

VOL. 16



GROWING & GIVING

Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



Education in the Garden

DECEMBER 2020

MEMBER NEWS

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home," -British poet Edith Sitwell

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

As we spend more and more time at home, a main source of creative outlet can be in our gardens. Maybe you plant a winter vegetable garden, bury bulbs to bloom in the spring, replant that tired potting bed in your yard, or give some new life to your potted succulents.

If you choose your succulents, you are in luck, because I found a YouTube video by our former LBGC member **Ashley King**, who is now a plant specialists at Roger's Gardens. She makes fun videos that show her love of plants and her cute

personality. Click on the link below to watch her at work. Merry Christmas and best wishes to all for a wonderful New Year!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTZUbWw2NHA>



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Dec. 11

Corey Welles

Sustainable Organic Gardening
(see page 4)



9:30 am- make your own cup of coffee in your kitchen

10:00 am-
Zoom in to the meeting

Virtual Holiday Home &
Garden Tour Photos
Due Dec. 9

(see page 2)



President's Message

Zoom, Volunteer, & Show Your Holiday Sparkle

December Greetings Dear Garden Club Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and Happy Thanksgiving and that you are busy preparing for the next holidays, including a new year that will allow us to meet in person at some point — hopefully soon! Come on 2021, we are so ready for you!!

To me, time seems to be moving slowly and yet so quickly these days. It was just a year ago that **Nancy Englund**, our President at the time, was out of the country, and I had my first opportunity as Vice President to lead a monthly meeting of our wonderful club. I must admit I was nervous at first, but it turned out to be fun — especially with so many beautiful, smiling members' faces looking back at me with reassurance!

Engaging Guest Speakers Series

While I miss seeing you in person these days, I am so grateful for our online Zoom meetings each month -- with members signing in to see engaging, well-informed speakers, to ask them questions and to get expert answers. Please spread the word about our exciting speaker series. Invite your friends to join. Remind your garden club member friends about our monthly speakers and how much you enjoy them. We miss those of you who haven't

been coming to our Zoom meetings.

Starting in January, our reduced membership rate begins for the partial club year, and at \$30 it is a bargain. The forms to join the club or renew your membership are included in this newsletter and also available on our website under, "Membership."

Volunteer of the Month Awards

Your Board has decided to begin recognizing Volunteers of the Month again, including giving small gifts of thanks. We are assembling members' names now for the random drawing, such as those of you who volunteer on local gardening projects. Please let Co-Vice President **Jorja Puma** know if you're doing any volunteer work for the club. Contact her at paja143@me.com.



Co-Vice President **Lynn Jax** will draw the winners' names on our Zoom meeting on Friday, December 11. And it will be my pleasure to deliver the prize to your door if you are a winner!

Virtual Holiday Home & Garden Tour



Unfortunately, due to COVID, we are unable to have our traditional Members' Holiday Home & Garden Tour — annual open houses where we enjoy each other's holiday decorations and good cheer.

But, we can share photos of our homes and gardens decorated for the holidays and feature them on Zoom at our meeting! Please submit photos of your home or garden holiday decorations and email

President's Message Continued

Zoom, Volunteer, & Show Your Holiday Sparkle

them to me, **Nancy Englund** or **Susan Denton**:

- mariann@lagunabeachgardenclub.org
- nancyenglund@icloud.com
- cnnpinca@yahoo.com

The deadline is this Wednesday, December 9, so send us what you have. Please email actual size, high resolution photos only. Any questions, please email me. Thanks everyone!

As our weather continues to be mild and sunny, I hope you

fully enjoy your gardens. I've been spending time in mine and finding in nature, warm sunshine, and beautiful growing plants. Plus, our dog Tripp comes out with me and relaxes belly up in the warm grass, always ready for a belly rub. I am thankful for these things and for the garden club and all of you.

Happiest of Holiday and Happy New Year,
Mariann



*Sue Goldberger passed this agave along to me and it is very happy in my yard.
Thanks Sue!!*

Just in Time for Your Holiday Gift Giving

Holidays are coming! Send someone a little Laguna cheer AND help the garden club raise funds for scholarships, school gardens and civic beautification. Buy now at the special introductory price of \$15 for six colorful note cards with scenes from the Gate & Garden Tour. Contact Nancy@LagunaBeachGardenClub.org to purchase remotely.

Introductory price!

**Six card \$15
with logo pen!**

While supplies last

Mail a check to:
**Laguna Beach
Garden Club, Inc.**
PO Box 362
Laguna Beach, CA
92652

SPECIAL:
Buy five sets (\$75.) and get
a free logo utility apron
(pick up in Laguna
or include \$8 for
Priority Mail)

1/1/21 Price goes up to \$20/6

Laguna Beach Garden Club Gate & Garden Note Cards



CARD ART © CAROLYN BENT

Cards are blank inside.

Laguna Beach Garden Club is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization. Proceeds from card sales help fund school gardens, community beautification and scholarships.
LagunaBeachGardenClub.org



Or contact Nancy@LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

December's Speaker

Sustainable Organic Gardening Lotusland's Corey Welles Shares His Passion

Corey Welles is a well-known horticulturist in the botanic garden world. His 30 years of experience at the famous Ganna Walska Lotusland garden, in Santa Barbara, has earned him and the garden awards. He has garnered a reputation as a leader in the field of sustainable horticulture. He is a graduate of the Santa Barbara City College Environmental Horticulture Program with additional classes in botany,



zoology, ornithology, entomology, marine biology, and leaf litter analysis. He is certified by Soil Food Web, Inc. in compost tea production. He is also one of the leading sustainable horticulture consultants advising such groups as UC Berkeley Botanic Garden, Descanso Gardens, The Huntington Garden, Santa Barbara City and other local and regional groups. His public speaking engagements have taken

Corey up and down the California coast and to other states addressing groups on how to implement and customize sustainable systems for their landscapes.



His passion for the natural world and the life that thrives therein started early in his life. To quote Corey, "I've always been a bug guy." His insect collection goes back to childhood, where by the age of 8, he had amassed hundreds of insects, even dangerous ones like Carpenter bees, Tarantula hawks, Black widow spiders, deadly wasps, plus other benign critters.

Hired at LotusLand in 1990, he began as the "spray guy" because like many conventional farms and gardens at the time synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and rodenticides were used to control growth and remove pests. But LotusLand was in trouble, losing cycads by the tens of thousands of dollars. Clearly the synthetic approach wasn't working. Thus, his quest to heal the soil began by

seeking to partner with the environment instead of fighting it. He collaborated with professors at UC Berkeley and UC Davis to eliminate the synthetic treatments to build the soil by attracting pollinators (i.e., insects). "Yes, more bugs mean less pests!" Today at the garden, one can see birds of prey, native bees, California native wildflowers, and bobcats at night.

Your garden will thrive by partnering with the soil by bringing back the insects with nectar from flowering plants, which builds the soil.

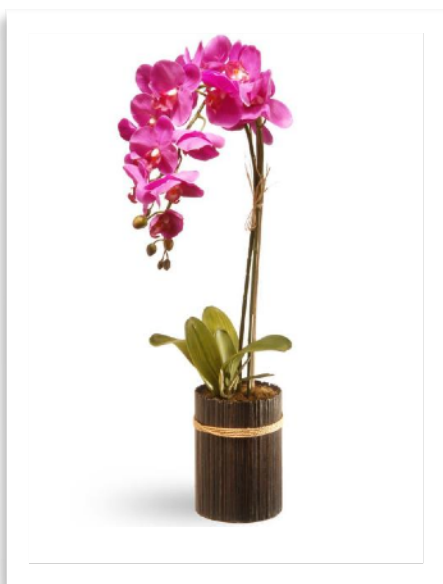
So, a child who delighted in the wilderness and all it has to offer is now an adult who is an outdoorsy guy, enjoying triathlons, hiking, camping, and fishing really lends itself to what Corey does at Lotusland.



Trader Joe's, here we come!

Success With Orchids

Never having much luck with orchids, the article in the *LA Times* by Lisa Boone, "How Not to Kill a Grocery Store Orchid" caught my interest. I have a feeling many of you might be in the same unsuccessful boat of coaxing orchids to live and actually re-bloom, without resorting to tossing them in the green waste after unproductive attempts at revival, so I summarized the tips.



Orchids are one of the largest plant families. According to Brandon Tam at the Huntington Gardens, "You will never find two [orchids] alike. There are more than 20,000 species with [nearly] 70 species in California. Orchids can be found on every continent, except Antarctica.

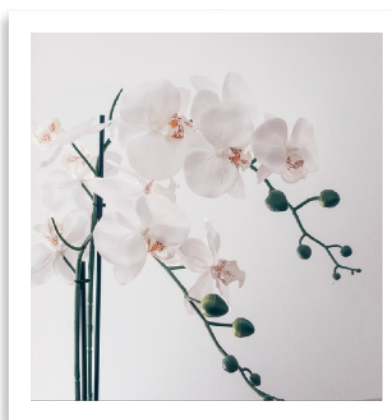
People think the plant will reblooms multiple times a year, but the vast majority do not. The flowers only last a month or two and then will re-bloom the following year."



Orchids can be easily found in neighborhood grocery stores, Trader Joe's, Home Depot, etc. Brandon Tam says, "I'm happy orchids are [readily] available," because it gives people an introduction to orchids while learning without spending a fortune when killing a plant can happen.

Tip #1: The Common Mistake is overwatering. In the wild, 70% of orchids grow on trees, limbs, and branches with no moss or bark, thus they will retain only enough moisture between rainfalls. Trader Joe's

orchids sit in 6 inches of sphagnum moss, water these orchids every 2 weeks. Recommendation is to stick your finger in the moss (if possible) to see how wet it is. Orchid bark does not retain moisture, water these orchids once a week. Orchids need aeration for the roots to breathe.



Tip #2: The Ideal Spot is not in direct sunlight. Suggestion: place the plant in east-facing direction to get some morning light. Do not put next to window because it will get really hot causing a significant setback.

Tip #3: Re-blooming isn't happening, why? Most likely not enough light and inconsistency are the causes. (Continued on the next page)

Success with Orchids continued

Remember science class: Photosynthesis is necessary for plants. Do not place orchids in a dark office and expect a bloom to follow. Orchids do not like unpredictability, such as exposure to light and water. Plants do not move in the wild, so moving them from room to room is not a good idea.



Tip #4: Repotting can cause some level of shock. Repot once every 2 years because the orchid will outgrow itself in that time. Push your finger through the pot; if your finger goes straight through that means the mix has degraded to the point where it has no stability. Stability is crucial for re-establishing roots. Be careful not to use a vessel too large for the plant. Water only one week & half after repotting

because when the plant is in shock, it doesn't take up water and the roots can rot.

Tip #5: Outdoor orchids will grow as long as the weather does not get below 55 ° at night and are not in direct sunlight.

Tip #6: Cut the stem only after spike has turned brown. A green stem might produce another flower from that spike.

Tip #7: Fertilize the orchid only when it's healthy. Use any kind you can find at the nursery or hardware store.

Submitted by: Lynn Jax
Taken from *LA Times*
Oct. 31, 2020

Welcome to our newest members!

Leigh Bell
Linda Cordova
Barbara Crane
Cherly Czyz
Marissa Dahlberg
Bob Keenan
Nancy Meyer
Rochelle Neuburger
Kari Nies
Sandy Smith
Sue Stewart



Recommendations From Lynn Jax

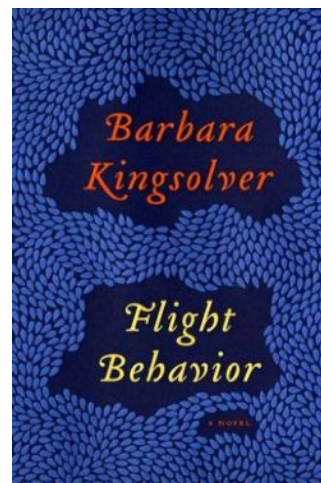
Something to Read & Something to Watch

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

I thought since our November speaker, Susie Vanderlip, presented information on Monarch butterflies that the book *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver might be of interest to you. It is both thought-provoking and humorous.

Barbara Kingsolver's 2012 novel takes place on a failing sheep farm in Appalachia where a young mother (Dellarobia) stumbles across millions of Monarch butterflies whose migration patterns have been upset and are now off course by wintering in Tennessee. After the discovery becomes public, resulting in a media frenzy, a small team of etymologists stays on the farm to study the butterflies.

Dellarobia meets the young scientists, tourists, and climate crusaders, all of whom turn her world upside down. When an environmentalist asks her to reduce her carbon footprint, she is puzzled as she has no computer, rarely can afford red meat or purchase gasoline, has never been on a plane and buys second-hand clothes.



My Octopus Teacher on Netflix – 90-minute documentary

A filmmaker, going through a dark time in his life, seeks therapy by diving (no wetsuit or scuba gear) in the cold waters of the Western Cape of South Africa. He finds an octopus rolled into a ball covered with shells. He returns to same spot and found the female octopus' tiny cave.

Eventually after many visits, the octopus realizes he isn't a threat. He spends a year diving in the same spot and developing a relationship with this particular octopus. He charts her behaviors on hand-drawn maps and keeps a bulletin board full of photos. Later his teenage son joins him.

As excellent as David Attenborough is as a narrator, it is not a typical documentary; he does not attribute cutesy names or human feelings. It is his experience, his form of therapy to become more in tune with himself. He is learning about his place in the natural world.

I highly recommend it, it's definitely worth the 90 minutes of screen time.



Gift Giving to Our Community

The end of the year brings thoughts of completing shopping for Christmas gifts, planning the holiday menu, and even being fiscally responsible by ensuring your tax deductions are up to date. Before making any donation to a charitable organization, my husband and I thoroughly research it to look into how much goes to administrative costs versus the goal of the charity. Rest assured 100% of all donations to Laguna Beach Garden Club go directly to our community projects. We have no CEOs whose salary we pay nor any employees; we are entirely a volunteer service organization dedicated to “growing and giving.”

If during this Holiday season, you find it in your heart to give to the Club to help us continue our “giving” to our community by funding annual scholarships, a number of school garden programs, and community beautification and environmental projects; your generous donation would be much appreciated. And as an added bonus, you will your name “*in lights*” on the **Wall of Fame**. It is updated monthly as donations are received on our website and in the Weeder’s Digest (this publication), and then when the 2021-2022 Membership Book is published.

Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization, thereby making donations tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donation checks payable to **Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.**

can be mailed to **PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652** or for more information, please go to LagunaBeachGardenClub.org/donate/

In sincere appreciation,
Lynn Jax, Co-Vice President and Donor/Sponsor Administrator



Wall of Fame 2020 – 2021

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Photo by Nancy Englund



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