



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



APRIL 2026
MEMBER NEWS

Sowing Seeds of Wonder through
a Community of Gardeners

*“Some old-fashioned things like fresh air
and sunshine are hard to beat.”
—Laura Ingalls Wilder*

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

I find that there is something welcoming about a terra cotta pot. While the pristine new ones are attractive, I find the previously used ones offer a sense of history, what interesting blooms were the inhabitants in previous seasons? I give the pots a quick scrub, fill them with fresh amended soil, and carefully tuck in the new resident. I tell them that I know they will do their best amongst their fellow flowers and I know they try to live up to the task. I was surprised to read that there are certain plants that do not

do well in terra cotta pots, I guess there is no accounting for taste, but the link below will list the 4 persnickety plants and the reasons why they are that way.

https://www.thespruce.com/plants-you-should-never-plant-in-a-terra-cotta-pot-118963137?hid=f961369289fe90d4bfadfae7bae95f66b64487a9&did=22172397-20260312&utm_campaign=bhg-grow-and-tell_newsletter&utm_source=bhg&utm_medium=email&utm_content=031226&ictq=f961369289fe90d4bfadfae7bae95f66b64487a9&lr_input=77a8572132fb841504dca9a3949b29b0f5b6357c7790e8f84ada7e14f2de8



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

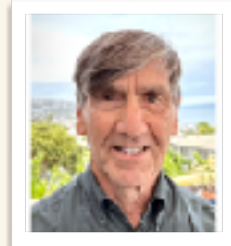
General Meeting April 10

Ed Almanza

Bringing the Lagoon Back to Laguna

Laguna Presbyterian Church

• 9:30 am social • 10:00 am meeting
see page 3



Recognition Award Nominations

Due April 17 see page 18

Photo Contest Entries

Due April 17 see page 7



Trips & Tours April 22

see page 5

President's Message

A Short History of the Gate & Garden Tour

Soon after moving to Laguna in 1993, I bought a ticket for the Spring Garden Tour, presented by the Laguna Beach Garden Club. The details are fuzzy, but on a sunny Thursday in May, I was given a map to five or six scattered gardens and set off. At each garden, I and 100 other ticket holders hunted for parking, visited a garden then got back in our cars, drove to the next garden, and hunted for parking again. I did not enjoy the day.



A few years later, my garden was selected for the tour, and as a result I became a member of the club.

In 2006, I went to a Board Meeting and suggested the tour become a walking tour and proposed a route past historic homes and charming gardens in my Woods Cove neighborhood; the *Gate & Garden Walking Tour* was born. No buses, no margaritas, just ticket holders showing up at Bluebird Park for a map of long and meandering walking route.

The following year, I stepped up to manage the tour. For several years, we had no fixed location for registration, no buses, no sponsors. The tour was presented on the first Friday of May, almost 400 tickets were sold at various business. By my third year in charge, we started using buses. A few years later we were



able to use Arabella Laguna for registration, and began serving margaritas. And thus it was for many years. I was very proud that the tour netted almost \$5000 each year.

In 2018, **Karen Nelson** and **Susan Denton** offered to take over the tour if I agreed to be President. In their capable hands, the tour blossomed. By partnering with the Water District and switching to Saturday, we were able to use their headquarters for registration. On-line ticket sales and a robust



marketing campaign doubled the number of tickets sold, and increased the money raised by the tour by almost tenfold.

The innovations continue; the hat contest, tacos, Ladies of Laguna recognition, cardio route, all add fun new elements to the tour.

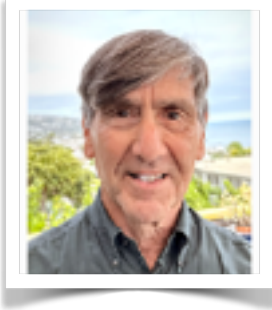
Laguna Beach will always have beautiful gardens and a colorful history to celebrate. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of volunteers, the generosity of sponsors and the hard work of the tour director and her team, the *Gate & Garden Tour* will continue to flourish.



April Speaker

Bringing the Lagoon Back to Laguna

Ed Almanza is the Vice-Chair of the Laguna Ocean Foundation project and manager of the Aliso Creek Estuary Restoration Project and has coordinated the Laguna Shorebird Survey.



Aliso Creek feeds into the ocean at Aliso Beach. As a professional environmental planner, his work focuses on the science of habitat management and natural resource conservation. The multi-level estuary effort is designed to engage the public in the expansion of the wetland habitat for all creatures to enjoy.

His professional work focuses on implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the science of habitat management. He has authored dozens of environmental documents for local municipalities in Orange County. Mr. Almanza earned a Master's Degree in Geography at UCSB with a thesis that analyzed methods for monitoring water quality in Mono Lake, California. A native southern Californian, Mr. Almanza first moved to Laguna Beach in 1971.

Please join us on Friday April 10, 2026, at 09:30-10:00 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, Ca. Non-members are invited to attend for free on their first visit. For more information on the garden club: www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org



Native Plant Nurseries Open House April 4th 12:00-3:00 pm

Join OC Parks and Laguna Canyon Foundation for a free, family-friendly Open House. Get expert tips on native plant gardening and plant your own seeds to take home. More information on locations at Lagunacanyon.org/events.



Gardening 101 for April 2026

The topic for April will be *“Supporting Backyard Wildlife”*

This will be our final Gardening 101 for this season. For interested members, please plan to attend immediately after our regular meeting in the downstairs room across the patio. The presentation will last 30-45 minutes including questions. The session will be presented by Master Gardeners **Kris Bonner, Ingrid Cebula, Wendy Grande, Nora Koenig, and Melissa Rapp.**

Creating a wildlife-friendly backyard garden transforms an ordinary outdoor space into a lively, ever-changing habitat filled with color, movement, and sound. Imagine stepping outside to the flutter of butterflies drifting between blossoms, the gentle buzz of bees moving from flower to flower, birds splashing in a shallow bath, and lizards basking in the warmth of the sun. These small, everyday encounters bring a sense of connection to nature and a quiet joy that evolves with the seasons. By choosing a diverse mix of flowering plants, shrubs, and native species, you can create an inviting environment that supports both beauty and biodiversity.

Planning such a garden begins with understanding your local climate and selecting plants that provide food, shelter, and water for wildlife. Include nectar-rich flowers for pollinators, seed-producing plants for birds, and dense greenery or rock features where small creatures can hide and rest. A simple water source, like a birdbath or shallow dish, can make a big difference. Maintenance focuses on working with nature rather than against it. This might include limiting pesticides, allowing some natural growth, and refreshing water sources regularly. With thoughtful design and care, your garden becomes a thriving sanctuary that not only attracts wildlife but also sustains it, offering you daily moments of wonder, tranquility, and joy.

Please join us. You too can foster a backyard garden to enjoy daily. A place to sit and enjoy the wonders of nature. Whether simple or on a larger scale, a wildlife-friendly garden is possible for everyone to have and enjoy!



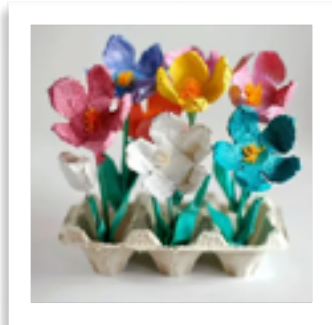
Perry Stampfel turns the Big 80!

Perry, our intrepid name tag wearer prize ticket distributor, celebrated his 80th birthday in regal style at the March meeting. Congratulations Perry!



Cluck Cluck - Calling all Chickens!

Did you host an Easter egg hunt or color some eggs? Or perhaps you hosted a Nooruz welcome to Spring brunch with a frittata and some deviled eggs? However you enjoyed your eggs, please remember to bring your clean, empty cardboard egg cartons to our meeting on Friday, April 10 for our very own Laguna Food Pantry!



Between Sept 2025 and March 13, 2026 we've collected 1662 cartons, thanks to you our Club members and **Mary Lewis's** generous egg-eating neighbors, translating into to about \$750 in savings that the Pantry has used for nutritious food. Not only do we help feed our neighbors, we give those cardboard cartons a second life. We've surpassed our Sept 2024-May 2025 total of 1422 by 220 and the year isn't over yet!

How about following Mary Lewis's lead by asking your neighbors to donate their egg cartons? It's great way to build community in your neighborhood and help the Pantry at this critical time.

Please bring only clean cardboard cartons, half or full dozen, with lids and open and stack them for easy transport. None of the food pantries take plastic, nor do we have a home for any cartons except half and full dozen cardboard.

As always - a shout out to Club member Tom Hensel's son Casey for being our pickup and delivery service for the Pantry. I appreciate him and every one of you for supporting the Laguna Food Pantry and our neighbors in need.

I look forward to seeing you and your egg cartons on Friday, April 10!

-Jane Leary

April Trips & Tours

The April 22 excursion will return to **Sheila Peterson's** private garden and home, to see new developments from our first tour last year. And then we will have lunch at The Ecology Center Cafe.

We will carpool as usual from St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, and we appreciate our drivers. Please sign-up with the T&T team at the April meeting.



STRANGE BUT TRUE: Shocking!

Flowers talk to bumblebees using electricity. If a flower hasn't been visited recently by a bee, it gives off static electricity. The static tugs at tiny hairs on a bee's back, letting the insect know which flowers still have nectar.



Getting Involved in Our Club

Volunteer of the Month

Sherri Stephens, was selected as the March Volunteer of the Month. A member since 2011, and an amazing gardener, she spends countless hours at Hortense Miller Garden as well as volunteering for LBGC. Thank you Sherry for all you give to make the garden club so special! (Sherry was camera shy, this is Hortense Miller's Garden.)



Name Tag Wearer

Linda Peters was selected as the member “caught” wearing her name tag at the March meeting. She has been a member since 2022.



March Meeting

Guest speaker Ashley Irene gathered on stage with John Holcombe, Nora Ray (ElizaBeth Chapel's granddaughter), and Lois Zeller after Ashley's fascinating presentation on growing an edible outdoor garden.



“Twin” New Members

Gail Hunt and Judy (sorry for not having her last name) congratulated each other on their great taste in springtime blouses.



Annual Photo Contest – Deadline for submissions April 17

It's that time again and the deadline to submit is fast approaching. Members submit photographs from their gardens for our annual photography contest. There are 2 contests: one for the Front Cover and one for the Back Cover features on our Membership Book. The winners of the 19th annual contest were: Front Cover by Linda Richardson and Back Cover by Brian Jones.

Photo Contest Rules

1. Photo entries are due Photo Contest administrator, Perry Stampfel, by **Friday, April 17, 2026**.
2. Garden Club members may submit one photo for the **FRONT** and one for the **BACK** cover.
3. The entry must be a recent photo of some part of the member's garden.
4. To win the **FRONT** cover contest, photo must be **HORIZONTAL** (see sample below).
5. To win the **BACK** cover contest, photo must be **VERTICAL** (see sample below).
6. Photos must be of **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.
7. By submitting the entry, the member declares that he/she owns the rights to the photo.
8. Renewed membership is required.
9. Entries will be judged anonymously 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 2026-2027 Membership Book.

* **NOTE:** We encourage a variety of photos including, but not restricted to, garden settings or features, mass plantings, & flowers.

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 47** of your Membership Book.

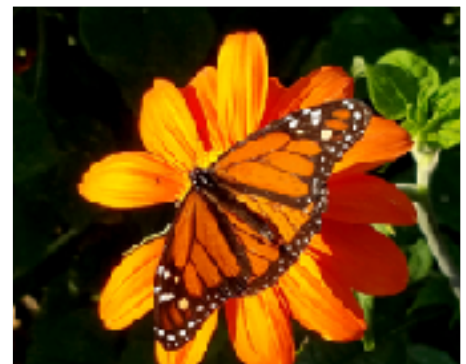
For Information contact:

Perry Stampfel E: stampfel@icloud.com Cell: 949-294-1502



Mary Jones 1st Place 2023
Monarch butterfly on a
Mexican Sunflower Torch

Brian Jones 2nd Place 2023
Bolivian Sunflower



2026 Ladies of Laguna & Annual Hat Contest

You may wonder why we choose to honor Laguna Beach women as Ladies of Laguna in conjunction with the *Gate & Garden Tour*. But it really harkens back to the heritage and founders of the Laguna Beach Garden Club. These service-minded woman (and men) were the founders of Laguna Beach and brought to fruition much of what we love about this magical place. Honoring women for their service not only recognizes their hard work but also amplifies their voice. Honoring them validates their efforts, inspires future leaders, and highlights the essential role of collaboration in societal progress.

Susan Denton has chosen the following woman to be named Ladies of Laguna 2026. **Victoria Gerard**, Deputy Director at the Laguna Art Museum, where she supports the appreciation of art and museum programming. Victoria has been the cornerstone of our wonderful collaboration through the Art & Nature series that has brought so much enjoyment to our members. She describes herself as Cultivated, bibliophile, imaginative, radiant and warm. We agree wholeheartedly with that description!



The next 2 ladies are **Toni Kellenberg** and **Bonnie Langner** of LPAPA Laguna Beach Plein Air Association. These two ladies have served in leadership roles to connect local artists to the global community. Their advocacy for artists represents the best of the Laguna Beach Art colony spirit. Toni describes herself at passionate, caring, loyal, creative, and dedicated. Bonnie describes herself as resilient, confident, determined, fun, and passionate. This dynamic duo represents the heart and soul of

LPAPA which is another excellent collaborating partner with the LBGC!

Diane Lannon is known to almost all of us that are involved with the LBGC. Diane has tirelessly represented the beautiful Hortense Miller Garden and served as past president of the Friends of Hortense Miller. Her kindness and patience in lovingly sharing the magic that is the Hortense Miller Garden is a testament to her love of nature and history. She has been the driving force to make the collaborations between our two organizations run seamlessly. Diane describes herself as thoughtful, generous, patient, resourceful and kind. Diane is all that and so much more!



And finally, a Laguna Beach powerhouse in the world of environmental advocacy and supporting arts and culture in the city, is none other than **Barbara MacGillivray**. Barbara is known throughout town for being dedicated to protecting the environment often in partnership with her husband filmmaker Greg MacGillivray. Barbara can be found at so many events that are at the heart of her passion. Her love for Laguna Beach shines like a beacon to inspire us all. Barbara describes herself as energetic, positive, athletic, empathetic and dedicated.



Please join me in raising our collective “hats” to these incredible Ladies of Laguna for 2026. Let us use them as a shining example of what we can aspire to in our lifetime. “Love in action is service to the world” Lynne Namka

-Karen Nelson

Hostess Table Centerpiece Silent Auctions

A giant Thank you to our **March Centerpiece Hostesses (1) Carolyn Muzyka, (2) Mary Lewis and (3)** an unexpected arrangement by a magical and generous garden club member (please step forward so we can say thank you), for creating our Hostess Table Centerpieces for March and Congratulations **Jane Leary, Linda Richardson and Mary Lewis** for placing the winning bids!
We raised \$125 – yippee!



Carolyn Muzyka



Mary Lewis



St Paddy's Day Leprechaun

April's Hostess Table Centerpiece will be lovingly designed by **Bonnie David**.

Thank you, Bonnie! We can't wait to see you work your magic!

A silent auction bid sheet will be next to it. Minimum bid starts at \$25.00 and bid up at \$5.00 increments. Bidding will close at the start of the general session meeting (10AM).

If you'd like to create a hostess table centerpiece for one of our future meetings, we're looking for 8 – 10 of you for the September – May meetings. Please contact Linda Richardson if you are interested.

-Linda Richardson

Gate & Garden Tour Hat Contest

We look forward to welcoming you on May 2nd for a truly special tradition at the *Gate & Garden Tour* — our much-anticipated Hat Contest!

This year, we invite you to unleash your creativity and design a garden party hat inspired by one of our four imaginative categories:

Silver Linings

Inspired by Pantone's Color of the Year 2026, "Cloud Dancer," this category celebrates soft whites, delicate textures, and luminous, airy designs that evoke calm, creativity, and fresh beginnings.

Tides & Textures

A tribute to the beauty of our coastline, featuring organic materials and textures like shells, sea glass, driftwood, and sculptural forms that capture the movement of the sea.

Whimsy & Wonder

Let your imagination soar with playful, unexpected, and joyful creations. Whether humorous, artistic, or fantastical, this category is all about delight and surprise.

Western Chic

A stylish nod to western-inspired fashion, incorporating wide brims, natural textures, florals, fringe, and sun-washed tones — all interpreted through your personal style.

We encourage all participants to style their full ensemble to complement their hat — creativity from head to toe may earn extra recognition!

Whether you're crafting solo or gathering friends for a fun design session, this is your opportunity to express yourself and be part of a vibrant, creative community.

We can't wait to see what you create and celebrate your artistry at the event.

Warmly,
2026 *Gate & Garden Tour Hat Contest Committee*



Gate & Garden Tour Raffle
Pre-Sale Raffle Tickets on April 10, 2026
You do NOT have to be present to win.

NOTE this is NOT a Complete List – Tickets will also be sold at the Tour.
7 tickets for \$20. CASH, CHECK or CREDIT CARDS accepted.
See Brian Jones & Pam Bisson for tickets – Look for the RAFFLE sign.

Put your ticket/s in the bag at the meeting April 10.
Tickets will be secured & will be in the corresponding bags at the Tour ready for the drawing.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>VALUE:</u>
1. Magic Castle in Hollywood VIP Experience for 4 Private Club by Invitation Only from a Member	\$80
2. David Bartels mosaic planter w/ plants (FOA exhibitor)	\$900
3. Jesse Bartels mosaic wall hanging (Sawdust Festival exhibitor)	\$400
4. Thomas Kincaid original “Heather’s Hutch”	\$1200
5. Amber O’Neill original oil “Agave at Lotusland”	\$2500
6. Pageant of the Masters – 2 tickets – Date TBD by FOA	\$280
7. Pageant of the Masters – 4 tickets – July 7, 2026 Final Dress Rehearsal Night – reserved seats	\$280
8. Sawdust Festival Merchandise + 2 Annual Passes	\$150
9. 4 bottles of 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon - \$175 each Melanson Winery Napa, CA	\$700
10. Gina Mead original oil “Palms” (FOA exhibitor)	\$450
11. RastaRita Margarita Truck to serve 30	\$450
12. The Ecology Center Community Table Dinner for 2	\$360
13. The Ranch – 2-night stay + dinner for 2 at Harvest restaurant	\$800-\$1000

Restaurant Gift Cards – a sample

To date 14 local restaurants have donated Gift Cards – that will be divided into 4 bundles.

***NOTE** Subject to change as more donations come in.

Preliminary Bundles are:

- 14. Bundle #1: Adolfo’s = \$100 + Alessa’s = \$100 + Farmhouse = \$100 + Lumberyard = \$100 Total = \$400**
- 15. Bundle #2: The Drake = \$100 + Nirvana = \$100 + Piatti = \$100 + Rasta Taco = \$100 Total = \$400**
- 16. Bundle #3: Oto Sushi = \$250 + Pinafini = \$75 + K’Ya Bistro = \$75 Total = \$400**
- 17. Bundle #4: The Winery Restaurant = \$150 + Starfish = \$50 + La Serena = \$40 Total = \$240**

Many more items not listed & will be on display at the Tour at the Raffle Tent
out front at the Water District.

Drawing will be at the Tour at 2:30 PM.

As we all are very busy the day of the Tour, many of us don’t get the chance or have the time to peruse the raffle table and buy tickets. But now you have a chance to ensure you can purchase your tickets for the raffle and not be left out of the opportunity to win a fabulous item.

Arden - The Historic Modjeska House & Garden

Despite temps in the mid 80's, the grounds of the Helena Modjeska Historic House and Garden were pleasantly cool, and the herbaceous air delightfully filled with springtime birdsong. A five-gabled white house, the century-old home of world renowned actress Madame Helena Modjeska is tucked away amidst a live oak grove on the banks of Santiago Creek. Named for the grounds' resemblance to the Forest of Arden in the Shakespearean play, "As You Like It," Arden is designated a National Historic Landmark. On our docent tour, we learned that only 5% of National Historic sites feature a women's story and



the Modjeska House is one of two National Historic sites in Orange County. It was the perfect destination during March, Women's History Month.

Helena Modjeska (1840-1909) was a revered Polish actress who specialized in Shakespearean and tragic roles. Immigrating to America in 1876, she went on to become this country's most acclaimed stage star of her time. Though her life was devoted to theater, for 18 years of her peripatetic lifestyle, Arden was her place of preparation and rest for the next stage production.

A familiar name to the Garden Club, Theodore Payne was hired as head gardener in 1893 to landscape the grounds of Arden, and it was a seminal time for him from which he became our most famous and life-long student of native California flora. The internationally known Sun Valley foundation bearing his name is dedicated to the preservation of California's wildflowers.

Devoted docents shared aspects of Modjeska's lifestyle, the details revealed by the elements of her home from the bison head above the fireplace in the book-lined great room, to the piano cove popular for evening entertainment, and the artifacts of a surprisingly spacious kitchen. They spoke of the water collection basin - the "pool," the six surviving redwood trees of 30 originally planted, the remnants of a bear pen, and the memorial boulder commemorating Modjeska and her life at Arden.



Continued on the next page

Above the bear pen, Acorn Woodpeckers were putting on a display, flitting and swooping their mating dance with their graphic black and white feathering and flashes of a red cap. Their presence was also visible in the uniform holes in the side of a cottage where the birds stored their acorns. There was an abundance of song and movement of many different families of birds, Bushtits and Warblers, Finches with Red-shouldered Hawk circling above to name a few.

And for the best ending to a beautiful outing, past garden club president and daughter of an even earlier past president, **Sandy Smith** spontaneously invited us into her home and garden where we experienced her abundant and glorious creativity in her mosaics, her color palette and of course her garden design. She had painted eggs capping the tips of her agaves, created a mosaic pattern in her front garden where your foot stepped on a square of colored marbles, or pebbles or some other artful design. She had created a number of ethereal glass plate assemblages that resembled literal dinner-plate dahlias and succulent collections abounded in blue and green glazed containers. And her tile mosaic collages, from an art piece of a mosaic figure, to a repurposed fire pit, a conical garden spire, were a lesson in fine handiwork and her expansive imagination. We were indeed lucky guests to her garden and home, emerging inspired by this special finale.

-Patty Gaffney



TRIPS & TOURS – The End of the Road?

Do you enjoy visiting new gardens, historic outdoor spaces, nurseries, botanical gardens etc.? That is what our adventures through Trips & Tours is all about. If you have ever taken the opportunity to attend one of these excursions then you know how fun, interesting, and enjoyable they are.

After reading the most recent article in this month's "*Weeder's Digest*", describing the tour of the Modjeska House and Sandy Conway Smith's garden as a bonus, then you are most likely anticipating the next Trips & Tours experience.

What about next Garden Club year for 2026-2027? "Aye, there's the rub" *Hamlet* (Act 3, Scene1). To reiterate, for the past several years Patty Gaffney & Synthia Scofield (**Trips & Tours Special Administrators**) have organized excursions to various nurseries, botanical gardens, and historic spots in Southern California; they have decided to let someone else take over. President Nancy Englund has stated several times that if no one volunteers for this enjoyable club experience. it will **NOT** occur next year.

Solution? Perhaps a a few of you could select **ONE** place for **ONE** time and organize an adventure. At lunch after the Modjeska House outing, a few of us were brainstorming. I asked Debbie Sugg if she and a few of her "birding" friends would like to take a group out to Bolsa Chica Wetlands in Huntington Beach and share their knowledge of the birds who inhabit that area. She responded positively and will get back to me. Now if 2 other groups wanted to take one month and organize a trip, we would solve this dilemma. Divide and Conquer = Solution.

Three (3) excursions for next year would be fantastic. The optimal months as to not conflict with other Garden Club activities are September, October, January, February, March, or April. Surely, there are 3 groups of **Bees** who are willing to ensure Trips & Tours continues next year.

Please reach out to Patty Gaffney, Synthia Scofield, or Lynn Jax for more information.
-Lynn Jax, Mary Jones, & Sharon Stephens, Nominating Committee



Laguna Beach Patriots Day Parade 2026

“For the Good of the Hive,” a natural instinct of bees and also of Laguna Beach Garden Club members was perfect for our parade entry theme this year. We had a lovely mild day with sunshine, blue skies, the fun of participating in our parade, and honoring the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence!

Thanks to the enthusiastic Garden Club members who participated and flashed smiles and waved hands. Garden Club members carried Bee placards, some in splendid bee-themed costumes, and passed out Garden Club tour information postcards to the happy crowds. The Rakettes Drill Team put their garden rakes to extraordinary use in syncopated parade formation, ending the routine with a final flourish of raking the asphalt along the parade route, much to the audience's delight and laughter.

Nancy Englund drove the most gorgeous golf cart ever, decked with so many fresh flowers! Carolyn Bent, the flower wizard, spent two days working her florist magic in my garage, and my husband Cort and I proudly drove it down the hill on parade day.

A good time was had by all!

-Diane Kloke



PATRIOTS DAY PARADE – Are we Marched out?

Every year for the past 59 years Laguna Beach holds its annual Patriots Day Parade where local organizations march a half mile downhill route from Laguna Beach High School on Park Ave to Gleneyre and down Forest Ave to City Hall. The Garden Club has participated in this annual “mini-Doo-Dah style” parade for many, many years.

Diane Kloke has been the coordinator & drill team leader for the past 21 years: she is ready to pass the baton. She is willing to fill out the paperwork and assist as needed. Our has Club has won many trophies, including three 1st place, 3 2nd place, and 4 3rd place. Carolyn Bent has loaned her creative skills and hard work to create a float from the golf cart, VW bug, small sports cars over the years. At one point Shari Yamamoto & Diane shared the position.

What about next year March – who is willing to “march” the Club entourage down Park Ave to City Hall next March 13, 2027? The parade is held the 2nd Saturday in March each year

Please reach out to Diane Kloke or Lynn Jax for more information.

-Lynn Jax, Mary Jones, & Sharon Stephens, Nominating Committee



Angels in the Rose Garden

The club would like to give a huge THANK YOU to **Mike Pyle** of [Mike Pyle Design and Consulting](#) for rejuvenating the soil and irrigation for the Laguna Presbyterian Church Rose Garden. Mike generously donated his talent and expertise along with his landscape crew who spent an entire day digging up the compacted soil around the roses, breaking it up, and completely replacing the irrigation system. The irrigation has been an ongoing challenge for us, and updating it was no small task. The donation is easily valued at well over a thousand dollars! Mike is a local landscape designer and contractor and is the former co-host of HGTV's 'Inside Out.' He has been a great friend to our club, putting his house on our *Gate & Garden*

Tour last year and donating \$10K of design consulting for our tour raffle. He is a sponsor of this year's tour as well.

Also, [Tierra Verde Industries](#) in Irvine generously donated and delivered 4 cubic yards of excellent quality mulch (valued at \$500). Some of our dedicated Garden Club crew—**Paul Wenger, Brian Jones, Ty Hatfield, and Kari Nies**— along with church property manager **Jordan Johnson** spent several hours spreading the mulch throughout the newly refreshed rose beds.

With all this care and effort, we're hopeful the roses will thrive and reward us with beautiful blooms this year! -*Brian Jones*



Member Recognition Awards 2026

It's time to look around closely for garden club members you want to nominate for this **year's Recognition Awards** as listed below. Any member who you see go above and beyond to help the Club achieve our mission is eligible. [See page 57 of your Membership Book for more details].

The deadline to submit your nominees is April 17th. The nomination form is on the following page in this newsletter. You may nominate more than one person in any of the categories.

This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize your fellow members for their outstanding efforts on behalf of our Garden Club. This award has significant meaning to its recipients because it shows appreciation for outstanding efforts and the spirit of volunteerism.

There will be copies of the nomination form at the April 10th meeting for your convenience. Use a **SEPARATE FORM** for each **CATEGORY**.

For questions or clarification contact: Mary Jones at ibjones@cox.net or call 949-233-1993

Previous Recognition Recipients include: [Please do **NOT** nominate a previous winner for the same category as we'd like to spread the love around.]

2017

- Club Members of the Year: Carolyn Bent, Linda Homscheid
- Garden of the Year: Nancy Englund
- Gardener of the Year: Lisa Fecteau
- Rookie of the Year: Monette Weiss

2018

- Club Member of the Year: Chris Lutz
- Garden of the Year: Mariann Keenan
- Gardeners of the Year: Synthia Scofield, Marilyn Ghere, Kathleen Kane
- Rookies of the Year: Becky Martin, Norman Powell

2019

- Club Members of the Year: Jeanne Yale, Dalynn Malek
- Garden of the Year: Dana Victorson
- Gardener of the Year: Sherry Stephens
- Rookies of the Year: Patty Gaffney, Susan Denton, Diane Olson

2020-2022

- Club Members of Year: Elaine Davis, Nancy Englund, Lynn Jax
- Garden of the Year: Inge Bunn, Dalynn Malek, Madeleine McLendon
- Gardeners of the Year: Sandy Smith, Susan South, Monica Thompson
- Rookies of the Year: Grace Balen, Diane Groh, Mae Ho, Jane Leary, Cookie Lee, Kari Nies, Gay Redcay

2023

- Club Members of Year: ElizaBeth Chapel, Lynn Pries, Kari Nies, Karen Nelson, Pam Bisson
- Gardens of the Year: Brian Jones, Susan Denton
- Gardener of the Year: Ingrid Cebula
- Rookies of the Year: Kate Hershey-Guerra, Blair Contratto, Vicky Adams-Cuccia

2024

- Club Members of Year: Bee Mural Team (Blair Contratto, Nancy Englund, Jane Leary, & Karen Nelson) and Melissa Rapp
- Garden of the Year: Monica Thompson
- Gardener of the Year: Helga Yaillen
- Rookies of the Year: Mary Koebler, Mary Lewis, Joann Trejo-Magee, Jeff Whittiker

2025

- Club Member of the Year: Mae Ho
- Garden of the Year: Wendy Caufield & Melissa Rapp
- Gardener of the Year: Marilyn Alexander, Shirley Matthews-Jagels & Patricia Weier
- Rookies of the Year: Bonnie David, Lisa Goodlad, Toni Kellenberg, Dorothy Moss & Sharon Stephens



Recognition Award 2026 Nomination Form

Check the category:

- Club Member of the Year
- Gardener of the Year
- Garden of the Year
- Rookie of the Year (AKA: New Member)

*** Use a separate form for each Nomination.**

DEADLINE: April 17, 2026

Recognizing each other's efforts shows our appreciation towards our own, and to those who are acknowledged by their fellow club members for their spirit of volunteerism, it makes this award of distinguished merit mean so much more.

Nominate a club member who you know has done an extraordinary and/or consistent job for the club.

Name of Nominee: _____ *(Please Print clearly)*

Please write 2 to 3 sentences of explanation or description of this nominee's efforts for the category for which you nominated. (Use the back of the form, if necessary.)

Please return to Mary Jones via:

- E: ibjones@cox.net
- or mail to: 635 Cuprien Way, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
- or deliver in person at the **April 10, 2026** meeting.

Name of person nominating: _____

Email or phone number: _____

Time to Renew Your Membership

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE occurs in April and May. The Membership Table will be set up at the back of Tankersley Hall near the kitchen and ready to accept your renewal. Please come prepared to renew your membership at the April 10 meeting.

ALL MEMBERS must **RENEW** for the next year; the full year membership is valid from September 2026 through May 2027. Applications will be available at the April 10 meeting.

At the March 13 meeting I explained that dues have increased. Our last increase was in 2019.

Payment Choices:

Dues = **\$90** paid by Credit Card at the meeting **ONLY**.

Our website is being updated to meet the security protocols, so for the time being ALL Credit Card transactions will occur at the meetings until the update is complete.

We offer a \$5 discount if paid by **Check** or **CASH**. = **\$85**

Checks made payable to: Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.

To ensure your name appears in next year's Membership Book, payment must be received by **June 1, 2026**. Everyone must complete the bottom portion of the application – PLEASE! LEGIBLY.

You can renew:

- at the next two meetings (April 10 or May 8)
- use USPS and mail it to the Post Office Box: PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652
- or mail it directly to Lynn Jax 456 Cress St, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

And consider making a tax-deductible donation with your renewal. Donations are tax deductible to extent allowed by law, help the Club offset costs and fund our great projects, which include: school gardens, scholarships for LBHS seniors and students enrolled in the Horticulture Department at Saddleback College, the apprenticeship program at The Ecology Center, Horticulture Department at OCC, and our beautification community projects, like our beautiful bee mural, "*The Good of the Hive®*".

See the application below for more details.

To save waiting in line, print a copy of the application by visiting our website:

lagunabeachgardenclub.org

Complete the form at home & bring to the meeting ready to renew with payment.

Currently we have 266 members, an increase in membership since September of almost 20%.

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

-Lynn Jax, Director of Membership



LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB, INC. 2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP FORM

- Returning
- New
- Lifetime
- Rejoining _____ Year Joined

- 💰 Our annual membership is \$90. Payments can be made by credit card at our general meeting.
- 💰 We offer a \$5 discount for payments by cash or check. Complete this form and attach a check for \$85 made payable to "Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc." Mail to: Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. ~ P.O. Box 362 ~ Laguna Beach, CA 92652
- 💰 Please consider making a tax-deductible donation in addition to membership dues. Donations of \$25 or more will be recognized on the *Wall of Fame* in our membership book, Gate & Garden Tour brochure, and website. Donations can offset some of our expenses or can be earmarked for community projects, scholarships, school gardens, etc.
- 💰 All donations are tax deductible and much appreciated.

You do not need to fill out your personal information unless it has changed
PLEASE PRINT NEATLY!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

MOBILE PHONE _____ LANDLINE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

This Area MUST be filled out completely

NAME _____ DATE _____

Your application is considered a photo release, giving Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. permission to use any photos taken at club functions.

Signature _____

Total amount Paid _____ Dues _____ Donation _____

Cash _____ Check _____ Check # _____ Credit Card _____

I can help LBGC with: _____



PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652
www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
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