



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



NOVEMBER 2025

MEMBER NEWS

"Serve Our Community, Protect Our Planet & Share the Love of Gardening"

"When you are reluctant to change, think of the beauty of autumn." -VV Brown

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

The Holidays are upon us and time is at a premium. Between cooking, entertaining, and shopping for gifts, the next two months will offer little time for work in your garden. *Better Homes & Gardens* is helping to solve this problem by providing a list of plants that do not need to be trimmed in the fall. These 12 plants thrive on a little neglect and give us more time to enjoy the next two crazy months. SO kick up your feet!

<https://www.bhg.com/plants-not-to-cut-back-in-fall-7970669?>

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COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Nov. 14

Hannah Muller

Designing With Dried Flowers
(see page 3)

9:30 am:
Social/
Plant Table
in the patio

10:00 am:
General
meeting &
guest
speaker.



Green Thumb Craft

No Green Thumb Craft this month,
see you January 16th!



President's Message

More Ways To Save The Planet!

Global warming is a major issue, and each of us can help solve it. My aha moment for switching to reusable shopping bags came when I saw my friend's collection of bags used to bring in groceries, stacked by the door, ready to return to the car for reuse. Now it feels natural to me. At



the grocery store, choose products with biodegradable packaging. That cardboard box of laundry detergent is gentler on the planet than a large plastic jug. But if you need liquid detergent, refill the plastic jug at Eco Now in the Lumberyard Mall or Ritual Refill in North Laguna. To develop the habit of refilling—shampoos, dish soap, laundry soap—start with one room. Switching to refillable hand and dish soaps is a



simple change. Most stores provide clean, eco-friendly glass containers, but to truly close the loop, bring your own empty bottle. The more dedicated eco-warrior can try toothpaste tablets, which avoid plastic tubes, and bar shampoo, which has almost no packaging.



Flying pests bugging you indoors? Let spiders help. A few spiders in your home, quietly knitting in the corners, are a great, non-toxic way to control winged pests like mosquitoes, clothes moths, and flies. Usually, venomous spiders are very shy; the spiders you see spinning cobwebs in the corner are completely harmless to humans. Before you vacuum away that spider, check the pile of insect corpses below her web and recognize what a good job she's doing to protect you from flying pests. Sometimes, doing less means you are doing more to help the planet.

-Nancy Englund President

Hortense Miller Garden – Farmer's Market Booth

November 16

from 8am – noon.

Laguna Beach Farmer's Market –

Garden Art and Container Gardens Sale

Help is needed for set up and take down if you have an hour to give from

7:00am – 8:00am set-up

8:00am – 12:00pm
meet patrons at the Farmer's Market

11:45am-12:15pm
take down

Contact Diane Lannon at
diane.lannon@gmail.com or
949-374-2696

To schedule a visit to the mid-century modern house, wild hillside garden and art exhibit, go online to www.lagunabeachcity.net or call 949-464-6645 to book a Hortense Miller Garden tour most Thursdays and Saturdays.



November Guest Speaker

Learning About The Field To Vase Movement

Hannah Muller will be speaking on the topic of “Designing with Dried flowers.”

Hannah is a flower farmer and florist in Northern California. She harnesses the beauty of blooms to create everlasting works of art. Having been born and raised on Full Belly Farm in beautiful Capay Valley in Northern California, she leans into the legacy of the farm to let sustainability flourish. Full Belly grows over 350 acres of certified organic fruits, vegetables, animals and flowers. Fifteen acres are devoted to cut flowers, selling primarily through their farmers markets, to wholesale buyers, local stores and restaurant. Hannah creates floral arrangements that mimic the surrounding landscape using the fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers grown on Full Belly Farm to create unique and wild garden style designs for weddings and events. She also makes wreathes and textural



installations with the flowers they dry in Full Belly Farms’ Wreath Room and incorporates dried flowers into her other designs along with fresh flowers. Over the last decade, she has helped to pioneer the Field-To-Vase movement in Northern California, reminding supporters of local organic farming to not only eat local produce but to enjoy locally grown flowers as well.

Hannah is the author of *Designing with Dried Flowers* and has been featured in *Sunset* magazine in June 2024.

Please join us on Friday November 14, 2025, at 09:30-10:00AM for



social time and refreshments, meeting begins promptly at 10:00AM. 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.

No parking in the Church parking. Plenty of street parking available.

[#driedflowers](#) [#gardenclubs](#)
[#thingstodowhenyouareretired](#)
[#emptynesters](#)
[#joinagardenclub](#)

- Blair Contratto Co-Vice President



Gardening 101 for November 2025

The topic for November will be: CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

We hope all participants of our last month's presentation on 'Soils' enjoyed the topic and benefitted from the presentation. Please join us after our November 14th LBGC meeting for our second Gardening 101 class. For interested members, we will meet after our regular meeting out in the patio area and the educational meeting will last for 30-45 minutes including questions. All sessions will be presented by Master Gardeners, **Ingrid Cebula, Wendy Grande, Nora Koenig, and Melissa Rapp.**

Southern California native plants are uniquely adapted to our region's climates, especially the warm, dry conditions characteristic of Southern California. These plants have evolved to thrive with minimal water, making them ideal for sustainable landscaping in an area often affected by drought. By incorporating native plants, gardeners can support local food webs and habitats, providing essential shelter and food for native birds, pollinators, and other wildlife. In doing so, native plant gardens help preserve biodiversity and the ecological balance that has developed over thousands of years.

Despite these benefits, there is still some resistance to using native plants in urban and suburban landscapes. Many people are accustomed to lush, green lawns and ornamental plants that require significant irrigation and maintenance, and they may view (often incorrectly) native gardens as less manicured or aesthetically appealing. Additionally, these plants often have specific soil, sunlight, and spacing needs. However, as awareness grows about water conservation, habitat restoration, and the importance of native ecosystems, native plants are being chosen more as both a practical and ecologically responsible choice for the future.

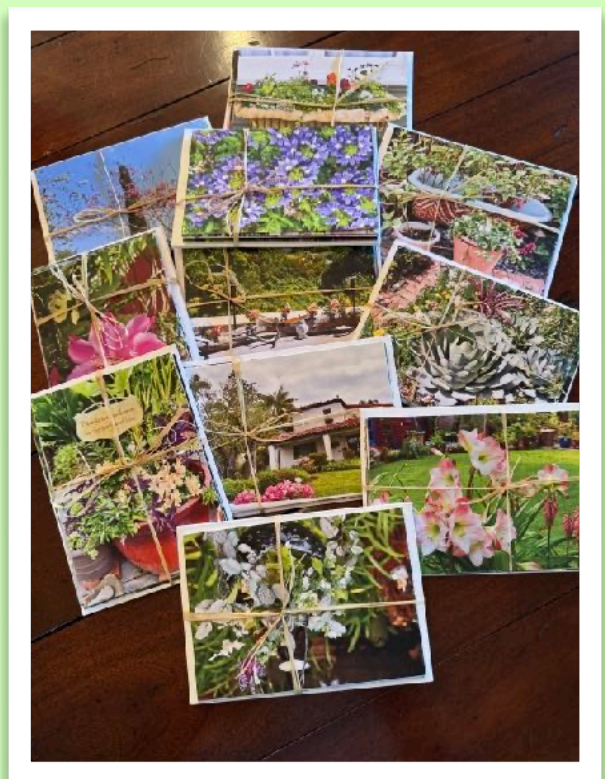
Please join us. Whether you have ever thought of yourself as California native plant fan or not, you might be surprised by what you learn. You might come away a fan!

Gift Shop

Beautiful greeting cards from our
Gate & Garden Tour 2025

Two separate sets of six cards of various photos taken
by **Perry Stampfel during the Tour.** are the
perfect hostess gift. Priced at \$20.00 with envelopes
included.

Stop by the Gift Shop to purchase while supply lasts



Membership Update

Welcome to November! I am pleased to announce that we now have **241** members as of October 26, 2025.

Our next meeting is November 14, 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. If you have not picked up your **2025-2026 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 October and don't have it yet, it will be ready for pick up along with those of you who ordered a replacement or spare name tag.

Our annual **New Member Luncheon** was held on Friday, October 17 at Tankersley Hall with 25 new members attending with 16 others, including 8 board members, 5 Special Administrators, and 2 members of the GROW committee, who also provided all the food, and everyone helped with clean-up. Mary Lewis enlisted her husband Tom to be the photographer.

A **New Member Introduction** will come out as a separate edition of the "The Weeder's Digest" newsletter later this month which will include a short biography of the new member, accompanied by a photo that way you will all get to learn more about them. Please introduce yourself to welcome the newest members of our hive. New members can be easily identified by a BEE sticker on their name tag.



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



New Member Luncheon 2025



Something Wonderful is Taking Root...Gate & Garden Tour 2026!



The days are growing crisp, pumpkins are appearing on porches, and as the leaves turn golden, the Laguna Beach Garden Club is planting the seeds for something special—our **Gate & Garden Tour 2026!** 

Preparations are already underway, and we can't wait to share Laguna's most enchanting gardens with you next spring.

Tickets – A Fall Harvest Deal!

Tickets are already available on Eventbrite, but here's a bonus for members:

At our February 13th Club meeting, you can purchase **discounted tickets (cash or check only)**.

-  **\$50 General Timed Entry**
-  **\$70 VIP Ticket** (includes 1 food + 1 drink ticket to keep you refreshed during your stroll)






"Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly—making way for something new to grow."

Help It Grow – Volunteer or Lead!

We're looking for **spirited members** to chair key committees:

- **Sponsorships:** Grow support (\$25–\$3,000)
- **Brochure Ads:** Invite local businesses to join (\$100–\$500)
- **Security:** Keep our guests safe and smiling

Not ready to lead? There are plenty of ways to pitch in:


 Serve refreshments  Be a garden docent  Help with the Hat Contest
 Mix and mingle at the bar  Join the setup & teardown crew

"Many hands make light work—and a beautiful tour!"

Be Part of the Bloom

The Gate & Garden Tour isn't just about gardens—it's about **community, creativity, and connection**.

Whether you buy a ticket, bake cookies, volunteer for a shift, or chair a committee, you're helping this beloved tradition thrive.

Let's make **Gate & Garden Tour 2026** the most beautiful one yet—rooted in friendship and glowing with fall spirit. 

-Susan Denton

Director, Gate & Garden Tour

Which comes first - the egg or the egg carton?

Our LBGC members and families eat the eggs and you generously donate the cartons! Last month our count was 155, bringing our Club year- to-date total to 637. Nice work! Maybe your neighbors are egg eaters, too, and you can bring theirs on Nov 14? With each one we donate we help the environment by giving them a second life and save \$0.45 for the Pantry. And it makes us feel SO GOOD! Remember to open and stack them and bring only clean PAPER cartons with lids. They can no longer use the plastic ones.


In addition to our monthly egg carton drive, November is our annual food drive/money drive month. It's especially impactful this year as the Pantry serves more than 300 families per day. Canned goods such as peanut butter, pasta sauce, canned fish, canned beans, dry pasta and beans and other vegetables are always welcome. And staples like ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise. Check the dates if you're pulling off your kitchen shelves and don't bring anything that's expired. You can also bring checks (made out to Laguna Beach Food Pantry) and cash and I will make sure these make it to the Pantry. Monetary donations are particularly welcome as the Pantry buys food wholesale making your dollars go further. Everything we do for the Pantry is appreciated so very much by their staff, volunteers and the families in need. LBGC is making a lasting impact in the lives of so many!

Thank you and see you all November 14!

-Jane Leary



We believe no one should go hungry.



**LAGUNA
FOOD
PANTRY**

SEEKING YOUR DONATION

**THE PANTRY'S
BIG 7**

Canned Proteins*
Tuna | Salmon | Chicken | Beans

Breakfast Cereal*

Peanut Butter

Pasta & Pasta Sauce

Rice


Dried Beans

Soup


**Most requested items*

THANK YOU!


www.lagunafoodpantry.org | info@lagunafoodpantry.org
20652 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
(949) 497-7121



@lagunafoodpantry



@lagunafoodpantry



@lagunapantry

Holiday Raffle



The elves are getting the Holiday Raffle ready for the December 12 meeting.

A list of items we already have donated are:

- Succulent Wreath by Jeanne Yale
- Holiday Basket by Mae Ho
- Gift Card to Laguna Coast Pottery
- Paperwhite Planting Kit from Roger's Gardens

If you have any wonderful items you would like to donate, ideas or know a vendor who would be interested in donating please contact seevic@icloud.com or call/text 949-439-7567.

Thank you!

-Vicky Adams-Cuccia



“Just Do Two” — Get Involved and Grow with Us!

There's something new sprouting—the **Volunteer Table**! This is your chance to connect, contribute, and make a difference in our club and community.

We're encouraging every member to **“Just Do Two”** — two volunteer activities this year. Whether it's helping at a meeting, joining a garden workday, or lending a hand at a community project, every bit helps our club thrive.

Volunteering is also one of the best ways to meet fellow members, share your talents, and feel part of the “Good of the Hive.”

Stop by the Volunteer Table at the November meeting. The table will be on the patio between the treats and gift shop. Sign-up for something that fits your interests and schedule. Sign up to **Just Do Two**!



What Do Bees and Fashion Have in Common???

Sustainable fashion and bees thrive on a healthy and balanced ecosystem, while conventional industry harms them.

Sustainable fashion and bees are connected through their shared reliance on healthy ecosystems and the devastating impact that conventional, non-sustainable practices have on both. Bees are not only the ecological indicator of environmental health but also play a critical role in the production of natural fibers used in clothing.

I am so proud of the wonderful designer that has been chosen by **Laguna Art Museum** to represent the **Laguna Beach Garden Club's** mission statement in her design. **Natalya Sokolenko** born and raised in Ukraine. She moved with her husband and 2 daughters to California in 2012.

Natalya obtained her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in International Economic Relations while in Ukraine. While taking care of her family and trying to make a career in the field office, she decided to pursue her childhood dream of studying fashion. She enrolled in the program at Saddleback College, where she has won several competitions with her designs. Being conscious of

the environment, she chose the path of **Slow Fashion**. Slow fashion is a movement and approach to the fashion industry that prioritizes quality, ethics, and sustainability over speed and mass production. After she graduates, she would like to make zero waste garments or work



in a custom costume shop. Natalya is passionate about historical clothing and enjoys studying Ukrainian vintage folk clothing and embroidery. These traditions bring her knowledge and inspiration for her own designs. Each piece she makes has a story behind its creation.

Natalya studied the Laguna Beach Garden Club history on our website and then accompanied me to view a few of the parks we care for and to visit the Bee Mural. We sat down at the promenade for a cup of coffee, and I regaled her with all the incredible contributions that our club has made over the years to our community and beyond. With that input and our upcoming centennial looming large she decided to use the fashion of the 1920's to be her target.

Visit lagunaartmuseum.org/art-nature to learn more and participate.

-Karen Nelson

Natalya Sokolenko's sustainable fashion design gown for the Laguna Art Museum's Art & Nature fashion show utilized key elements from Laguna Beach Garden Club's Mission Statement as part of her design. The dress gave a nod to the 1920's to honor the upcoming 100th anniversary of LBGC. The hand-beaded tunic featured flowers, plants, and bees. The bee hive hand bag was the perfect finishing touch.



The Gorgeous Getty Center

On a Wednesday of beautiful fall sunlight, twenty-five Daytrippers made the 90-plus minute drive to the Getty Center. For some of our club members, it was the first time visiting, and for others, it remains a favorite destination.

The Central Garden, opened in 1997, is a site-conditional art installation, designed by artist Robert Irwin (1928-2023). His design features a path meandering downhill beneath a canopy of London plane trees and crisscrossing a stream. The water flows from the amphora basin, and as it gains momentum, becomes louder as it travels to the bottom. Irwin's design puts the strolling visitor in intimate physical contact with densely planted floral beds evoking all the senses. The path opens to the vista of an azalea maze that appears to float beneath a waterfall cascading into a manmade pond.

Engraved on the floor of the Central Garden is a quote from Robert Irwin, "Always changing, never twice the same." This inscription reflects the artist's philosophy that the garden is a living work of art that will constantly change, evolving over years and even with the subtle Southern California seasons. On Wednesday, the fall colors were aflame.

Daytrippers sampled the lunch offerings at the cafeteria style Cafe alongside Getty Center employees and traipsed the travertine steps to explore the collections on display. Some of us found the cactus garden at the southern end of the campus, the silhouette of which mimics the downtown LA skyline. Others enjoyed the light filled paintings of Claude Monet's snowy Wheat stacks, and Vincent Van Gogh's Irises, or marveled at the colors and details of the illuminated manuscripts. Still others explored the lavish

18th century French decorative arts with the Rococo and Neoclassical furniture, porcelain and ceramics. We ended the day with a visit to the museum store before taking the tram back to the parking lot. While the drive home may have taken a couple of hours even in the carpool lane, Daytrippers declared the T&T a success, an inspiring day!

-Patty Gaffney Trips & Tours Co-Chair





The Getty Center is not just for art lovers. Its dramatic buildings, perched in the hills above West Los Angeles, house galleries filled with masterpieces that might intimidate those not familiar with 17th-century Baroque art—or with the sculptures of Henry Moore or Isamu Noguchi.





October Meeting Scenes



Name Tag Wearer

Judy Flanders a member since 2023 was caught wearing her LBGC name tag and was rewarded with a lovely potted succulent by Director of Membership, **Lynn Jax**. What a great treat for making sure everyone knows her name!



Volunteer of the Month

Patty Gaffney, a member since 2018, was selected as the Volunteer of the Month. Patty has served as Financial Secretary and is currently Co- Special Administrator of Trips & Tours.



Centerpiece Auction

Lorna Paugh, a member since 2022, created this lovely fall themed centerpiece for the Treat Table. **Mary Lewis** member since 2023 was the lucky highest bidder and happily took the sunflowers home. **Kim Allen** will be creating the November centerpiece and we cannot wait to see her work.

Buying myself a new plant because today would have been my birthday if I was born today



October Green Thumb Crafts- Succulent Wreaths

On October 24th ten 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 to help the cuttings to stay in place. With minimal care the succulents 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. The class brought together both new and long-time members who enjoyed the project and also getting to know each other.

Wreath makers include- Mary Lewis and Pat Carpenter (seated) and from left to right: Jean McFarland, Christina Kim, Grace Balen & Gloria Potocki (standing).

Wreath Wizard Jeanne Yale lead the group in this creative & fun activity.



Surrounded by Marigolds too Hard to Resist!

New member **Valery Brouwer** joined **Jane Leary**, **Dee Perry** (pictured) and **Georgia Zachariah** at the Orange Coast College annual marigold sale! One thousand gorgeous marigolds were grown from seeds by OCC horticulture program students and sold at a bargain – only \$7.00 each. It's their annual fundraiser with the funds used for scholarships and to support student projects.

We were also able to purchase aquaponically grown lettuce for only \$2.00 each. Absolutely delicious!

The marigold sale is an annual event so if you missed it this year you'll have a chance again in 2026.

Happy Fall!

-Jane Leary



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/>