

VOL. 20



GROWING & GIVING

# Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



DECEMBER 2024

MEMBER NEWS

Sowing Seeds of Wonder through  
a Community of Gardeners.

*"The meaning of life is to find your gift.  
The purpose of life is to give it away."*

-Pablo Picasso

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

We have had a busy start of the Club season and we haven't even had the *Gate & Garden Tour* yet! This vibrant organization is the result of its members who give their time freely and with passion. Wow are so lucky! The article in the link below is about Garden Trends for 2025. I liked: Fire Resistant Gardening, Low-Water Landscapes, Focus on Mental Well-Being in the Garden, but my all time favorite was Redefining Perfection: Finding Harmony in a Less Tidy Garden. I plan to stop & smell the roses more in 2025 and not worry so much if I have trimmed to bushes correctly.

I wish you very Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year of gardening ahead!

Gardening Trends 2025

[https://www.gardendesign.com/trends/2025.html?utm\\_source=article-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Trends-11-14-24](https://www.gardendesign.com/trends/2025.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Trends-11-14-24)

COME JOIN IN  
THE FUN

## Events This Month

### General Meeting Dec. 13



**Katie Tilford**  
*The WWW of Wildflowers*

Laguna  
Presbyterian  
Church  
(see page 3)

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

### Trips & Tours Dec. 13

**Annual Holiday Member Tour**  
(see page 6)



## President's Message

# Sowing Dreams, Harvesting Community!

The Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano is truly delightful & one of a kind! I thoroughly enjoyed my first visit and can't believe the many things this center offers to their community and its garden. Not only is The Ecology Center a 28-acre Regenerative Organic Certified Farm and education center for all ages, but it also has a rustic organic market and quaint café. During my visit we walked through the gardens smelling the amazing aroma of freshly picked herbs, the sound of children's laughter, helped pass out carrots to the after-school program while they said thank you in sign language and then grabbed a coffee and some amazing freshly baked sourdough bread. I'm looking forward to exploring their many offerings and returning to the market soon! I can't wait to bring home some more sourdough bread, homemade jelly, and organic produce. I love that the center is nourishing the community in so many ways, through farming, educating, celebrating, and connecting with people. I'll be back soon; I hope to see you there!

As the days grow shorter and the crisp cool air signals me to take out my cozy sweaters, I am reminded to take a deep breath and appreciate the beauty

around me and the joy ahead with family and friends. I enjoy decorating with traditional seasonal plants such as poinsettias which symbolize humility and generosity, and Christmas Cactus, a symbol of resilience and beauty.

As many of us take time to reflect and celebrate with the people we care for, I hope you find some quiet moments of peace and solitude.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season filled with laughter and love!

Warmest wishes!

*-Mary Sanchez*





## December Speaker

# Katie Tilford- The WWW of Wildflowers

**C**alifornia Native Wildflowers  
**Katie Tilford** is the assistant Director of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants in Sun Valley, California. The Theodore Payne Foundation inspires and educates Southern Californians about the beauty and ecological benefits of California Native Landscapes.



Katie is an Orange County native, a certified horticulturist and passionate about popularizing botanical knowledge. Katie leads botanical courses at the Foundation's beautiful twenty acre nursery and speaks regionally about the Foundation's beautiful twenty acre nursery and speaks regionally about the Foundation's gardens, nursery, classes and resources. Her first fundraising experience was at her college radio station, KUCI in Irvine, doing the annual

fund drive to support their operations. She started working at Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants in 2020 out of a love for gardens and nature. She got contacted COVID and her slow recovery prevented her from keeping up with the physical aspects of the job. Confined to a desk, she started looking into the administrative side of things, and found ways to improve their customer database and membership/donation processes. "Being in Los Angeles and having an amazing community of plant lovers, we are lucky to have lots of chance interactions that can lead up to bigger things. For example, pro skater Lizzie Armanto started visiting our nursery in the last couple of years, and that led to us releasing a skateboard deck with her that features native plants and animals. At the same time, we are keeping some old traditions from our 60+ year history alive, like our Wildflower Hotline which is currently in its 41st year. **For us, it's important to strike a balance of much-loved traditions and new opportunities that still align with the mission.**"

## Find the Christmas Bees Contest

We've hidden a number of Christmas Bees (like this one pictured below) somewhere in this Weeder's Digest. Count how many you find and submit your guess to: [lynnmjax@icloud.com](mailto:lynnmjax@icloud.com) NO LATER THAN December 11 by 5PM and be entered to win a drawing for a prize.

Winner to be announced and the prize awarded at the December 13 meeting.

**YOU MUST BEE PRESENT TO WIN**



**Susan South** was the winner of the November "Identify the Board Member" Contest. **Lynn Jax** presented her a gift card for her efforts.

## You Need a Bee in your Bonnet!

The term “to have a bee in your bonnet” is an idiom that means to be preoccupied with something that you can’t stop thinking or talking about. I’m using the saying because I love to have bees in each of these articles and I need to speak to all of you about hats. Specifically, the *Gate & Garden Tour Hat Contest*.

We are so fortunate to have so many new members that I thought I should give this topic a quick refresh for both our new and seasoned members. We added a Hat Contest to the Gate & Garden Tour 2 years ago after having a lovely woman attend the tour in the most magnificent hat! I ran over to Susan and said, we need to encourage hat-wearing Kentucky Derby Style with everyone who comes to the tour! She was all in and thus, the tradition began.

Now I am speaking to our incredible hive, that means **YOU!** We need a person to chair the committee that runs the *Gate & Garden Tour Hat Contest*. This entails having a booth on tour day, coming up with the 3 categories of the

contest, photographing each lovely contestant, and then working with the 3 selected judges to choose the winner at the end of tour day. This job is all fun and excitement for sure. **Susan Denton** will walk you through everything you need to know and make it a blast for you and your friends. Do not hesitate, just jump in and say yes! You will find out that it is the most fun you have had all year!

At our February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting we have our *Valentine Plant & Planter Sale, Open House and Boutique*. All those things are fun and wonderful but even more exciting, is that you can get a discount on your *Gate & Garden Tour* ticket **on that day only!** Tickets will be on sale for

members to purchase with either cash or check for \$50! That is a savings of over \$10+ from the Eventbrite price that will be charged to the public. You may buy tickets for yourself and your friends at that price, but **only on this day** and only with **cash or check**.

Show your true productive bee personality and contact **Susan Denton** at [cnnpinca@yahoo.com](mailto:cnnpinca@yahoo.com) and let her know that you are ready to be part of the Tour Hive!

-Karen Nelson



## *Tis the Season For Giving to Others*

The Garden Club will be collecting donations for Spark of Love Toy Drive. At the December 13 meeting, there will be a table inside Tankersley Hall for you to drop off new, unwrapped toys or sports equipment. We will drop off the toys at the Fire Station after the meeting.

The Laguna Beach Fire Department, in partnership with Southern California Firefighters and ABC7, is again taking part in the annual “Spark of Love” Toy Drive. The campaign collects new, unwrapped toys and sports equipment for underserved children and teens in Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura, and Riverside counties. Toys collected in the respective counties are distributed locally.

This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the Firefighters’ “Spark of Love” campaign, which will run through December 24. The Laguna Beach Fire Department has been involved since the program’s inception.

Any new, unwrapped toy must be in its original packaging or box. Sports equipment (balls, tennis racquets, baseball bats, etc.) is not required to have a box or package. The fire department cannot distribute clothing, personal care items, blankets, etc. The toy drive cannot accept clothing, personal care items, or blankets.

Items for older children are in high demand.

Or if you so choose you can drop off your new, unwrapped toys or sports equipment to any of Laguna Beach’s four fire stations through December 24.

*Drop off toys or sports items at these four Laguna Beach Fire Stations:*

Fire Station 1: 501 Forest Ave

Fire Station 2: 285 Agate St

Fire Station 3: 2900 Alta Laguna Blvd

Fire Station 4: 31646 2nd Ave





# Annual Holiday Home Tour

The LB Garden Club Holiday Home Tour is coming up! Three of our members in North Laguna have generously offered to share their homes and gardens for the holidays.

When: December 13, 2024

When: 2pm to 5pm

Where:

1. 445 Linden – Shirley Matthews Jagels
2. 380 Aster – Marilyn Alexander
3. 490 Myrtle – Patricia Weier

We would appreciate it if some of you would start at home 3, some at home 2, and some at home 1 to help with parking and congestion. Homes 1 and 2 are within walking distance for those of you trying to get your steps in!

*-Mary Jones*



# Members That Make Our Club Special

## *Name Tag Winner*

New member in 2024, **Linda Martin**'s name was drawn by **Lynn Jax** as the lucky name tag wearer in November. Her prize was a fun Mermaid themed spoon rest. Make sure you have your tag on at the next meeting to be eligible for a fun gift.



## *Volunteer of the Month*

**Dalynn Malek** was selected at the Volunteer of the Month in November. A member since 2013, Dalynn is the Editor of the Weeder's Digest, as well as the Organizer of the Plein Air Painters for the Gate & Garden Tour. Vice President **Blair Contratto** presented Dalynn with a Bee themed water bottle as a token of our appreciation for her continuing efforts.



## *Fall Decor Graces the Treat Table in November*

**Lorna Paugh**'s creativity got us in the autumn spirit with her wonderful table scape for the treat table at our November meeting. The fall colored natural foliage added a warm touch to the table scape. Lorna has been a member since 2022.





## Scenes from the November meeting





# Membership Update

**W**elcome to November! I am pleased to announce that we now have **242** members as of November 11, 2024.

Our next meeting is December 13, with social time beginning at 9:30 am and the business meeting starting promptly at 10 am, with another fabulous presenter as part of our Speaker Series. December is always a fun meeting with a Holiday raffle happening, where you can purchase tickets to win fabulous gift items for yourself or someone special. Tickets are \$5 for one ticket or 7 tickets for \$20. And we hold our Annual Holiday Member Tour on the same day, from 2 pm to 5 pm, visiting homes & gardens of members. It is truly a special time to share holiday cheer and get to know other members. Be sure to let Mary Jones know you are coming: E: [ibjones@cox.net](mailto:ibjones@cox.net).

If you have not picked up your 2024-2025 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 November, 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.

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](mailto:lynnmjax@icloud.com) or cell: 949-294-1500.

- Lynn Jax, Director of Membership

## Gardening Opportunities

Do you love to garden? Would you like to make some new friends gardening? Do you feel like you don't know what you are really doing, but would be willing to learn with your team?

Then come be part of one of our garden teams. We need help on both the Pocket Park Team (across from the Post Office on Forest) and the Rose Garden Team (the garden in front of the Presbyterian Church). I will place you on a team that does that garden once a month, and it takes 1-2 hours each time. The day and time is determined by your team, so there is a lot of flexibility. It is a lot of fun!!!

Please contact Monica Thompson if interested. My number is (949)702-1429, and email is [mmehren9@gmail.com](mailto:mmehren9@gmail.com).

-Monica Thompson- Pocket Park & Rose Garden Special Administrator



## Kindness Shown & Felt 55 Years Later

**T**here are times that we have wondered if the little acts of volunteering make a difference. I know that I have pondered this many times. In the ordinary task of checking the inquiries into the Laguna Beach Garden Club's website we received an email from a gentleman thanking us for our service back in 1969!

**Doug Pugh** is a veteran of the Vietnam war who returned from service in 1969. Veterans who returned from Vietnam often faced a difficult homecoming, experiencing a lack of public support and sometimes hostility, as the war was highly divisive in American society, leading to many feeling isolated and struggling to readjust to civilian life; unlike veterans from other wars, they were typically not greeted with parades or celebratory welcomes, often being seen as a reminder of a "lost" war.

Doug had enlisted at the age of 17 in his home state of Kansas where the arrangement was that if you enlisted at 17 you could be finished with your service in 2 years. Doug did one year in the United States and one year in Vietnam. Thankfully Doug made it home in 1969. At that time returning veterans came through the El Toro Airbase upon returning to the US. When Doug and the other veterans got off the plane there were many ladies of the **Laguna Beach Garden Club** to greet the arriving soldiers. Doug said that he and the other men were thrilled to be received with so much warmth and love.

Doug described the feelings that he got from the woman club members that greeted all the men felt like these women were greeting their own sons back from the war. The anxiety he and the other men had felt about returning was washed away with the love and joy that these ladies showed.

The Laguna Beach Garden Club is no stranger to getting involved with patriotic efforts. In 1942 when the country was deep into World War II, the ladies of the garden club placed all their efforts into enthusiastically getting the town to dig victory gardens. In 1944 when men returned from war injured the club worked on succulent gardens for the bed-side tables for the disabled in the SAAAB hospital. The club also sponsored collections of shrubs and quick growing trees for landscaping the Air Corp replacement Training Center in Costa Mesa.

Doug sent the email to say thanks for what the club had done for him. He said he wished he had done it sooner, but the members of the current generation of LBGC members are thrilled that he waited 55 years so that they could have the excitement of knowing his great story. The Laguna Beach Garden Club says, "Doug, thank you for your service"!

*-Nancy Englund*





## Laguna Beach Garden Club Participates in Laguna Art Museum's "Upcycled" Couture Fashion Show

The Laguna Beach Garden Club has had the good fortune to work closely with Laguna Beach Art Museum (LAM) in the past on their Art & Nature Series. When we were asked to be one of the non-profits whose mission statements would be exemplified in the design of a couture garment, it was a great match. Robin Rundle, the museum's education coordinator explained that a designer would be assigned to each non-profit and asked to interpret the organization's mission statement in their design.

Erica Patapoff, a graduate of FIDM and current Disney designer, was chosen for our club. It was a match made in heaven due to her incredible skills and her love of botanicals for healing. When her gown was on the runway with its hand-dyed leaf green hue and ethereal wood nymph qualities, the audience knew it had to be the garden club. In the packed house runway show, it was the showstopper! Katherine Story, creative director and sustainability advocate in Laguna Beach, was the sole judge. Erica's gown won the "Best Interpretation of a Mission Statement".

Over 25 members of the garden club attended the sold-out event on November 2. LAM already has plans to repeat this successful event in 2025.

*-Karen Nelson*



## Special Administrates Attend a Party at the Ecology Center

On Thursday November 7, the Special Administrators were invited to attend a late afternoon party, which included a 40-minute tour of the vegetable garden & surrounding areas at the Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano, given by Johnny Wilson, the speaker at the November 8 meeting. Johnny highlighted the mission of the Ecology Center. About 30 of us attended and enjoyed the brisk early evening. The Board added this event as a “thank you” to those who go the extra mile for club. There will be a Trips & Tours planned for the Ecology Center, stayed tuned for further details.

*-Lynn Jax*





## HOLIDAY SEASON RAFFLE

We will be holding our winter raffle to welcome the Holidays at the December 13th meeting. Some of the covetable items include:

- Gorjana Jewelry gift certificate
- Two Holiday Gift Baskets curated by Mae Ho
- Garden Pottery from Laguna Iguana
- Marion Paquette Maison Handbag
- Succulent Wreath by Jeanne Yale

Come prepared with cash, check or credit card (one ticket for \$5 or seven tickets for \$20). Several Garden Club members will be selling tickets before the meeting and credit card sales are available at the Treasurer's Table in Tankersley Hall.

**Don't hesitate to be an early bird since the drawing is held prior to the speaker's presentation.**

Thank you all who generously donated items and Happy Holiday Winnings!

*-Vicky Adam-Cuccia Raffle Administrator Team*



### Need a last minute holiday gift?

Stop by the Gift Shop during our December meeting and take a look at our new merchandise.

As promised we have long sleeve gloves in size medium.

Why not give one of our very own calendars or gift cards or our hats and aprons?

We will even gift wrap for free!  
See you December 13 before, during, and after the meeting.

Merry Christmas from the  
Gift Shop Staff



## LBGC shows our generous nature to Laguna Food Pantry!

In addition to the 245 egg cartons we collected at our November meeting, we also provided 276 lbs of food and \$465 in cash! So proud of you all for supporting families in need in our community.

Our club year-to-date egg carton total is **847**. No doubt with the high baking season in full swing you'll have plenty more to donate at our December 13 meeting.

Reminder plastic or cardboard cartons are welcome as long as they have lids.

*-Jane Leary*



November 11, 2024

Nancy Englund and Mary Sanchez  
Presidents, Laguna Beach Garden Club  
P.O. Box 362  
Laguna Beach, CA 92652

Dear Garden Club Members and Friends,

Laguna Food Pantry is so grateful for Laguna Beach Garden Club's food donations.

**The Garden Club collected 276 lbs of food!**

These donations allow the Pantry to remain open and respond to the increased and immediate needs of so many in our community - the elderly, veterans, disabled, homeless, and part- and full-time workers who struggle to recover financially and feed their family.

Your generous donations help provide food to many more of our newly vulnerable and needy neighbors. Thank you for being part of a group that is making an immediate and positive impact in our community.

We truly appreciate your support!

Sincerely Yours,

*Maurice Baz*

Maurice Baz  
Program and Development Manager

*Thank you!*



## Growing & Giving

On November 15 Past President **Jane Leary** delivered a \$1500 grant to **Joe Stead and Magali Martinez** of Orange Coast College for gardening supplies to support the 200-250 students in OCC's horticulture program.

Students can earn certificates 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 OCC horticulture department is a beautiful 1.5 acres filled 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 where 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.

Joe Stead and his team were *thrilled* with our donation which will go a long way in helping insure their students' success.

*-Jane Leary*



## LBGC Receives Awards From the Beautification Council and The Daughters of the American Revolution

The goal of the Beautification Council is to inspire beauty that benefits the community. Awards go to homeowners, trees, gardens, developments, remodeling projects, artists, and individuals who have consistently played a role in preserving the history and beauty of Laguna Beach. Not only was "The Good of the Hive®" mural recognized at the well-attended award celebration on October 24 at Seven 7 Seven, but the Garden Club was also selected as a winner for its contributions to the community. A full table of club board members and representatives from the water district enjoyed a taco buffet and stories about the award winners. "Clearly, the council has been paying attention to our work, as several of the homes that received awards have been featured on the Gate & Garden Tour", stated Laguna Beach Garden Club Co-President Nancy England. The Garden Club has been in existence for nearly 100 years and has always had its mission to serve the community as not only a social and education club, but to be of service through education, scholarships and community projects. In early October the club received an award from The Daughters of the American Revolution for the inspiring message and beauty that the bee mural brings to Laguna Beach as well as the dedication and service of the members. "We are honored and humbled by the recognition that the club has been receiving," stated Nancy."

*-Karen Nelson*



## Open Garden- Susan South Opens her Beautiful Garden for All to Enjoy

Spontaneous Susan realized that their delightful garden was in full bloom and decided it was time to invite the Garden Club and friends. November 3rd was a perfect sunny day when we came to enjoy the garden. The hibiscus were huge. Tell us your secret for such amazing blooms, Susan! It was delightful to sit in the bougainvillea covered arbor while we were enjoying the company and refreshments. The potted bright orange marigolds on the porch added a bright touch.

*-Mary Koebler*





Looking for the perfect gift for that special someone? Share the experience and make it a day of fun.  
Give tickets to our fabulous 2025 Gate & Garden Tour.

Tickets are on sale at Eventbrite beginning 12/1/2024,  
there is a link on the LBGC website.

Thank you to our major sponsors:  
Laguna Beach Water District, Whole Foods, Julie Laughton,  
and Mae & Harris Ho

*Laguna Beach Garden Club's*  
**Gate & Garden Tour**



**First Saturday in May**  
*Tour tickets make a great gift!*

#holidaygiftideas #gardentours #thingstodoinmay



PO Box 362 • Laguna Beach, CA 92652

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

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