



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



FEBRUARY 2024

MEMBER NEWS

Cultivating Delight through
Gardening & Community Service

*"Love is the flower
you've got to let grow."* -John Lennon

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

The torch aloe is found throughout Laguna Beach and often serves as an anchor plant in mixed succulent beds in sunny garden locations. Its size and bright winter flowers make it a great accent plant & the fact that its flowers are highly attractive to nectar-seeking birds is an added bonus. I particularly like the vivid orange flowers that complement our blue California skies and ocean.

I am drawn to the plant because



when it isn't blooming the leaves are a spiky, tangled mass that isn't particularly attractive. But then the explosion of showy spikes of orange blooms in the fall makes it a very handsome addition to most gardens.

Life is kind of like that, sometimes it is a hot mess, but if you wait patiently, you might be rewarded with something spectacular.

COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Feb. 9

Container Garden Auction

Bring your floral donation and/or bid on other members' creations. Any size, any theme is perfect! Laguna Presbyterian Church

- 9:00 am floral container drop off/delivery,
- 9:30 am Social & Auction bidding
- 10:00 am Meeting (see page 3).



Trips & Tours Feb. 23

San Diego Botanical Garden & Nursery Crawl

Sign up at the February 9 meeting



President's Message

Bee Delightful and Thankful

It's hard to believe the first month of 2024 has come to a close. What has delighted you so far in 2024? For me it's the hummingbird's nest right outside

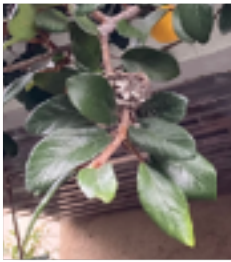
my husband Greg's and my bedroom window.

And seeing the joy

on the children's faces when

Dee Perry, Regina Hartley and I read "Give Bees a Chance" by Bethany Barton at the Laguna Beach Art Museum's story time on Saturday, Jan 27 as part of our ***The Good of the Hive®*** mural engagement. I'm so grateful they were there as part of the hive. Those two bees really know how to engage with little ones and made the experience extra special as you can see from the photos. We had so much fun we just might take our show on the road!

This is a very exciting time for the Club with the activity surrounding our ***The Good of***



the Hive® mural and all that goes with it. We are already creating a buzz around town as you can see by these kids enjoying our engraved steppingstones. I can't wait to see **Matt Willey** creating his magic right here in our beautiful Laguna!



As you've all experienced, life can toss in a curve ball now and then. My husband and I were tossed such a ball in December with his diagnosis of lung cancer. He had surgery on January 23 to remove the lower lobe of his right lung and he will likely have some type of follow on treatment. He's doing extremely well, in fact for those who have met him you would not see much difference. While we do expect him to be here a very long time, this has caused me to re-evaluate our lives together and my priorities. I'm not good at doing anything halfway and need the freedom to be spontaneous in our retirement. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as Club

President for the 2023-2024 Club calendar year but have chosen not to run for President for the 2024-2025 year.

I happily toss the gavel to anyone who is willing and able. You will not regret it! I will be here to help you in any way I can and will serve as Past President. I plan to be involved with the Club for many years to come because I need all of you in my life. It's the love generated by our LBGC hive that has kept me going during this challenging time. It's what makes our Hive so special and the best way to fully experience it is to join the Board.

See you all on Feb 9!

-Jane Leary



The Container Garden Auction will be the Highlight of our February Meeting

Club members and members of the public are invited to our annual Valentine Open House & Container Garden Sale on Friday February 9th. We will hold a silent auction of beautiful, one-of-a-kind container gardens and a raffle of prizes from local businesses. Proceeds from this fundraiser support our school gardens and scholarships.

In addition to the fun and fabulous container gardens created by club members and available in the silent auction, there will also be plants, crafts and a boutique version of Norm's Plant Sale Table with vintage items for sale. This is a great place to buy your Valentine something extra special and unique and help a great cause right here in your town.

At the general meeting, two Master Gardeners will present information and answer your gardening questions. Our surprise guest **Matt Willey** (world renowned muralist) will stop by to say hello. He will just have arrived in town to start our mural, "The Good of the Hive®".



Please join us on Friday, January 12th at 09:30-10:00 for social time and refreshments, meetings begin promptly at 10:00. Meetings are held at Laguna Presbyterian Church in Tankersley Hall located at 415 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, Ca. Non-members are invited to attend for free on their first visit. For more information about the garden club:

www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org or contact [Lynn Jax](mailto:lynnmjax@icloud.com) :
lynnmjax@icloud.com

Please do not use church parking lot, street parking available.
-Nancy England



CLUB NEWS

Valentine Raffle



We have another exciting Raffle planned for our Valentine Open House Plant & Planter Sale on February 9.

A big thank you to all who donated items for our February raffle. Definitely, I will be buying tickets. Plus, many Board members donated fantastic goodies for several Bee-themed items.

Some of the prizes so far include:

- Coppola Wine Basket & Bath & Body Works Basket from **Cheryl Cxyz**
- Gift Card from Laguna Coast Pottery (Remember - they offer a 10% discount by showing your card)
- 3 fantastic Gardening Books from **Jane Leary & Lynn Jax**
- Succulent Wreath by **Jeanne Yale**
- Bee Basket from various LBGC Board members
- Swarm Bee – laser engraved by Matt Willey from **Nancy Englund**
- The Bees Knees Cocktail Basket from **Kari Nies**

Come prepared with Cash, Check or Credit Card (credit card sales are available at the Treasurer's Table).

Several Garden Club members will be selling tickets before the meeting. Be sure to purchase your tickets early because the drawing will be held just **PRIOR** to the Master Gardener presentation. That way your winnings will be ready for pick up when the meeting finishes.



Wishing good luck to all of you.
Lynn Jax, Raffle Administrator



Membership Update

Sadly **Norman Powell** creator and manager of our plant table passed away on Sunday, January 28, 2024 after a brief illness.



Norman joined LBGC in 2017 and had the idea to create the plant table so members could exchange cuttings and plants and other garden related items as a way to connect us all and make a little extra money for our Garden Club Hive. Norman understood how every member of our hive had a part to play in its ability to thrive. He made a lasting impression on our Hive and will be greatly missed by all, especially his long-term partner Cheryl Cxyz.

Our heart-felt condolences go out to Cheryl and all those who loved Norman.

-Jane
Leary



Succulent Wreath Success

On January 19th twelve Garden Club members participated in a workshop led by **Jeanne Yale** to create succulent wreaths. Jeanne supplied the wreath making materials and participants provided their own succulent cuttings, including extra to share. She explained how the moss is attached to the frames and offered tips so the wreaths would look nice, and construction advice so that the cuttings would stay in place. It's a satisfying project since with minimal care, the cuttings will root into

the moss and the wreaths can last for a year or longer. Jeanne is self-taught and has quite a bit of experience, having led this activity for several years.

There were some very artistic and creative people in the group. The class brought together both new and longtime members who enjoyed the project and also getting to know each other.



January Trips & Tours - Niguel Botanic Preserve



On a surprisingly warm January 26 morning just a day after rain, sixteen members toured the 18-acre public garden exhibiting plants from the five Mediterranean climate regions of the world along with a rose garden, butterfly garden, world wide succulent display, and plantings from mixed regions. Being winter, the design bones of the garden clearly showed the terracing of the landscape with its many pathways and bridges.

The hillside terrain could be steep, but we were rewarded with

clear views of Saddleback Mountain and the aesthetic line of homes blending into the mountainside, overlooking Crown Valley Parkway. There were eye catching specimen plants such as bottlebrush bushes with large upright blooms resembling corn on the cob, silvery-grey wooly foliage, the spongy texture of Cork Oak bark and the scent of sage as we took in the birdsong of goldfinches and hawks circling above.

Afterwards, lunch was at the busy and noisy but very tasty Mendocino Farms with so many healthy options to start the new year.



February Trips & Tours

San Diego Botanic Garden & Nursery Crawl Feb 23rd

The plan is to do a self-guided tour of the San Diego Botanic Garden. Details about lunch and the nursery crawl will follow. As usual, a sign-up sheet to join will be available at our general meeting on February 9th. We welcome drivers - please note your willingness to drive a carpool on the sign-up sheet.

Please pay your admission at the general meeting on the 9th, since we must submit final headcount and payment the same day. Group admission prices are: \$17 for adults, \$11 for seniors (age 60 and over). Cash preferred.

We will carpool from St. Catherine's Church on Temple Terrace. Plan to arrive at 8:45 am, leaving promptly at 9:00. Any changes will be communicated at the general meeting or via Constant Contact. Parking will be free.

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

Laguna Beach Garden Club Gate & Garden Tour 2024

Women's Hats through the Ages

Ladies hats have moved in and out of fashion throughout history, except among the wealthiest of women who commonly accessorize with them. In 1910 and 1920 as the hairstyles got shorter, hats sat closer to the head, turbans and cloches were popular and often accentuated with feathers and jewels. In the 1940s and 1950s during WWII, supplies were diverted to the war effort but as soon as the war was over hats made a comeback. In the 1960s and 1970s the ever-popular pillbox was all the rage as well as the wider brimmed floppy hat.

Which brings me to the **2024 Gate and Garden Tour Hat Contest!** It was so popular last year that people are still buzzing about it to this day. **Kate Guerra-Hershey** has stepped up to Chair this fun event again this year. Kate will man (or in this case-woman) the hat contest booth where you can enter the contest, have your photo taken and then at the end of tour day, 3 water commissioners will choose a winner in each of the 3 categories. We will have most elegant hat, most creative hat and the best bee and/or pollinator themed hat. One prize will be awarded for each category.

This year you will have plenty of time to give your hat much thought and come up with something that will wow the crowds. It was so thrilling to see all the hats as I checked guests into the tour at registration. It was amazing to see the incredible imagination that our members exhibit! So start thinking and wow me again this year! Our beautiful new bee mural will be finished and will be an exciting new facet to the tour for our guests to enjoy wearing their beautiful hats.

Susan and I had a wonderful time choosing our 5 Ladies of Laguna that represent the Hat Contest. Our very own **Mae Ho**, who has been a wonderful benefactor and sponsor of the tour and all-around great lady, is one of our choices. **Julie Perlin Lee**, Director of Laguna Art Museum, was a no brainer for our lineup with all she has done to bring our non-profits together. **Julie Laughton** of Julie Laughton Design/Build is not only an incredible woman builder in a field dominated by men and voted best female builder by Forbes, but is also the President of the Chamber of Commerce. **Kelly Osborne** is a superstar in the Laguna Beach Unified School District and huge promoter of school gardens. Finally, the wonderful **Renae Hinchey** is the retired Director of the Water District, who also sits on the Board of Susi Q and several other philanthropic agencies. This bevy of accomplished ladies will be posing in gorgeous hats and be the faces of our contest this year.



Continued on the next page

Just a quick reminder that at the February 9th meeting that is our Master Gardener, Open House, Boutique, Plant and Planter Sale. But even more exciting than that is that it is your one opportunity to purchase your ticket at the discounted price of \$50! Susan, Kari Nies and I will be manning a booth at that meeting and that is your ONE opportunity for members to take advantage of this discounted price. We will only be taking cash or check, and you may buy as many tickets as you would like.



New Necklaces Will Bee on Sale

Hand made silver Dog-Tag necklaces with “Bee” messages on them will be for sale for \$30 at the February Plant & Planter Sale.



Getting Involved

Patriots Day Parade

Calling all Garden Club members for the lifetime experience of marching in our yearly Laguna Beach parade. Remember, marching with our club is camaraderie, promotion for our activities, fun, and all downhill!

Check your calendars and sign up at the February. meeting.

When: Saturday, March 2

Where: Laguna Beach HS Parking lot on Park Ave.

Time: 10 am arrival. Please be prompt as the Parade starts at 11am.

Dress: Comfy shoes, blue jeans, white top, Garden Club apron, decorated hat with flowers

Comfort: Water, sunblock, tissue, phone if desired, lipstick with color, sun glasses.

Parking: Park in a neighborhood to avoid meters. The parade ends at city hall.

Jobs:

Garden Club banner (2 people)

Garden Tour banner (2 people)

“Rakettes” (drill team that will learn an easy drill)

Ladybug spinners (5 people)

LBGC signboard carriers (7)

Walkers with flower baskets (you bring the flowers) (4 people, I have blue baskets)

Lots more members to pass out Garden Tour postcards and wave to the crowd!

Everyone please participate! The more the merrier! Let's show our community all that we do and all of our spirit!

For questions, contact Diane Kloke:

kloke@cox.net, 949-497-1866, cell 949-280-4568



Volunteer of the Month

Mary Lewis was selected as **Volunteer of the Month** of January. She has been working with our egg carton collection program (see page 11)



January Centerpiece

Mary Lewis also worked her magic with this beautiful arrangement for the treat table. Mary has been a member since 2023.



Name Tag Wearer Winner

Carla Beddome was “caught” wearing her name tag at the January meeting she has been a member since 2009.



Membership News

Welcome to February! I am pleased to announce that we now have 226 members as of January 25, 2024.

Our next meeting is February 9, and it will be so much fun. It's our annual **Valentine Open House Plant & Planter Sale**. There are lots of things to bid on at the **Silent Auction** container sale, buy at the **Boutique Plant Table**, and purchase **Raffle** tickets for your chance to take home a fabulous gift for you or a special someone. And as an added feature Friday, February 9 is the **ONLY** day for you to snap up tickets at a discounted rate for the 2024 Gate & Garden Tour, scheduled for May 4, 2024. Discount price \$50 regular entry or \$70 for VIP – **CASH or CHECK ONLY for the ticket purchases**. Otherwise – Come prepared with cash, checks and credit cards accepted for all other purchases.

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 January or if you ordered a replacement or spare name tag, it will also be ready for pick up.

If you have a friend, neighbor, or colleague who might be interested in our Speaker Series, please invite them to attend a meeting to see if we are a good fit. The first meeting is free, and we accept members at any time.

Please feel free to contact me at any time via email: lynnmjax@icloud.com or cell: 949-294-1500.

-Lynn Jax, Director of Membership



BRING A FRIEND TO GARDEN CLUB FOR THE VALENTINE OPEN HOUSE PLANT & PLANTER SALE



Beautiful container gardens brimming with blooms.

Quirky boutique items

Crafts, jewelry

Bargain Plants

**Master Gardens will give a brief presentation and answer questions,
Special guest Matt Willey will say “hi” on his way to working on his mural
on Third Street.**

Shout out to Mary Lewis LBGC's Laguna Food Pantry egg carton ambassador!

As of the Jan 12, 2024 meeting our egg carton count from Sept through May reached 634. I have no doubt we'll exceed 1,000 for this club year!

Not only are we saving the Pantry 45 cents with each donation we are also giving the egg cartons a second life which fits in with our Club's mission.

Thank you Mary for taking on the egg carton delivery each month and congratulations for being our Volunteer of the Month winner for January.

A very egg-citing and fitting win, indeed!

-Jane Leary



Annual Photo Contest – Deadline for submissions April 26

It's that time again and the deadline to submit is fast approaching. Members submit photographs from their gardens for our annual photography contest. The first and second place entries are featured on the front and back covers of our Membership Book. The winners of the 17th annual contest were: Mary Jones's photo of a Monarch butterfly on a Mexican sunflower (front cover), and Brian Jones's photo of a Bolivian sunflowers (back cover).

Photo Contest Rules

1. Photo entries are due to the Photo Contest chair, Perry Stampfel, by **Friday, April 26, 2024**.
2. Garden Club members may submit one photo for the **FRONT** and one for the **BACK** cover.
3. Renewed membership is required.
4. Photos must be **HIGH-RESOLUTION**. If using iPhone or Android when sending the photo, be sure to send the photo in "ACTUAL SIZE" – not small, medium, or large. Minimum photo size of 4,000 KB is required.
5. To win the **FRONT** cover contest, the photo must be **horizontal or square**.
6. To win the **BACK** cover contest, the photo must be **vertical or square**.
7. The entry must be a recent photo of some part of the member's garden.
8. By submitting the entry, the member declares that he/she owns the rights to the photo.
9. Entries will be judged by the Board by the end of the club year.
10. The winner's photos will be featured on the front and back cover of the 2024-25 Membership Book.

Submissions should be sent to Perry Stampfel via email. You will receive a reply confirming that your photo has been received.

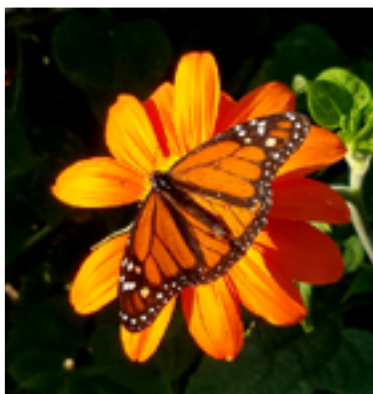
Rules are also listed on **page 43** of your Membership Book.

For information contact:

Perry Stampfel
456 Cress Street
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Home: 949-497-7363 or Cell: 949-294-1502

Email: stampfeljax@cox.net or stampfel@icloud.com





“What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.” - Greek philosopher Aristotle
Become Part of the Hive



Taking on a leadership role may seem intimidating from the outside, but I promise that you get more than you give. After serving on the LBGC board in one job or another for almost 20 years, I can honestly say I have never been part of a more supportive and productive board. Monthly board meetings last a couple of hours once a month (September through May) followed by some homework. Your responsibilities are clearly outlined for you, and other board members support your success. Here are the board openings which need to be filled:

1. Have a vision for where you want your club to go? Enjoy composing and following agendas? Think you can handle making slide shows and a little public speaking? A very cool name tag can be yours if you step up for **President!**
 2. Detail oriented? Good at taking notes? You could be the next **Recording Secretary!**
 3. Are you a natural shopper? Or wish you had your own boutique? **Ways & Means** might be just the ticket for you!
 4. Like wandering the streets of Laguna looking for pretty gardens and managing a team? Susan Denton is willing to mentor you for **Director of the Gate & Garden Tour**, or you can shadow her this year and be a huge help.
 5. There are also vacancies in the **Special Administrator positions.**
- A big job with a big impact on how the club is perceived is **Graphic Designer**. Carolyn Bent put her years of professional experience to work for the club resulting in the elegant lay-out and design of not only our Member Book but also the souvenir Brochure of the Gate & Garden Tour (G>). She's ready to train her replacement and step back. This is a big job and previous design experience and familiarity with InDesign or similar program is essential. Other people write the text and previous editions serve as a template. We need a graphic artist to combine everything into a cohesive whole. We could use **2 individuals** to even out the workload: one for the G> brochure and one for the Membership Book, who will work closely with Lynn Jax, Director of Membership.
 - Are you good at passing the hat (or basket in our case)? Then helping to pass the basket to collect donations to **Penny Pines** at each general meeting is perfect for you. You would work with a partner.
 - Do you look forward to the 4 **Raffles** we hold each year (September, December, February & May at the Tour)? Well Lynn Jax is willing to continue to organize the raffle in May - that leaves September, December, and February open for someone to step in. There is a need for *three (3) individuals* to each take on one of the other raffles. As a high school teacher in her previous life, Lynn is more than willing teach you the ropes.
 - Is pricing donated items your thing? The **Plant Table** (held at our monthly meetings) is begging for you to be the one in charge.

All club members are welcome to attend to board meetings to get a feel for the jobs. Descriptions of the duties are in the bylaws in your Membership Books. Please peruse **Article VII** (pages 47-49) for information specific to each position.

As H. Jackson Brown Jr. wrote in *Life's Little Instruction Book*: “Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”



Please contact Nancy Englund (nancyenglund@icloud.com) or Lynn Jax (lynnmjax@icloud.com) with any questions.

-Submitted by Nancy Englund



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