

VOL. 16



GROWING & GIVING

Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



Education in the Garden

October 2020

MEMBER NEWS

"Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day."

-Shira Tamir

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

These past few weeks of summer/early fall have provided hot days that could make our beloved succulents look a bit worse for the wear. Debora Lee Baldwin shared this video outlining ways to give our gardens friends some TLC. So get out there in the cool of the morning with your pruning sheers and have at it!



Come Join in
the Fun

Events This Month

General Meeting
October 9

Dr. Matt Ritter – Trees of Southern California

—
Matt will guide us through the urban forest-see page 3



9:30 am-
make your own cup of coffee in your kitchen
10:00 am-
Zoom in to the meeting

SmartScape Expo
October 15-30

On-line activities-see page 6

Green Thumb Crafts
October 16

Painted Rocks-see page 9

Membership Registration

see page 11

Masked Covid Contest

see page 12

Forging Ahead in the Fall

Welcome, October!

Autumn has arrived, and cooler temperatures are finding their way to us every passing day. And yet, Laguna Beach is not as we expect it. Many of us are spending more time in our homes than we would prefer, and we miss seeing many of our friends in-person.

However, one thing hasn't changed, and that is the joy our gardens bring us. It doesn't matter if the garden is large or small, it is the tending, the trying of new things, the joy in flowers, the discovery process -- that all add up to fun and learning.

Eye-Catching Kalanchoes

Over the summer, friend and garden club member **Dana Victorson** shared two leaves with me from a fallen Kalanchoe beharensis, also known as Elephant's ear. Kalanchoe is an

ornamental, drought-tolerant succulent that can grow well in our semi-arid climate.

My usual method for propagating leaves is to put them on top of dry cactus soil in a shady spot (in my case under a table) and mist them once every couple of weeks. First, they



sprout roots, and eventually little plants form. For the first time in my experience, *multiple* plants formed at the base of one leaf, and a small plant formed on one of the leaves itself. This process is fascinating to me, and at the same time it really could not be any simpler.

Garden Tidbits

Members have donated many avocados to the club's plant sales table over the years, so I'm sure many members have avocado trees. Did you know *it is safe* to eat fruit, including avocados, that garden critters have bitten into, such as squirrels and tree rats? Just be sure to cut out the damaged parts quickly since fruit can go bad rapidly. Some of you may have pets, such as terrier breed dogs and larger cats, that can scare away squirrels. However, for those of you who don't, it's possible that placing a big rubber snake in your tree will help. Squirrels can be clever, so it will probably be necessary to move the rubber snake every day or so. And please, be sure to let your family know!

Online Meeting Success

The Laguna Beach Garden Club had a successful first Zoom general meeting on September 11.



Our speakers, Master Gardeners **Kay Havens** and **Teena Spindler**,

presented an informative and thought-provoking program about the proposed addition of a 59-acre, world-class botanical garden at the Great Park in Irvine. They were able to answer all the questions members asked and also provided information about their website, Great Park Garden Coalition,

www.gpgardencoalition.org.

Thank you to all who participated in our first-ever online event. And, thank you to all who renewed their club memberships. There is still time to renew before our next general meeting on Friday, October 9 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. To renew, use the Membership form in this newsletter or go to

www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org

under "Membership" to print out the form — or complete it online.

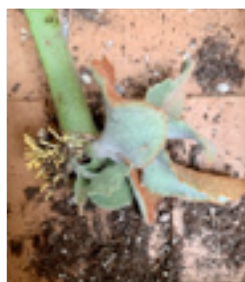
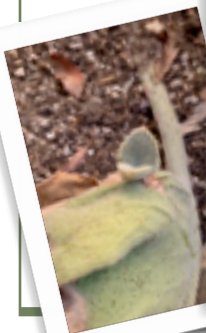
Our October 9, our guest speaker is Dr. Matt Ritter, Professor of Botany, Cal Poly SLO, who is a native tree and plant expert. On Nov. 13, Susie Vanderlip, Citizen Scientist and author, will share everything about Monarch butterflies.

And on Dec

11, Corey Welles, Environmental Horticulturist at Lotusland in Montecito, will delve into organic gardening. Quite a guest speaker line-up!

All members will receive an invitation with password for the October 9 meeting.

My very best wishes,
Mariann



Speaker Series

Dr. Matt Ritter

Trees of Southern California

Dr. Matt Ritter is a professor in the Biology Department at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California. Matt grew up in a small northern California town called Potter Valley. He's a 7th generation Californian. His parents were midwives and farmers for the community. He grew up next to a wooden boat builder, and that's where Matt first began to interact with trees. That combined with woodshop in school led him to a life full of woodworking. As an avid woodworker, he now builds all kinds of things from furniture to houses. Besides he is an avid gardener.

Matt spent his graduate career at UC San Diego surrounded by eucalyptus trees. This rekindled this life-long love of woodworking and lead to a love of trees that has only grown during his tenure as a professor in the Biology Department at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. Each year Matt teaches botany

to hundreds of students. Each of them leaves looking at the world differently. Matt cultivates curiosity and wonder about the green world around us. His ability to teach people



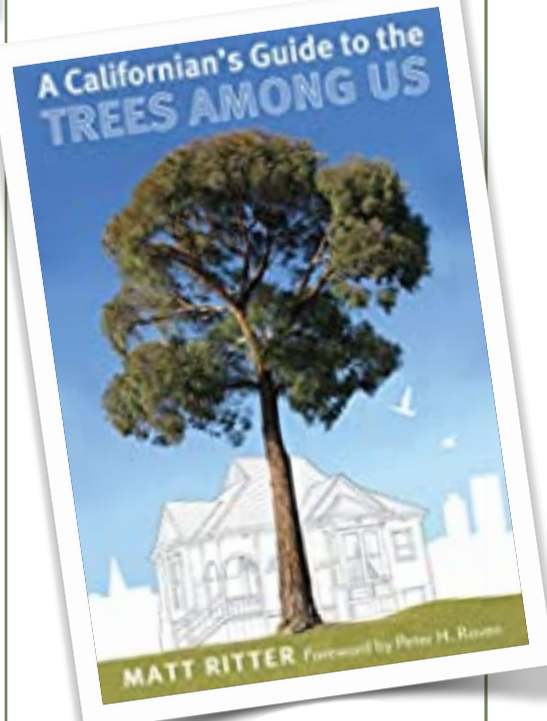
about the wonder of plants comes through in his books about plants, including *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us* and *California Plants*. Each of his books tells the story of the plants around us, including how they live and how humans have interacted with them through time.

Matt's job takes him all over the state looking at trees. He is the California Coordinator of the American Forests Big Tree Registry that records into a log the biggest tree of each species. He can often be found

measuring a big tree. He posts about his big tree finds on Instagram @slowplants.

He also travels with up to 50 students taking them all over the state to learn the California flora. As a result of his great teaching, he's been recognized as Cal Poly Excellence in Teaching Award and the Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture R. W. Harris Award for Excellence in Education. Matt makes the world more interesting for those around him.

-Lynn Jax and Jorja Puma



Sister Cities Garden

1st in a Series featuring the Community Gardens that LBGC supports

To acquaint or reacquaint you with *Sister Cities Garden*, located in Heisler Park, located on Cliff Drive at Jasmine Street, I wanted to share with you all the beauty of these three gardens and recognize the inveterate Garden Club members who volunteer their time to water, weed, plant and generally maintain this unique beauty of the city of Laguna Beach. Thank you to **Synthia Scofield, Kathleen Kane, and Marilyn Ghre** who without fail spend the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Mondays caring for this garden, even during COVID shutdown of public areas when the garden was surrounded by plastic orange fencing.

The Sister Cities Garden was unanimously approved by Laguna Beach City Council in 2009, but development was put on hold until 2014 when a coalition among the Garden Club, Sister Cities Association, and Beautification Council ensured the garden would become a reality. In November of 2014, with the

Garden Club providing the funds from a grant to purchase the plants and under the guidance and creativity of **Ruben Flores**, the three groups dug holes and planted species of plants representing each of *Laguna's sister cities: San Jose del Cabo; Menton, France; and St. Ives, England*. After the finishing touches of stones identifying each garden, the Sister Cities Garden was dedicated in February 2015.

If you are looking for a great walk along the gorgeous coastline, Heisler Park will fill that wish.

Submitted by: Lynn Jax



Gardens pictured From
Top to Bottom:
San Jose del Cabo, Mexico
St. Ives, England
The Sister Cities sign
Mentone, France



Locals Feeding Locals



Dear Laguna Beach Garden Club Members,

Thanks for inquiring about donating to the **Laguna Beach Pantry** with produce from your overflowing yards! Since this pandemic started our family visits have nearly doubled in the amounts of food necessary to feed approximately 3,500-3,600 families per month! We would love any amount of fresh fruit/vegetables from your overflowing gardens to share with our families in need.

The Pantry is open Monday-Friday 8am-10:30 am for families to pick up groceries. Those hours are also good food drop-off times, as well as 1 hour before and 1 hour later. There are also people there on the weekends in the morning hours.

The Pantry is located at [20652 Laguna Canyon Road](#), after the Dog Park and before the Marine Mammal Center. We would also appreciate anyone dropping off or picking up to please wear a mask.

Thank you!
Laurie Kirklan



SmartScape Expo 2020 in the time of COVID

Every October Laguna Beach County Water District hosts *SmartScape Expo* to showcase methods of saving water in our everyday lives, and the Garden Club participates each year.

This year due to COVID restrictions, the event will be held virtually for half the month of October, starting October 15. Virtual activities will include many “Do It Yourself” (DIY) videos: such as, landscaping & gardening tips, water quality, fixing leaks, overwatering runoff negatively affects the ocean, composting, and several links to Debra Lee Baldwin presentation in 2019.

The Water District filmed our very own **Jeanne Yale** demonstrating how to add succulents to a dirt-filled planter tube. She has demonstrated this same activity at Smart Scape several times in the past. Jeanne has hosted many succulent wreath demonstrations as part of our Green Thumb Activities throughout the years.

The Garden Club is proud to have Laguna Beach County Water District as generous sponsor, and their beautiful gardens on 3rd Street will be the host venue for our upcoming Gate & Garden Tour in May.

For details go to: www.lbcwd.org



Get Your Garden Club Gear!

A portion of Ways & Means income is generated by the sale of **Laguna Beach Garden Club** swag printed with our logo!

Garden Gloves: \$7/pair or three pairs for \$20. Machine washable with a thin coating of puncture proof Nitrile, your fingers and palms are protected without sacrificing comfort. Available in three sizes and six colors. Give a bouquet to a friend who gardens. Everyone needs pretty gloves! (No logo)

Baseball Caps: \$25 Easy to wear, easy to pack. Where will our logoed hat show up next? Adjustable hats are embroidered with the LBGC logo, available in white, black and khaki.



Scala Sun Hats: \$35

Broad brim, 100% cotton canvas sun hats with SPF 50 and embroidered with the LBGC logo. Machine washable, perfect protection in or out of the garden. Available in White, Black, Denim and Linen.



Utility Aprons: New \$10 Two deep pockets and tie-at-the-waist design makes this an essential item for holding your gloves and favorite tools while you work in the garden. Apron is beige canvas, logo is printed in green.

Totes: \$40 Made of sturdy cream and Navy-blue canvas, the totes have a huge hand-painted version of our beautiful logo on both sides. Totes are a generous size and strong enough to fill with your purchases from the Plant Table.

Pens: printed with LBGC logo \$3

Coming Soon: Note Cards; \$20 for a set of six dreamy images of enchanted Laguna gardens. Blank inside. Club information on the back. Each set of cards comes with a pen. Great gift!

PLANT THESE

HERBS



LAVENDER



CATMINT



SAGE



CILANTRO



THYME



FENNEL



BORAGE

PERENNIALS



CROCUS



BUTTERCUP



ASTER



HOLLYHOCKS



ANEMONE



SNOWDROPS



GERANIUM

ANNUALS



CALENDULA



SWEET ALYSSUM



POPPY



SUNFLOWER



ZINNIA



CLEOME



HELIOTROPE

TO HELP SAVE BEES

HANNAH ROSENGREN 2013

NEW MEMBERS

(since Oct 2019)

New Member Orientation Meeting

Tuesday, October 20

1-2pm

Email Evite to Follow with details

Location TBD

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Cookie Lee & Grace Balen

Membership Co-Chairs

clee@lagunabeachgardenclub.org

gbalen@lagunabeachgardenclub.org

October Green Thumb Craft - Painted Rocks

Friday, October 16

Have fun painting whimsical or beautiful rocks

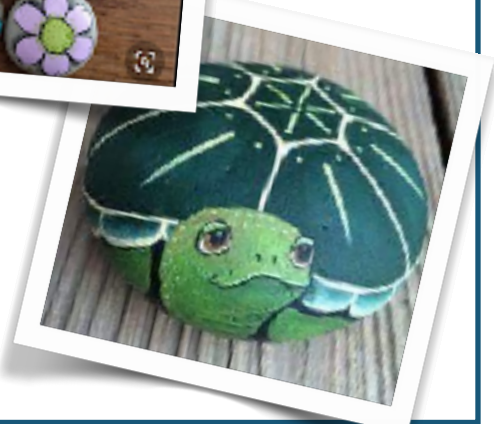
Meet at the home of Susan Denton
455 Los Robles, Laguna Beach

The cost is \$15 for all materials
Registration is limited to 6 people with a
waiting list in case of cancellations

Contact Susan to sign up:
949-315-5028 or cnnpinca@yahoo.com

Don't forget your mask-
we will be painting outside
six feet apart.

Suggested items to bring:
Hat, drink & a snack



Share your Bounty with your Friends

Do you have friends, relatives, or acquaintances who are gardeners or love to listen to amazing speakers about the flora this world has to offer, but they lament that they wish they had a Garden Club in their area that had such great opportunities? Here's your chance to invite them to become a member of *Laguna Beach Garden Club* and enjoy the fantastic presentations in the comfort of their own homes. No need to drive, get on a plane, rent a hotel room or impose on you to house them. Out of the immediate area or out of state — no problem.

For the foreseeable future our monthly meeting will be held via Zoom. In order to receive an invitation to each Zoom Webinar, membership is required. With membership dues at \$65 for the year, that is \$8 per presentation; a real bargain. Feel free to share the Newsletter with others. Direct them to our website for list of speakers. Membership can be completed online or by mail.

Make that call or send that email and alleviate the envy of your friends, relative, or acquaintance. The sooner the better as October 9 is coming soon.

Membership form is on the next page.

Plant Table (mini-version)

Antique Iron

Contact Diane Lannon if you are interested in this vintage household item.

diane.lannon@gmail.com





LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB, INC. 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ **Returning Member**

☐ **New Member**

🌱 Complete this form and attach a check for \$65, made payable to Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.
Mail to: Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. ~ P.O. Box 362 ~ Laguna Beach, CA 92651

🌱 To join or renew go to our website: LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

🌱 Membership dues paid by Credit Card will be \$70.

🌱 Please consider making a tax-deductible donation in addition to membership dues. Donations of \$25 or more will be recognized on the **Wall of Fame** in our newsletter, membership book and website. Donations can offset some of our expenses or can be earmarked for community projects, scholarships, school gardens, etc.

🌱 All donations are tax deductible and much appreciated.

You do not need to fill out your personal information unless it has changed
PLEASE PRINT NEATLY!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

This Area **MUST be filled out completely**

NAME _____ DATE _____

Your application is considered a photo release, giving Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. permission to use any photos taken at club functions.

Signature _____

Total amount Paid _____ Dues _____ Donation _____

Cash _____ Check _____ Check # _____ Credit Card _____

I can help LBGC with: _____

Covid-19 Cover Up Game

Identify the pictures of the masked Board members

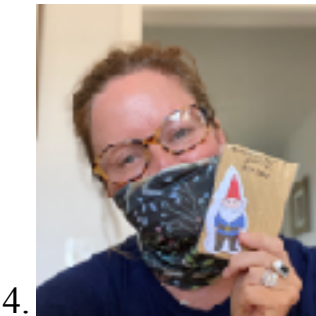
There are four pieces of information to match:

1. Name of Board Member
2. Current Board position
3. Photo wearing a mask
4. Photo not wearing a mask

Board Positions: President, Co-Vice-President, Co-Vice-President, Financial Secretary, Director of Gate & Garden Tour, Co-Director of

Membership, Co-Director of Membership, Director of Ways & Means, Director of Media & Publicity, Past President, & Director of Website

Board Member Names: Mariann Keenan, Jorja Puma, Grace Balen, Cookie Lee, Nancy Englund, Patty Gaffney, Blythe Wheaton, Kari Nies, Lynn Jax, & Susan Denton,



Entry deadline: Thursday, October 8, 2020. All entries received by the end of the day will be entered to win a prize package.

Winners will be revealed during the Zoom meeting on
October 9, 2020.

Email your answers to info@lagunabeachgardenclub.org



Covid-19 Cover Up Game Answer Sheet

Name of Board Member	Current Board Position	Number of masked photo	Letter of unmasked photo



Magnolia Bird Flowers

March is the month of Yulan, or Magnolia flowers. What's special about Magnolia is that the flowers are in full blossom even before the leaves stretch out from the branches so that it's easier for you to appreciate the blooming flowers. In many parks, gardens and even greenbelts along the streets in Beijing, you can find these beautiful flowers. The petals are of different colors, shades and shapes. If you stand at the right spot and look carefully enough, you might be enchanted to find out that some of these flowers appear like lovely little birds. Some are hiding among flowers, some are chirping with each other while some others are randomly staring around.

A PLANT FOR EACH ZODIAC SIGN

> PLANT SALES HAVE SKYROCKETED since the threat of coronavirus forced us to shelter in place. Another hot trend? Astrology. It makes sense given these uncertain times. Plants are something we can control, and astrology looks to the future at a time when the future is impossible to predict. We choose our houseplants based on a variety of

criteria—sun exposure, maintenance, aesthetics. Why not the stars? We started by mulling common traits attributed to each astrological sign and matched those with some of our favorite houseplant superstars. Unless otherwise noted, you can find these plants at your neighborhood nursery or home improvement store. **BY LISA BOONE**



AQUARIUS
JAN. 20–FEB. 18

> You do things your own way and prefer the unusual and hard to find. You want a plant no one else has, such as the black nerve ZZ plant. Florida grower Costa Farms has the exclusive rights and hopes to ship it to California by year-end.



GEMINI
MAY 13–JUNE 20

> You are about dualities and favor plants with leaves of different colors. Easily distracted, you need a low-maintenance one. Those painted nasties, with leaves pink-and-white on top, purple underneath, is the attention-grabber you need.



LIBRA
SEPT. 23–OCT. 22

> As an air sign, you need a plant that is not terribly fussy. Libra is the sign of peace, which means you are drawn to plants that represent harmony, such as the peace lily, a no-fuss Spelling Dictionary.



PISCES
FEB. 19–MARCH 20

> You are an artistic and sensitive sign who can get lost in your dreams. A plant that is otherworldly, or has a slightly hallucinogenic property, appeals to you. Pisces. We recommend the finicky nerve plant to appease your sympathetic nature.



CANCER
JUNE 21–JULY 22

> You value family and like to create community wherever you go. Choosing just one plant would be difficult. Fern and chicks—where the mother plant is attached to the babies by a runner—might be the perfect plant for you.



SCORPIO
OCT. 23–NOV. 21

> Your concern with rebirth requires something that looks like it has died yet bounced back. Purple shamrock is fun for your Scorpio spirit as its leaves fold up at night and reopen in the morning.



ARIES
MARCH 21–APRIL 19

> You're impulsive and intuitive and like trendy things. As a fire sign, you are drawn to red. The Chinese evergreen is perfect for your independent Aries disposition.



LEO
JULY 23–AUG. 22

> You like things that are dramatic and grab everyone's attention. You need a plant that doesn't require a lot of care because, let's face it, Leo, you are more interested in taking care of yourself. Begonia rex, prized for its foliage, fits the bill.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV. 23–DEC. 21

> As a traveler and lover of foreign places, you require a plant that does not require a lot of care while you are off exploring the world. A bold red croton 'Petra' is a colorful, even garish, plant that will appeal to you as a fire sign.



TAURUS
APRIL 20–MAY 20

> You're one of the most fertile signs; when you touch the earth, something grows. You need a plant that is reliable and beautiful yet not ostentatious. Taurus, we recommend the fiddle-leaf fig.



VIRGO
AUG. 23–SEPT. 22

> Your obsession with details means you are drawn to plants that have tendrils and branches going off in different directions. An intricate bonsai money tree, which requires pruning and trimming, will satisfy your perfectionist Virgo inclinations.



CAPRICORN
DEC. 22–JAN. 19

> You are organized and need a plant with structure. A climbing plant that grows all over the place won't suit you. So you will love dragon tree, a houseplant that features trunks topped with striped leaves.



PO Box 362 Laguna Beach, CA 92652

www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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