a few holes in your leaves. The recent clouds of Painted Lady butterflies were a result of all the wild flowers (and plenty of invasive weeds) that sprang up on our hillsides due to the recent rains. Painted Lady butterflies



come from a spiky black caterpillar that eat thistles. Remember, not every scary looking spiky creature is a pest. Let them thrive in your garden, and you may be rewarded in butterflies. It will serve you to learn which ones become beautiful moths and butterflies.



There are lots of little green caterpillars munching leaves in our gardens. I had to teach my gardener not to use pesticides. I don't mind a few holes in my

leaves because it means that the lizards and birds have something to eat. It's true that some caterpillars are pests. I throw the bright green loopers and inch worms into the koi pond. And cut root grubs. I used to destroy the giant grubs I found in my composter until I learned they become the gorgeous iridescent green scarab "June bugs" that crash into my sliding door. Now



I just nudge them back under some compost. Taking care of the planet begins in your garden. Encourage a balanced ecosystem, even when that means holes in your flower petals.

-Nancy England

*See you at the
April 12 meeting*



We are happy to announce
the slate of nominees for
the
**2019-2020 LBGC
Board of Directors**

*Voting will take place at the
April 12 meeting*

President

Nancy England

Vice President

Mariann Keenan

Recording Secretary

Jackie Knauer

Treasurer

Patty Gaffney

Financial Secretary

Jorja Puma

Co-Directors of Membership

Elaine Davis &

Lynette LaRoche

Director of Ways & Means

Lisa Fecteau

Director of Gate & Garden
Tour

Karen Nelson

Co-Directors of Media
Publicity

Blythe Wheaton &

Lynn Jax

Director of Website

Linda Homscheid

Past President

Lynn Jax

April Speaker

Maureen Gilmer Shares About Native & Exotic Plants that Established our Historic Aesthetics & Horticultural Vernacular

Maureen Gilmer is among the leading horticultural writers in America. Over the past 25 years, she has worked in all phases of horticulture from laborer to landscape architect. Her work has dominated garden book publishing with 15 titles and a nationally syndicated column "Yard Smart." She is an established host and authority on Scripps Television Networks, and contributes to major magazines.

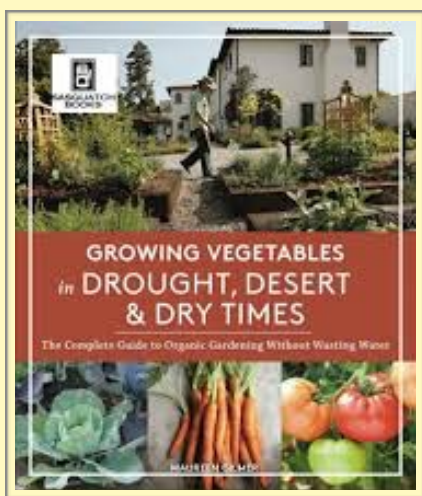


growth, we established the aesthetic of our communities. All of these periods and their plants tell us much about extreme weather in the past for example when the Sacramento Valley flooded from the Bay to the Sierra after a drought that killed thousands of cattle. Discover the important plants and the little known secrets to their value in design and indigenous life. You'll never see them the same way again! A native Californian, Maureen will share her love for the state, its wild lands, plants and gardens in a holistic view

of the future, via our very own past. “ Based upon Maureen Gilmer's history book: *Redwoods and Roses — The Gardening Heritage of California and the Old West*, scheduled for new edition release 2020.

“This past year of epic fires and floods led me back to our history as a state for a better sense of how weather, plants and human beings are all part of a holistic picture. If we venture into the early eras of this state, we find how Native Americans participated in horticulture and land management, and how the Spanish developed the mission gardens as sources of early food crops. As America moved west

during the agricultural period followed by the Goldrush and the 19th century's explosive



2019 Gate & Garden Tour

Our Spectacular Garden Tour is Right Around the Corner!

As beautiful spring weather is approaching so is our Friday, May 3, 2019, Gate & Garden Tour.

The various committees have been busy curating gardens, researching the history of the location and working together to give our members and guests the best garden tour experience possible this year.

Tequila Corcel, our margarita sponsor, has provided us with an exceptional Reposada tequila that will be featured in a new offering, a premium Cadillac Margarita. Because our tour will start earlier in the day this year, 9AM-2PM with the reception continuing until 4PM, we will have mimosas and breakfast burritos available for sale as our guests arrive in the morning before taking the tour to the exclusive private gated community and adjacent neighborhood.

The raffle items this year, as every year, are spectacular. A few highlights are a private wine tasting for 20 people, Dana Point Nursery's, always spectacular grand prize, and a luxury jewelry box that must be seen to be believed. Due to our incredible good fortune of living in an artist's community, we have access to world renowned artists. We have a vase from famed Laguna Beach artist Marlo Bartels who has been producing and installing ceramic & stone sculpture, mosaics for cities and institutions and personal clients since 1977. John Barber of John Barber Glass Design, who designed the mosaic wall at the Montage Hotel has also generously donated a piece of his beautiful glasswork. Raffle tickets will be available at the April 11 meeting. Winners need not be present. Buy tickets for family, friends, and yourself.

One of the gardens on the tour has 100 carefully curated roses bushes that were chosen by the head Rosarian for the Huntington Library. The symphony of color and perfume

created in this magnificent display will be a feast for the senses.

The largest garden on the tour is a spectacular display of the talents of the homeowner who is a landscape designer with accolades such as "25th Annual ARTS Award Winner for Outdoor Lifestyle Store" and "LA Times Readers Choice Award for Favorite Nursery"—Rolling Greens Nursery, known as Southern California's premier destination for unique home and garden décor and landscaping. This garden is a showstopper that must be seen. And psst.....the owner had a big surprise for all our tour goers.....you must attend to find out!

Tour ticket sales have been brisk, and we will sell out in a few short weeks. So please visit our website to purchase your tickets.

\$50 Early bird tickets online (plus handling fee)
\$60 tickets from April 27-30-subject to availability (plus handling fee)

To buy tickets online go to:

www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org/events/gate-garden-tour/



GATE & GARDEN TOUR

FRIDAY, MAY 3 9AM — 4PM



COOKIES

It's been reported that year after year G> tour guests have RUSHED to our cookie tables in hordes. After getting a whiff of our delicious goodies, they attack like hungry locusts. Stories of ticket holders grabbing handfuls of delicious, homemade goodies have been passed down from one "Cookie Queen" to another. This year's newly-appointed "Cookie Queens" are **PANICKED!!!**

Only 38 members have volunteered to bake cookies for these ravenous guests. No one knows what they might do if we run out of our favored treats. Over 200 hundred of you have ignored our pleasant requests to BAKE cookies so, now we're imploring you to please **BAKE 3 dozen cookies each, please!**

WE ARE BEGGING DESPERATELY PLEADING



Bar cookies are easy, just mix a few ingredients together and plop them in a pan and BAKE. Have a party, share Grandma Edna's favorite cookie recipe with your friends and gossip, laugh, drink champagne, do whatever makes you happy, but BAKE!

Newly appointed "Cookie/Drama Queens" Jackie Knauer and Jorja Puma are requesting you call or email them with great news: you are going to BAKE. **Please deliver your cookies to one of the addresses below on Friday, May 2 in the afternoon.** If for some reason you are unable to bring them to their homes on that day, please bring them to Arabella Laguna 506 N. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, early on the morning of Friday, May 3. THANK YOU.

Jackie Knauer: South Laguna

949-275-2849

30701 Marilyn Drive

Laguna
Beach

Jorja Puma: North Laguna

949-922-0918

530 High Drive Laguna Beach
Laguna Beach

Nancy Skjerven: Mission Viejo

949-458-2442

22521 Tindaya
Mission Viejo

Wendy Caufield: Central Laguna

949-494-1102

1764 Santa Cruz St.
Laguna Beach

Emille Villa: Coto de Caza

949-858-7493

10 Via Barcaza
Coto de Caza

Laguna Beach's Second Annual Arbor Day Celebration

On March 8, our club hosted a table overflowing with succulent cuttings at Laguna Beach's second annual Arbor Day Celebration at Main Beach. We gave away scores of drought-tolerant cuttings to the public — thanks to generous members who donated them from their gardens. A dozen volunteers took turns manning the table from 3 pm – 5 pm and gave succulent gardening advice, along with the complimentary cuttings.

And, here's a little-known fact: Our club helps fund and maintain the “Garden By the Sea” at Main Beach. We recently



donated \$500 toward the creation of a pollinator garden there in time for Arbor Day – **with the invaluable support of Ruben Flores, owner of Laguna Nursery.**

The Arbor Day Celebration was a beautiful afternoon by the ocean, with 10 local groups hosting informative and interactive tables. The festivities included tree planting ceremony, fun activities for kids, and live music.

Since 2018, the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Laguna Beach as a “Tree City USA” for its excellence in urban forestry management. So, the city is bound to continue its annual Arbor Day Celebration, and we're delighted to participate! — Linda Homscheid



April 26 Trips & Tours - Birds, Bagels & Brew

Club members are welcome to join us on Friday, April 26 from 9:30 am – 1 pm to visit **Debbie Sugg's** backyard wildlife sanctuary in Lake Forest. It is a wonderland of flora and fauna, and we will do some serious birding, so bring your binoculars! Refreshments will be served, and there will be mimosas!

To carpool from Laguna Beach, meet us at St. Catherine's Church on Temple Terrace **at 8:45 am. We will leave promptly at 9 am.**

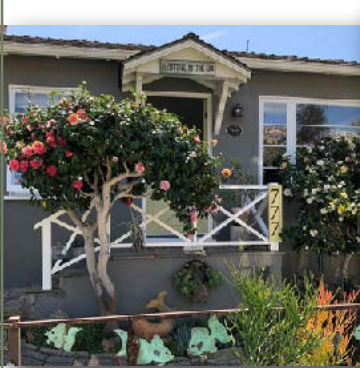


LBGC Open Gardens Happy Hour

On March 22, over 30 members enjoyed the club's *Open Gardens Happy Hour*. **Kathleen Kane, Norman Powell and Sherry Stephens** graciously opened their gardens to us and served delicious snacks, hors d'oeuvres & refreshments.

- Kathleen's backyard garden is a study in serenity with an eye-pleasing mix of green flora, abundant lemons and unique décor. Her inviting gazebo is a perfect spot to kick back and relax. The front yard features abundant pink and white camellias surrounding the door and windows.
- Norman's front garden overlooks the Pacific and features stunning agaves, cacti and colorful nasturtiums. Brightly painted colors of blues, reds and yellow pop out on the house and in the garden. A focal point in the back garden is his handmade creation: an exotic, red carved swinging bench.
- Sherry's terraced backyard garden is magical and magnificent with blooming purple wisteria and orange birds of paradise. Multiple stone paths weave their way through luxurious foliage to the top terrace. Unique birdhouses and a fun tree house complete the enchanted scene.

Everyone had a fun time. Much thanks to **Shelby Rigg** who arranges these fabulous events for us! -Linda Homscheid



Kathleen's garden



Norman's garden



Sherry's garden



Getting Involved

Volunteer of the Month

Kay Meehan was selected as the March Volunteer of the Month. She gives her time to our group with a cheery smile and a can-do attitude. Thank you Kay for all you give to make the garden club so special!



*Laguna Food Pantry
always welcomes your
donations of canned
or dry goods and
produce.
Please bring them to our
April meeting.*

January Centerpiece

Diane Lannon wowed the members with her spectacular tablescape at our March meeting. Her combination of succulents and protea was a feast for the eyes with the vivid color and range of textures.

But Diane didn't stop there, she capped off the display with two column vases filled with lemons as the container for her vibrant cymbidium blooms.



Member Recognition Awards



Recognition Award 2019 Nomination Form

Check the category:

- ☐ Club Member of the Year
- ☐ Gardener of the Year
- ☐ Garden of the Year
- ☐ Rookie of the Year (AKA: New Member)

*** Use a separate form for each Nomination.**

DEADLINE: April 19, 2019

Recognizing each other's efforts shows our appreciation towards our own; and to those are acknowledged by their fellow club members for their spirit of volunteerism, it makes this award of distinguished merit mean so much more.

Nominate a club member who you know has done an extraordinary and/or consistent job for the club.

Name of Nominee: _____
(Please Print clearly)

Please write 2 to 3 sentences of explanation or description of this nominee's efforts for the category for which you nominated.

Please return to Lynn Jax via:

- E: jax@cox.net
- or mail to: 456 Cress Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
- or deliver in person at the April 12 meeting

Name of person nominating: _____

Email or phone number: _____

TOMATO TIMES

How to Grow Mouth-Watering Tomatoes

Julie Bawden-Davis was our March guest speaker, and we are grateful for her fabulous tips, below, on planting and hardening off tomatoes. She is a master gardener, Heirloom Tomato expert, best-selling author and prolific gardening writer. Find out more about her work and interests by visiting HealthyHouseplants.com, <https://parade.com/member/juliebawdendavis/> and JulieBawdenDavis.com.



You will also find these tips on our website:

www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org/mouth-watering-tomatoes

Tips for Planting Tomatoes

- Choose a full-sun location with good air circulation.
- Plant in well-drained soil. Improve drainage by amending with a two-to three-inch layer of compost.
- Plant deep; remove bottom leaves and bury the notch where the leaf was attached. New roots will come from this point and make for a stronger plant.
- Mulch to conserve moisture and nutrients and to keep the soil evenly moist and the soil's beneficial bacterial thriving.
- Water when the first three-to-four inches of soil has dried. This usually means watering every day, then every other day, when the plant is newly transplanted and then easing off until you water just once a week. Overwatering leads to watery fruit and disease.
- Feed with organic tomato food. Good NPK ratios are 5-10-10; 5-16-12 (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium). Low nitrogen is important, because excessive nitrogen will lead to lush plants and no fruit. Good choices contain micronutrients.
- Tomatoes require 6.5 to 6.8 in pH (a numeric scale measuring the acidity of a solution). Do a soil test if you're having low yields.
- Provide adequate growing room, four-to-five feet apart in tomato cages.
- Choose small to medium-sized tomatoes to grow in containers. Cherry tomatoes do especially well in pots. Provide a soil that is water-retaining; yet drains well.



Tips for Hardening Off Tomatoes

- Place tomatoes outside all day in a location that receives dappled sunlight or morning sun and afternoon shade until one hour after dark, then bring in for the nights.
- Leave them out for two hours the next night after dark; the following night, three hours after dark; and so on.
- Continue for four to six nights until you leave them out all night. When you do, put them in a location near the house. After four to five days of being outdoors at night, you can plant them.



Laguna Beach Garden Club 2019 - 2020 Membership Renewal Form

* Complete this form and attach a check for \$65, made payable to **Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.**
Bring to the April or May meeting or mail to:

Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. ~ P.O. Box 362 ~ Laguna Beach, CA 92652

* Membership can be renewed on our website: LagunaBeachGardenClub.org.

* All dues paid by Credit Card will be \$70.

* Consider adding a donation. All donations are tax deductible and much appreciated. Donations of \$25 or more will be recognized in our newsletter, membership book and website as an official sponsor.

* **Membership MUST be renewed by June 1, 2019 to be in the Membership Book.**

Please Print neatly!

Note any changes from last year

☐

Check here if your contact information has not changed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

THIS AREA MUST BE FILLED OUT

NAME _____ DATE _____

Your application is considered a photo release, giving the club permission to use any photos taken at club functions for publicity and in social media

Signature _____

Total Amount Paid _____ Dues _____ Donation _____

Cash Check Check Number _____ Credit Card

I can help LBGC with: _____

You don't have to go to the "Members Only" section to get to the "Renew" membership section.
It's much easier this year.

Go directly to "Renew" under "Membership" and you'll see "Renew!" No password needed!
There you can print out the Membership Renewal Form if you're paying by check
or pay directly online using the online form.



PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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