

VOL. 19



# Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



JANUARY 2024  
MEMBER NEWS

Cultivating Delight through  
Gardening & Community Service

*"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."* Michael Altshuler

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

A New Year and new trends in gardening are abound. The *Garden Design* newsletter listed the top ten trends in 2024 garden design in their last issue. The current trends in gardening can be summed up in two words —*resilient and creative*. For gardeners, resiliency leads directly to creativity, whether embracing new concepts, thinking outside the box, or adapting to a new "normal". While it would be impossible to include all of the new trends in your garden (who would want

to anyway?!), I hope that at least one of the ideas speaks to you. Click on the link below to see what speaks to you.

Happy reading.

### 2024 Trends in Gardening

[https://www.gardendesign.com/trends/2024.html?utm\\_source=article-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Trends-10-19-23](https://www.gardendesign.com/trends/2024.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Trends-10-19-23)

COME JOIN IN  
THE FUN

## Events This Month

### General Meeting Jan. 12

**Brenda Kyle**  
**California Native Plant Basics**  
(see page 3)

Laguna Presbyterian Church

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



### Green Thumb & Crafts Jan. 19

### Succulent Wreath Making Workshop

9:30 am at Jeanne Yale's home  
(see page 5)



### Trips & Tours Jan. 26

**Niguel Botanical Preserve**  
Meet at 8:45 am at St. Catherine's on Temple Terrace to carpool  
(see page 5)



# Fresh Starts & Giving To Others

Dear Members,

**A**s 2023 comes to an end, I cannot help but reflect on how grateful and delighted I am with the support, encouragement and kindness you've shown me in my first 6 months as President. I knew it would be a lot of work but did not realize how rewarding it would be and how much I'd feel part of something so much bigger than myself. Our HIVE is vibrant, growing and filled with delightful members like you! YOU are what keeps me going each day and I *thank you!*

We've accomplished so much in 2023 and had fun along the way: 1. Tending the rose garden and pocket park. 2. Supporting the pollinator gardens at Heisler Park and Bluebird Park. 3. Engaging our school children to learn where their food comes from and doing all kinds of math and science experiments with our support of the gardens at El Morro, TOW, and Thurston (which is up and growing again!). 4. Support of the Glenwood House and Hortense Miller gardens. 5. Providing scholarships to LBHS and Saddleback students who are championing our Club's mission with their ongoing learning and career choices. 6. We've learned from delightful and knowledgeable speakers like Krystle Hickman, Caleb Finn and Lisa D. Foster. 7. Participated in the Patriot's Day Parade (Rakettes mark your

calendars for March 2, 2024!) and Arbor Day. 8. Bringing smiles to kids in need with our participation in the Spark of Love toy drive with LBFD. 9. And we've supported the Laguna Food Pantry empty egg carton reuse program totaling 523 cartons donated between September and December 2023, just to name a few.

Most exciting of all is that Matt Willey will begin painting our "The Good of the Hive" mural at our fantastic Gate & Garden Tour partner's headquarters, the Laguna Beach County Water District, on about February 12! Our Club's "Love Letter to Laguna Beach" is the story of how to handle the crisis of pollinator endangerment with optimism and cooperation while keeping the needs of one another always at the forefront of everything we do in our Laguna Hive. With pollinators' lives endangered, there is a real threat to the world food supply. Our mural will be a beautiful reminder to be water-wise and protect the pollinators for the Good of this Hive known as Planet Earth. Everyone's future flies on the wings of pollinators!

Keep an eye on your Constant Contact emails for information about how you can participate in the success of the mural as a docent (and other ways) as the start date gets closer. And to be "in-the-know" about events

surrounding the mural. These will be the "you don't want to miss them" events!

It's not too early to volunteer at our *Gate & Garden Tour* scheduled for May 4 (tickets are now available for purchase on our website). As the overall chairperson of volunteers this year I urge you to pitch in! I'll be sure to get your name to the dedicated, hard-working phenomenal superstar committee chairs who make this event a success. This year will be extra-special as we showcase our beautiful mural. We need *everyone* in the LBGC Hive to participate. This is our **BIG fundraiser** of the year. It's what allows us to do all the wonderful things we do that benefit our Laguna Beach Hive every day.

To volunteer to help with the mural and G&G Tour (or anything else of interest to you) you can use the new on-line volunteer form under the members only section of the website or sign up at the January 12 meeting. I promise that you will get much more out of volunteering than you give. It's rewarding beyond what you can imagine!

As always, be sure to share with me what delights you with an email, photo or text. What delights me is YOU!

*-Jane Leary*

## Eggciting News For The Laguna Beach Food Pantry

**Y**our empty egg cartons continue to make a difference in the lives of families with food insecurity!

At the December meeting we collected 136 empty egg cartons for 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. Since September 2023 we've provided 523 egg cartons and saved the Pantry \$235 which they've used for nutritious food for their shoppers, now averaging 165 per day.



When dropping the cartons in December they let me know they can only use cartons with lids (any kind, cardboard or plastic) but not those without

lids. Also they no longer use grocery bags so please don't bring those except to carry the cartons in.

To maximize the quantity and minimize the space please stack the cartons like the photo.

No doubt with all the baking you did in December (I certainly did my share to the delight of my neighbors 😊) I expect my "little red pony" to be overflowing on January 12!

Way to go, LBGC!! Thanks to you Our Hive is making a difference in the lives of those in need every day.

- Jane Leary

**SAVE THE DATE**

**IT'S HAPPENING!**

**MATT WILLEY**

**THE GOOD OF THE  
HIVE® MURAL  
KICKOFF**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16,  
2024**

**7:00 TO 9:00 PM**

**RIVIAN SOUTH COAST  
THEATER**

**162 SOUTH COAST  
HIGHWAY**

**LAGUNA BEACH**



# 2024





## January Guest Speaker Brenda Kyle

# California Native Plant Basics

**B**renda Kyle is a local naturalist who leads environmental programs all over the LA area. She rates herself an 11 out of 10 on the, “I love nature scale”! Brenda is deeply connected to the mountains in Los Angeles and is descended from the Tarahumara and Tepehuan peoples from Mexico.



very urban Orange County park, and an instructor for Outward Bounds Adventures. Brenda has over a decade of volunteer time with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department where she has responded to every fire, mudslide and evacuation in her community. Brenda has recently published articles in *The Atlantic*; Five Ways to Make the Outdoors More Inclusive, and was a speaker at the California Native Plant Society on the topic 12 Steps to Decolonization.

Come hear her weave stories from her childhood to how she became a huge lover of nature and native plants and forged her career from that passion.



As a naturalist Brenda’s job is to get people to wonder about how things are connected. She focuses a lot on plants because, like water, they are vital to sustain life. Brenda currently works for the Theodore Payne Foundation as the Volunteer Coordinator. In the past she worked for the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, planting trees in County Supervisor District 1. She has built habitats along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers. She is currently a Grand Park Ranger leading excursions in a



## CLUB NEWS

### Succulent Wreath Making With Jeanne Yale

Date: Friday January 19<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Jeanne's House - 502 Pearl St. Laguna Beach

Cost: \$20.00

Payable: When you sign up at the January 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Bring: Clippers and succulent cuttings for yourself and to share

We will be making a 12-inch wreath and all materials will be provided except for the succulent cuttings. Each wreath requires approximately 50 cuttings with stems that at 1-2 inches long and no wider than about ½ inch.

I will contact participants before the event with a reminder and more details.

Questions: Contact Jeanne Yale

[Jeanne.yale@cox.net](mailto:Jeanne.yale@cox.net)

949-246-5777



### The Valentine Container Garden Sale will be the highlight of the February 9 meeting

Showcase your creativity and plant a container garden to donate. From elegant to quirky, a container of bright blooms or jewel-like succulents is a lovely Valentine gift to yourself! Don't have time to make an elaborate container garden and are looking for different ways to support your club? We have two additional options: a plant table and a boutique edition of the sale table.

The plant table will include modest planted arrangements, and interesting specimens. We are also going to offer a boutique edition of our usual sale table. Scour your closets and bookshelves for better quality donations. Hand-made objects and cards are also welcome. And finally, invite your friends! Matt Willey will be in town painting the mural and will stop by to say a few words. Master Gardeners will give a presentation and be available to answer questions plus so much fun stuff to buy!

Please contact Nancy Englund with any questions or suggestions. [Nancyenglund@icloud.com](mailto:Nancyenglund@icloud.com)

## Trips & Tours

### Niguel Botanical Preserve

Friday, January 26

We have a change in plans: our Mystery Tour host has become unavailable, and as an alternative, we will go on a self-guided tour of the Niguel Botanical Preserve. There is no admission, and we can walk the 18 acre gardens, checking out what is growing in January. Afterwards, we are planning lunch at the newly opened Mendocino Farms.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the general club meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>. We welcome drivers - please note your willingness to drive a carpool on the sign-up sheet.

FYI, T&T leader **Synthia Scofield** will be out of pocket starting January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please email **Patty Gaffney** if you sign-up but then cannot join us.

We will carpool from St. Catherine's Church on Temple Terrace. Arrive at 8:45 am, leaving promptly at 9:00. Parking will also be free. The address is: 29751 Crown Valley Parkway, Laguna Niguel. Mendocino Farms address is 23870 Aliso Creek Road in Laguna Niguel.

**Reminders: pay attention for updates and changes communicated at the general meeting and through Constant Contact email and remember to wear your badge at the T&T.**

## FEBRUARY 9 VALENTINE CONTAINER GARDEN SALE WORKER BEES NEEDED

Once again our February meeting will have the ever popular **Container Garden Sale & Auction**. We need helpers to make the day run smoothly. Sign up at the January meeting or contact Nancy Englund with any questions or suggestions. [Nancyenglund@icloud.com](mailto:Nancyenglund@icloud.com)

**TABLE WORKERS:** Arrive at 9 AM and arrange donated items on the tables. Match the bid card number to the number attached to the item. Karen and Nancy will determine opening bid. Workers can take time off to place their own bids. Six volunteers needed.

**ITEM RUNNERS:** Arrive at 9 AM. Assist members to carry their auction item into the meeting. Assist winners to get their purchases to their cars. Two volunteers needed

**DOOR CHECKERS:** When the auction is closed, stand at the exit to check the receipt card against the item number. Two volunteers needed.



## Membership Update

Welcome to January! I am pleased to announce that we now have **221** members as of December 29, 2023. If you have not picked up your 2023-2024 Membership Book yet, tables will be located inside 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 December, 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.

**Invite** a friend, neighbor, or colleague who might be interested in our Speaker Series, to attend a meeting to see if we are a good fit. The first meeting is free, and we accept members at any time. Pick up these cards at the Membership Table.

**Discount Cards** – available pick at the Membership Table, entitling you to 10% discount at participating nurseries.

Please feel free to contact me at any time via email: [lynnmjax@icloud.com](mailto:lynnmjax@icloud.com) or cell: 949-294-1500.  
-Lynn Jax, Director of Membership





## 2023 Holiday Member Tour

Approximately 80 club members signed up (and brought spouses and friends) to tour the holiday decor of three households, of club members who opened up their homes and gardens for this festive event.

On December 8, a beautiful afternoon after the general meeting, club members toured three different styles of holiday decor from the extensive hand-crafted decorations that **Lynn Jax** and **Perry Stampfel** have collected over the years from their extensive travels, to the silvered elegance of tillandsias contrasting with the brightness of red Christmas bulbs on the mantel of **Jeanne** and **Michael Yale's** home, and finally to the joyous holiday color that perfectly complemented the tropical zen vibe of **Susan** and **Veeder South's** home and garden oasis.

Guests expressed huge appreciation for our hosts' generosity in sharing their holiday home and spirit and for their wine bars with delicious spreads of charcuterie, dips, and bites. Also, many thanks to members who brought more treats from mulled cider to festive arrays of cookies and other goodies. It was a delightful event to celebrate the holiday season! -Patty Gaffney



Continued on the next page



*More Holiday Fun at the Members' Holiday Open*





## Another Lesson on How to Work Together From our Bee Friends

Since all of us have just eaten our way through the holiday season, my “bee” story will be an analogy of a Winter bee’s life. The winter bees are laid by the queen in the fall; when they are larva, the winter bees are fed a diet that is scarce in protein(pollen)- similar to my “all cookie diet” throughout the month of December! This pollen scarce diet causes the winter bees to develop an extra large ‘fat body’ - a special insect tissue that regulates metabolism and produces vitellogenin, an amazing substance that enhances the bee’s immune system and increased lifespan from 6 weeks to 6 months! Because of the difference in their physiology, they are considered a separate caste of bees unique from the worker, drones and queen.

The winter bees have the special job of keeping the hive alive until Spring. They do this by eating the stored honey and keeping the colony warm by shivering their flight muscles. Consequently, Susan and I feel very justified in having eaten our “sweets heavy” diet through December, in order to sustain the “tour hive” throughout what is the busiest time of the year for the *Gate & Garden Tour*.

We have obtained 4 spectacular major sponsors for the tour (but there is always room for more). Our very own **Mae Ho** and her husband **Morris** have become a major sponsor, Smith Group Real Estate Group and Julia Abel Schwier have returned for their second year, Julie Laughton Luxury Design Build will be a new sponsor and of course our incredible partners at the Laguna Beach County Water District.

**Susan Denton** has decided to help the winter bees by procuring ads from businesses for the tour brochure. This is an excellent way for local businesses to get exposure to the 600-800 guests that attend our tour. Do you own a business? Do you have a friend or neighbor that owns a local business? Do you want to pay tribute to someone special with an ad? These are all ways that we can help Susan achieve her objective of getting as many ads as possible for our brochure.

The bees call this “festooning”, when they lay across a gap, leg to leg to assist the bees building the honeycomb to get from one side of their construction to the other. We all need to “festoon” to help each of our incredible committee chairs in constructing our tour hive. If you have a great lead for an ad please reach out to Susan and give her the information, or you find the ad form at the end of this Weeder’s Digest Issue.

- Karen Nelson



# Our Members Shine



## December Centerpiece

**Mary Lewis** created the centerpiece for the December treat table. She chose an angel as the main focus of the table scape because the Garden Club members do many acts of service, sometimes unseen, for the community.



## Proud Name Tag Wearer

Lynn Jax gave a prize of honey from Baxter Honey to **Kim Hall, member since 2022**, as a reward for wearing her name tag at the meeting. Wearing one's name tag helps to welcome new members to the club by letting them know everyone's name.



## December Volunteer of the Month

**JoAnn DeYonker** was selected as the December Volunteer of the Month. JoAnn, a member since 2013, is always willing to volunteer to help with Raffle ticket sales, help set up Tankersley Hall for the monthly meetings, organize raffle prize packages, and many other behind the scenes jobs that help to make our club's activities run smoothly. Thank you Jo Ann for all you do for our club!





## December Raffle Winners

Thank you to all who participated in the December Raffle to make it a great success. And a huge thank you to our four Garden Club members who volunteered to sell tickets: **Pam Bisson, Judy Flanders, Cheryl Czyz, and Helga Yailien.** There were 10 fabulous items (seven of which were donated by club members).

The lucky winners are:

Mary Kate Saunders – Succulent Wreath  
Mariann Keenan – Holiday Basket #1  
Harriette Craig – Holiday Basket #2  
Carol Kim – Gold Necklace  
Julie Maison – Holiday Ornament of Trolley  
Kim Hall – Talavera Bird House  
Barbara Grimes – Flight of Wine  
Deborah K Sanchez – Holiday Breakfast Treats  
Vicki Adams- Cuccia – *The Life of the Bee* Tote  
Mary Lewis – Holiday Wooden Hanging

Stay tuned for the **February Raffle**. Any Valentine-oriented items or cute gift items are welcome additions.

Your donations are a great help when amassing the raffle items. To donate please contact Lynn Jax email: [lynnmjax@icloud.com](mailto:lynnmjax@icloud.com).

Copies of the Merchant Raffle Request letter you can use to approach your favorite shop for raffle item donations will be available at the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting or on the next page.

- Lynn Jax





## Merchant Raffle Donation Form

Return this completed form with your donation **OR** if using USPS, mail to:

*Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. 456 Cress Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651  
ATTN: Lynn Jax*

**Donor/Company name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** you would like to be acknowledged: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:**

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Item Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Retail Value:** \_\_\_\_\_

Is item **No Exchanges or Returns?** YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Garden Club Member name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Info:** Email or phone #: \_\_\_\_\_



## “Why your Perfectly Drought-Tolerant Garden is a Problem”

I came across an article while reading the *LA Times* that I found fascinating and eye-opening, so I thought I would summarize the high points. It was written by Charles Miller, the chair of the Los Angeles chapter of the Climate Reality Projects and its Biodiversity Committee.

“Planting California natives helps with biodiversity but also assists the pollinators, such a native bees, butterflies, moths, and songbirds, and unfortunately California is experiencing a decline in these populations, having lost over 90% of native pollinators.

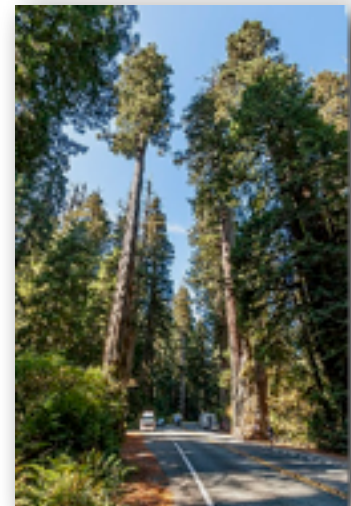
“Having a drought-tolerant garden is not enough if it only focuses on water use. By introducing exotic plants for ornamental purposes that are seemingly “just as good” as native plants in their water use, what is really happening is that those plants don’t help the interconnected flora and fauna adapt to climate change. Though some pollinators will use the blooms of non-native plants as a food source, native pollinators generally rely on native plants to host their caterpillars and other forms of offspring. And often the exotic plants promote the proliferation of invasive insects such as the European honeybee, which drive out native bees and threaten other species. With the additional pressures of climate change, 50% of all species could be lost by the end of the century. Non-native plants don’t support local soil chemistry and microbes, native insects, birds, and mammals.

“Most of California lies within one of just five temperate biodiversity hot spots on Earth and the only one in North America. There are nearly 7,000 native plants in the biodiverse zone known as the California Floristic Province, many of which have been introduced into horticulture, giving abundant options to us all.”

By the way, as beautiful as Jacaranda trees are, they are **NOT** native to California.

Miller, Charles. “Why your Perfectly Drought-tolerant Garden is a Problem,” *LA Times*, 24 December 2023.

-Lynn Jax



## December's Spark of Love Toy Drive

Our members brought in a mountain of new toys to donate to this annual toy drive. The Laguna Beach Fire Department collected the toys to take back to the station for distribution. Thank you to all who donated toys for the children.



### What's New With LBGC Swag?

New hat colors are being ordered for the February meeting. Stop by the *Ways and Means* table at the January meeting to see the newest colors. Start your New Year with a new gardening hat.





## Hortense Miller Garden

What is Rip Rap? The Friends of Hortense Miller had tons of rip rap from the renovation of Hortense's 1957 driveway. In true Hortense fashion, it was repurposed to support the slopes along several garden paths. These salvaged pieces of cement are called rip rap. They work extremely well as retaining walls in the sloped garden.



The Friends of Hortense Miller appreciate all the support we get from the LBGCC members volunteering week after week at the garden, as well as the financial support we've received over the



years, especially for the help getting the trails shored up replacing 60 year old railroad ties with the rip rap.



PO Box 362 Laguna Beach, CA 92652

[www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org](http://www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org)

501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

*Laguna Beach Garden Club*

# Gate & Garden Tour

Saturday, May 4, 2024



## *Garden Tour Brochure advertising*

For our annual Garden Tour, we will produce a full color booklet for distribution to all attendees on the tour. Advertising in the brochure will reach up to 600 visitors, business, and media.

<b>Full Page Ad</b>	\$500
Color, 5.5 wide x 8.5 tall, 0.125 bleed	
<b>Half Page Ad</b>	\$300
Color, 5.5 wide x 4.25 tall, 0.125 bleed	
<b>Business Card Ad</b>	\$100
Color, 3.5 wide x 2 tall, no bleed	

Note: LBGC does not provide ad design services—ads to be submitted as “print ready” files

*The names of all advertisers will also appear on the 2023 / 2024 Laguna Beach Garden Club website, viewed by hundreds of Garden Club members and non-members annually.*

### **Advertising Deadlines:**

Confirmation of ad placement including payment	Before March 25
Submit FINAL “print-ready” artwork	Up to April 1

Email final ad as a High-Res PDF, PSD or EPS file that includes crop & bleed marks to  
CarolynBent@cox.net

Please complete attached form and mail to Laguna Beach Garden Club, PO Box 362, Laguna Beach CA 92652

For more info, contact Tour Directors [Susan Denton](mailto:SDenton@LagunaBeachGardenClub.org) (SDenton@LagunaBeachGardenClub.org.) OR [Karen Nelson](mailto:karen@lagunabeachgardenclub.org) (karen@lagunabeachgardenclub.org.).

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*Laguna Beach Garden Club*

# Gate & Garden Tour

**Saturday, May 4, 2024**

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[info@LagunaBeachGardenClub.org](mailto:info@LagunaBeachGardenClub.org) [LagunaBeachGardenClub.org](http://LagunaBeachGardenClub.org)

## *Advertiser Information Sheet*

**YES, I wish to purchase an ad for the Garden Tour Brochure!**

**Full page ad \$500**

**Half page ad \$300**

**Business card ad \$100**

**Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Please make check payable to Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.

Mail to: PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

Name of Business\_\_\_\_\_

Business Address\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code\_\_\_\_\_

Business phone number\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person email\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Phone number\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete & return this form for each ad. Ad cost is not a charitable contribution.

For more info, contact Tour Directors [Susan Denton](mailto:SDenton@LagunaBeachGardenClub.org) (SDenton@LagunaBeachGardenClub.org.) or

[Karen Nelson](mailto:karen@lagunabeachgardenclub.org) (karen@lagunabeachgardenclub.org.).

***Thank you for supporting the Laguna Beach Garden Club!***