



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



OCTOBER 2024

MEMBER NEWS

"Sowing Seeds of Wonder through
a Community of Gardeners."

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."—Emily Brontë

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

By now you are probably knee deep in all things pumpkin, goblins, and fall leaves. Autumn is a transitional time, summer is a warm memory and the countdown for the Holidays has officially begun. Have you been to Costco lately? It is Christmas there already!

I would like to start a new feature column on **Small Space Gardens**. Many of our members have lovely small patios, balconies, or porches that serve as their garden growing space. I know our members would like to see the beauty and creativity

that can be achieved in a limited space.

Please take a few pictures of your beautiful small space along with a paragraph or two about your garden, and send it to me at dalynnmalek@gmail.com.



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting
October 11

Tobin Hammer
Protecting Wild Bees
Laguna Presbyterian Church (see page 3)



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

New Member Luncheon
October 18

Laguna Presbyterian Church
• 11:00am -1:00pm

Trips & Tours October 23

- Tentative plan is a nursery crawl in the north San Diego county area, a popular trip with members in the past. More information will be presented at the Oct 11th meeting.



President's Message

Sowing the Seeds of Wonder in Our Gardens

Dear Garden Club Members

Last month, I shared a little about my family and garden. This month I want to share the progress I have made in my garden. My new raised garden bed is full of new sprouts! I enjoy planting things that easily add a special ingredient to my everyday dishes and drinks.



I am looking forward to enjoying some fresh mint in my iced tea, organic strawberries to yogurt parfaits, and fresh cherry tomatoes to caprese sandwiches. I am also in the process of planning the seeds I want to plant



in my garden this winter and spring. There are so many intriguing heirloom vegetables and fruits. Fall in the garden can be a busy time for trimming



plants, laying down ground cover, planting native plants, and sowing native flowers seeds in preparation for spring blooms. Next, I am on to my next project of making winter banana apple and boysenberry pies and then fig jam with the fruit from my garden.

Mary Sanchez

Club Awards

Recognition Awards Recipients 2024

Member of the Year-

Bee Mural Team:

Blair Contratto

Nancy Englund

Jane Leary

Karen Nelson

Melissa Rapp

Garden of the Year-

Monica Thompson

Gardener of the Year-

Helga Yaillen

Rookie of the Year-

Mary Koebler

Mary Lewis

Joann Trejo-Magee

Jeff Whittiker

Penny Pines Plantings Made in the name of:

Wendy Caufield

Marcia Forsyth

JoAnn DeYonker

Perry Stampfel

Mary Jones

Trudy Josephson

Lois Zeller

Cheryl Czyz

Dee Perry

Susan McGill



2nd Annual “Good of the Hive” Lecture
Bees, Disease, & Gut Health-Exploring Connections
Between Pollinators & People

Tobin Hammer, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor,
Ecology and
Evolutionary Biology, UC
Irvine



Dr. Hammer is a National Geographic Explorer and ecologist studying the microorganisms that live in and on the bodies of pollinators and other animals providing the hosts (and humans) with important nutritional and digestive benefits. Studying the microbiome of bees assists

scientists to translate into studies helping humans and agriculture. Dr. Hammer has published in Applied and Environmental Microbiology, Royal Society Open Science, Ecological Monographs just to name a few. Dr. Hammer is an integral member of UCI ECCLPs Campus task force, making waves in the world of ecology and evolutionary biology. Tobin’s team is on a mission, conducting fieldwork, surveying wild bees, and nurturing their own bee colonies. He is breaking stereotypes by emphasizing the importance of studying various bee species and their unique challenges.

Please join us on Friday, October 11, from 9:30-10:00 a.m. for social time and refreshments. The meeting

begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. Meetings are held at Laguna Presbyterian Church in Tankersley Hall located at 415 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach.

Non-members are invited to attend for free on their first visit.

For more information about the garden club:
www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org



Growing & Giving

Co-Presidents **Mary Sanchez & Nancy Englund** present a \$4,500 check to help support the Laguna Beach School District’s School Gardens. There are gardens at Top of the World & El Morro Elementary schools and at Thurston Middle School.



September 25th

Hortense Miller Garden (HMG) Trip & Tour

We opened the garden club year with a local T&T destination where eight day-trippers channeled mountain goats as we toured the terraced grounds and home of Hortense Miller. The tour was lead by a docent, long standing club member (and newsletter editor) **Dalynn Malek**. We learned how Hortense was a woman ahead of her time, a modern thinker who loved plants and animals, a feminist and a multi-talented artist.



It was such a delight that two brand new members, Dianne and Merrill joined us for the day while new-ish member Bonnie skipped the billygoat terrain but met us for potluck. Although our group was small, Merrill declared it the best potluck ever, and Bonnie agreed with the beautiful scene of Heisler Park, the delicious food and the great people! There was persistent stalking by a sassy squirrel, sleek rabbits confidently showing themselves, and a bold pigeon attack.

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Many thanks to Dalynn, her HMG docent partner **Cyndie Metz**, and third docent **Bob Borthwick**, another Garden Club member. The synergy between the two organizations was apparent as we were also met by **Sherry Stephens**, yet another tireless volunteer at the HMG and long time LBGC member.

Our next T&T will be on October 23; the tentative plan is a nursery crawl of the north San Diego county area, a club member request. Look for more details at the next general meeting on October 11th.



LAGUNA BEACH



GARDEN CLUB

GROWING & GIVING

S I N C E 1 9 2 8

Members new to the Club are invited to the
NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON
Friday, October 18 - 11am to 1pm
Tankersley Hall
415 Forest Ave, Laguna Beach

A hidden gem and delight at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa

On Wednesday, Sept 11 **Mary Sanchez, Nancy Englund, Lynn Jax, Karen Nelson, John Holcombe, Patty Gaffney & Jane Leary** had the pleasure of touring the Orange Coast College Horticulture Department and Gardens. It's a beautiful 1.5 acres with a variety of plants and trees, 90 garden plots tended by students growing all manner of fruits and vegetables along with 7 greenhouses, 3 of which are aquaponics. What's aquaponics? Well, they grow food with no soil and use fish to fertilize the plants! It's fascinating and uses very little water as it is recycled and used within the system.



The garden and department serves 200-250 students each year with certificate programs and AA degrees in subjects like

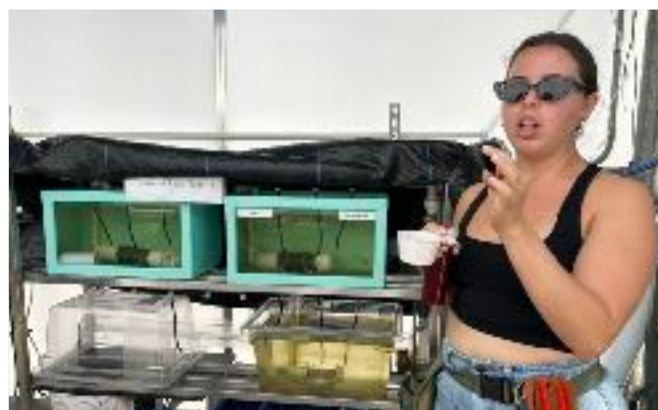


soil science, plant propagation, plant science and plant and tree identification all designed to help students get good paying jobs at botanical gardens, large estates (think Sunnylands in Palm Springs) and hotel gardens (like the beautiful gardens at the Montage) taking them way beyond the mow-blow-go level.

The garden also serves as a sanctuary for all OCC students to take a break, eat lunch & socialize while surrounded by nature.

You enter off Adams, turning onto Pinecreek and can't miss the large Horticulture banner along the fence, so if you are in the area or live nearby, go take a peek at this hidden gem! (Parking fee required).

- Jane Leary



Raffle Excitement

The 2024-2025 Laguna Beach Garden Club Kickoff this September was met with a full house at Tankersley Hall. The raffle table was abuzz over special offerings from a Halloween basket created by **Mae Ho** to a succulent wreath assembled by **Jeanne Yale**. Also offered was a bee print, as well as gift cards for local coffee, pottery shop and golf courses!

- Bonnie David



Volunteer of the Month

The Garden Club is only as strong as the dedication of its members. *September's Volunteer of the Month* was evidence of that dedication.

Paul Wagner a new member, was honored by **Vice President Blair Contratto** for his efforts on behalf of the club.



Name Tag Wearer

Members getting to know each other is a goal of Membership Director **Lynn Jax**. **Georgia Zachariah**, member since 2019, wore her name tag and her name was drawn as *September's Name Tag Wearer*.

Lynn presented Georgia with her prize, a lovely sea shell bowl.



The Huntington Botanical Gardens has a Plant Theft Problem. It's a Global Issue

By [Robert Garrova](#) (Lynn Jax shared this article)

Published Sept. 22, 2024

The Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino has a problem with plant thieves. Whole succulent plants have been swiped in brazen heists. Smaller pieces of plants have been pilfered for propagation, even torn out by the roots during a visit.

"It's heart-wrenching," said John Trager, curator of the Desert Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. "We're interested in preserving the plants and habitats so that they can continue to be studied."



Recently, an echeveria succulent was taken from the Desert Garden, a hot spot for thieves at The Huntington. "It is a problem," said Nicole Cavender, director of botanical gardens. "We've had it happen way too many times than we should, but what we want to do is draw attention to this illegal trade that's really criminal activity."

A Global Black Market

A map from The Huntington shows illegal trade maps for endangered cacti taken from the wild in South America. The Huntington notes: "Traffickers sometimes ship plants through intermediate countries to hide the plants' origins."

Cavender said. "It's not just within the walls of The Huntington that this is an issue; there's a global network where succulents, cacti, orchids, cycads, magnolias and other plants are trafficked on the black market. Illegal plant harvesting in the wild is a serious issue around the world, and it's hard to estimate the dollar value of the illicit trade. Sometimes these plants are being collected by the hundreds, literally wiping out the populations."



How you can help

That's why Cavender and Trager urge plant lovers to take note of where they're buying plants from to make sure they are legally sourced, especially for those sold online.

After a series of thefts in the Desert Garden in 2021, staff installed a permanent sign that reads "This Plant was Stolen," and directs visitors to more information about the illicit plant trade.

Trager also works to assist authorities with identification of plant contraband at ports and airports. That includes an opuntia species of cactus that's endemic to Santa Margarita Island off the Pacific Coast of Mexico which was confiscated at LAX in 2018.

Now Trager is growing the cactus at the Huntington, along with several other confiscated plants, in order to sell them to the public.

The Huntington recently joined a global working group focused on promoting responsible practices in the nursery industry. "When these plants are taken, it's an indication that there is a demand. We can't stop the demand, but we can provide a sustainable source," Trager said.



Hortense Miller Garden

Stag Horn Fern Workshop

Learn to mount a Stag Horn Fern on redwood to hang in your home or garden.

Saturday, October 12, 2024

10am - 11am At the Hortense Miller Garden, Laguna Beach

Materials Fee: \$20

Cash or check payable to: Friends of the Hortense Miller Garden, Inc.

Registration Required.

To Register e-mail diane.lannon@gmail.com



Karen Nelson

Honeybees and the Importance of our Garden Club Community

Here at the Laguna Beach Garden Club we strive to engage with the garden club members in much the same way a beekeeper engages with her bees. As the beekeeper, our job is to provide a little direct support to the bees (you), some extra food here, and a little water there, and keeping track of the bigger context like planting a variety of nectar-flowing flowers to provide a safe and protected area for the bees to live. Aside from this assistance, the bees do everything else. They identify their own problems and make key decisions based on the will of the collective (the Board and members who vote them in).

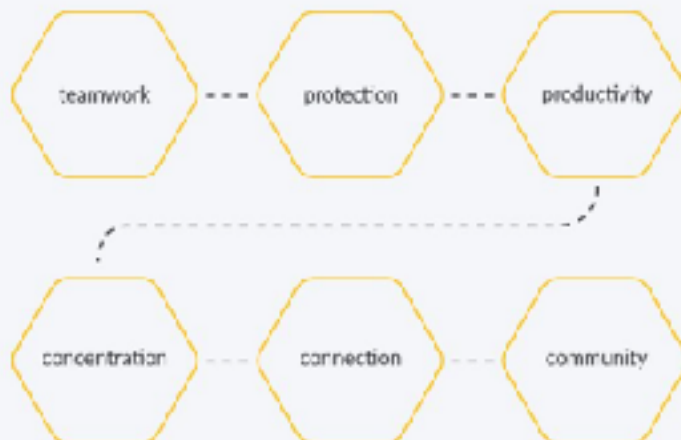
Having a purpose in life and being productive is the hallmark of a life well lived. In an eight-decade study of longevity, researchers found that people who were continually productive were healthier and lived longer than their less-driven peers.

Bees don't need tips for productivity, they are hardworking, thus successful. In their brilliance they live in colonies and are unable to exist alone. Their hives are the best example of highly organized, harmonious social structures. Each bee performing a different task, but all tasks are coordinated: Honeybees work in such synchronicity that their levels are not imaginable for

humans! Honeybees show greater generosity and breathtaking ability to share. Bees teach us that it is possible to be warm, caring, sensitive and passionate, strong, fierce at the same time as being incredibly productive.

Bee colonies are very complicated social structures, but what is visible at a first glance is the fairness of the

Honey bee prescription for a good life



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organization. There are no privileges in the hive. The highest goal of the collective is the survival of the **entire hive, not the well-being of one, singular insect.**

As a society and as a non-profit community service organization we have much to learn from our beautiful fuzzy friends. So, my gift to you this month is a prescription for a good life. The best way to get the most out of your garden club membership is to **get involved!** What do you get out of getting involved? You will expand your friend network. I decided to count

the number of people that I regularly interact with that I met since I joined the garden club. It is a whopping 38 people! I would not have these wonderful people in my life had I not joined...and jumped in. You will meet some very interesting people of whom you would have never crossed paths lest you had become a member of LBGC. Experts report that when you focus on someone other than yourself, it interrupts usual tension-producing patterns. It activates the reward center of your brain and releases serotonin,

dopamine and endorphins. You will get happy!

So, pick up the phone or email **Lynn Jax** and boldly state that you want a task in this beautiful hive that we call the Laguna Beach Garden Club and see how your life improves!
lynnmjax@icloud.com



September Meeting

Special Administrator of Hospitality **Elizabeth Chapel** thanks **Mary Lewis** for her centerpiece that decorated the September treat table. Our new **Gift Shop** also debuted during the social hour before the meeting. **Susan South & Georgia Zachariah** proudly display the LBGC merch that is available for purchase at every meeting.



That's a Lot of Eggs!

Holy cow, did you bring a lot of egg cartons last month! A whopping 373, plus over the summer **Mary Lewis** collected and delivered 65 from her Bayside Village neighbors. All totaled we are starting the year off with **438**. Anne Belyea, ED of the Food Pantry is thrilled!

Maybe your neighbors are egg eaters, too, and you can bring theirs on Oct 11? With each one we deliver we help the environment by giving them a second life and save \$0.45 for the Pantry. And it makes us feel *GOOD*!

This year my goal was 1,700. But with this terrific start I've decided to stretch us to 2,000. Seems reachable if you ask all your neighbors to pitch in.

Remember to stack them and bring only cartons with lids, plastic or paper are both welcome. Food donations are always welcome, too. And if you are so inclined I will make sure to pass along any checks made out to the **Laguna Food Pantry** from you.

See you in October! -Jane Leary



Count the Bees Contest

We will hold a monthly contest in each Newsletter - here is the October Contest.

I challenge to count the number of times the word “**BEE**” appears in the Newsletter.
Have fun with this.

Submit your guess to: lynnmjax@icloud.com **NO LATER THAN Thursday, October 10, by 5PM**, and be entered to win a drawing for a prize.

Winner announced and prize awarded at the October 11 meeting. **YOU MUST BEE PRESENT TO WIN.**

I sincerely hope more than one of you accepts the challenge.

-Lynn Jax



Ocean Clean-Up Day

The Laguna Ocean Foundation and city of Laguna Beach Police Department hosted a coastal cleanup event on Saturday, September 21 on Main Beach from 9am to noon. There were at least a dozen different organizations represented. Lots of young people and adults used buckets, gloves, and trash grabber to collect items. Even a group of students from Beckman High School in Tustin made the trek down to the beach to get involved. When a bucket was filled, participants brought it to a tarp for items to be logged in. 137 pounds of trash was collected. It was a great day to get out and meet many others in the community. **Lynn Jax, Nancy Englund, Mary Sanchez, and Brian & Mary Jones** attended.



From top left: Students from Beckman HS participating in the collection day, check in for the trash collected, dump site of the trash, the Laguna Beach garden Club booth with Mary Sanchez, Nancy Englund, and Lynn Jax.



Weed Killer Alternative

While Nancy Englund,, and I were at the Ocean Clean-up on Saturday, September 21, we discussed an alternative to using – the evil, nasty, cancer-causing Round-Up to kill those pesky weeds. We even consulted Google then decided to ask someone who actually uses the alternative - the gardener that Nancy and I use.

Here is his recipe: Add to a gallon of water:

- 2 teaspoons of salt
- 2 teaspoons of white vinegar
- 1 ounce of Dawn liquid dish soap

Add to spray container and spray directly ONLY on the weeds. DO NOT use on flowers, grass, or any plants. It is meant to KILL weeds, which means it will kill your plants, grass, flowers, etc. In a few days the weeds will shrivel up and die, then pick them to get rid of them.

Now if you don't have a gallon-sized container – adjust the proportions accordingly to fit the size container you have. I'm not sure of the shelf-life of the concoction, but it's worth a try.

Here's what our search found:

What is best alternative to weed killer?

A solution of vinegar, salt and dish soap can be a cheap and effective tool against weeds. Even in the best of plots, weeds will grow. And why wouldn't they? You've provided inviting soil and the sun shines on even the most reviled plant.

Submitted by Lynn Jax



P.O. Box 362

Laguna Beach, CA 92652

www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

For additional pictures of Laguna Beach Garden Club activities and information, go to our wonderful web site produced by Kari Nies

<https://www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org/events/club-albums/>