

Weeder's Digest

GROWING & GIVING SINCE 1928

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SEPTEMBER 2026

LAGUNA BEACH



GARDEN CLUB

GROWING & GIVING
SINCE 1928

"Autumn is a second spring
when every leaf is a flower."

Albert Camus



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Message from Dalynn Malek

Seasons of Change

One of the best parts of changing seasons is the sense of renewal. Dreary winter days burst forth with vibrant spring blooms, warm sunny summer days call us to the beauty of the beach, and fall envelops us with the comforting colors of autumn (and everything pumpkin). After the Garden Club's summer hiatus, it is a time of new beginnings--new officers, a new line-up of guest speakers, and new cuttings from the plant table.

This issue of the Weeder's marks another new beginning. Welcome, Jean Platt, as its new editor. I had the pleasure of editing the newsletter for ten years and I felt it allowed me to feel the pulse of the club. I knew what events were coming up in the future and also saw the results of all our delightful events from the previous month. We are a "bizzy" bunch I must say. I'm looking forward to receiving Jean's newly styled editions of the Weeder's and taking the time to leisurely read them over a cup of coffee.

Thank you all for reading along with me for the past ten years, even the editions that seemed never-ending; it was all part of Growing & Giving.

All the best, Dalynn

President's Message

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Welcome back! What an interesting and active year the board has planned for us.

I am excited that our 5th annual Good of the Hive Speaker will again be Krystle Hickman, native bee expert and photographer.

Get ready for another year of fascinating speakers covering topics ranging from lawn alternatives to curb appeal. We will celebrate the history of Laguna Canyon, learn the Seven Sins of Gardening, and explore why Gardening can be Murder.

Each month, you get to hear me, your president, speak passionately about how you can help save the planet by reducing, reusing, and recycling.

I reused Jeanne Yale's president's theme: Serve our Community, Protect our Planet & Share the Love of Gardening

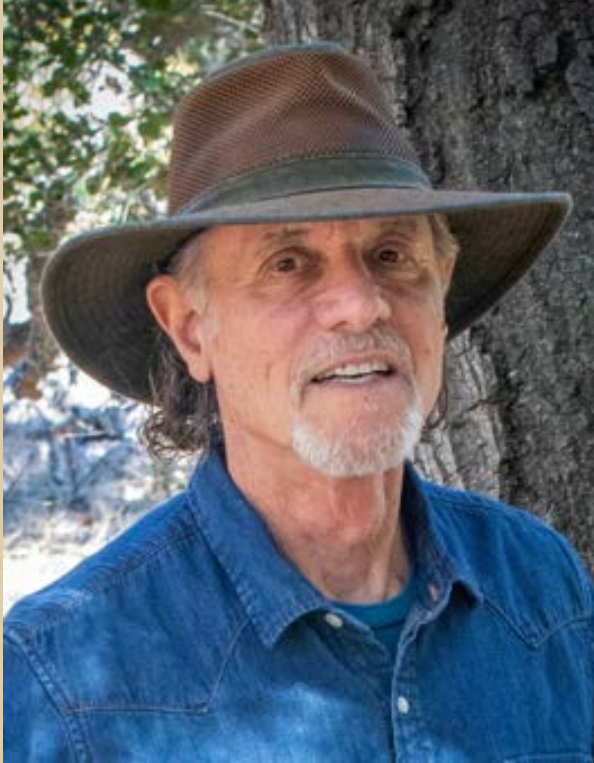
I'm a bit obsessed with toilet paper. I don't know if any of you remember my first message as president in 2018. The key takeaway was to squish your toilet paper roll to use less each time. Toilet paper has a massive environmental footprint because it is a single-use item made largely from bleached virgin forest fibers. Manufacturing it destroys ancient forests, consumes massive amounts of energy and water, and relies on chemical treatments that can release pollutants into waterways.

Few people think much about toilet paper. You might not realize that the average American household uses more than 100 pounds of tissue paper each year. If every American swapped just one roll of toilet paper made from forest fiber for a roll made from recycled content, we'd collectively save more than one billion gallons of water and 1.6 million trees.

As you can see, small changes can make a big difference. Global warming isn't a single overwhelming problem; it's a collection of smaller issues we can address. One action you can take this month is to join the coastal cleanup at Aliso Creek Beach on Saturday, September 19, from 9 am to noon. At one event, you can serve your community, help protect our planet, and, if you visit our table, share your love of gardening.

Nancy Englund

LANNY KAUFER AND HIS MEDICINAL HERB WALKS



On Friday, September 11, the Laguna Beach Garden Club welcomes Lanny Kaufer, founder of HerbWalks.com and author of Medicinal Herbs of California: A Field Guide to Common Healing Plants.

This year, Lanny is celebrating an impressive 50 years of leading herb walks, nature hikes, and foraging workshops throughout Southern California.

Lanny has spent decades introducing people to the edible and medicinal plants growing around us. A graduate of UC Santa Cruz with a degree in Biology, he has studied and worked with respected herbalists, ethnobotanists, Chumash plant experts, and educators. His engaging presentations explore not only how to identify plants, but also their traditional uses for food, medicine, crafts, gardening, and everyday life.



The fun continues on Saturday, September 12, when Lanny will lead a private Herb Walk for LBGC members. Advance registration and a \$10 fee is required with a limit of 30 members.

Lanny will also be signing copies of his book following his presentation on Friday.

Come discover some of Southern California's remarkable native plants—and perhaps learn to see the plants along our own trails and gardens in an entirely new way!

Please join us Friday, September 11th
Social time and refreshments: 9:30–10:00 a.m.
Meeting begins promptly at 10:00 a.m.
Herb Walk on Saturday, September 12th

Meetings are held at Laguna Presbyterian Church, Tankersley Hall, 415 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach.

Non-members are invited to attend for free on their first visit. For more information about the Laguna Beach Garden Club, visit www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org.

SEPT
11

**General Meeting ~ Tankersley Hall.
Social - 9:30; Meeting - 10:00**

**Speaker:
Lanny Kaufer, Medicinal Herbs
of California**

SEPT
11

**Gardening 101 ~ 11:30 Outside
Tankersley Hall following mtg.**

**Speaker: Lenny Kaufer ~ Medicinal Herbs,
of California**

SEPT
12

**Field walk ~ \$10, sign up at gen'l
mtg. Limited to 30 members**

SEPT
19

**Coastal Cleanup @ Aliso Creek
Beach 9:00 to noon**

**General Meeting ~ Tankersley Hall.
Social - 9:30; Meeting - 10:00**

**General Meeting ~ Tankersley
Social - 9:30; Meeting - 10:00**

OCT
03

Love Laguna

OCT
09

**General Meeting ~ Tankersley Hall.
Social - 9:30; Meeting - 10:00**

**Speaker:
Briana Lyon, Topic ~ Native Lawn
Alternatives**

OCT
09

**Gardening 101 ~ 11:30 Outside
Tankersley Hall following gen'l
mtg.**

OCT.
15

**Floral Design at Suzi Q ~ 380
Third Street, Laguna Beach**

OCT
16

**New Member Lunch ~
Tankersley Hall, 415 Forest
Avenue, Laguna Beach**

What Part of the Garden Are You?

What if the Laguna Beach Garden Club were one beautiful garden, with each of us playing a special role in helping it grow?

Imagine a rose climbing a trellis, vegetables growing in neat rows, fragrant lavender and mint, and bees and butterflies moving from flower to flower. Each part of the garden is different, but together they create something vibrant, connected, and alive. That is how I see our Garden Club community.

Our longtime members are often the **trellis**—providing support, encouragement, and a strong foundation for newer members. A personal invitation to join an activity, committee, or event can mean so much. Sometimes all it takes is someone saying, “Come with me,” to make a new member feel welcomed and included.

The **vegetable garden** reminds me of our Board of Directors, where members work together to cultivate ideas, programs, and experiences that nourish the entire club. Serving on the board requires time and commitment, but it also brings wonderful camaraderie, deeper friendships, and the satisfaction of helping our club flourish.

Then there are the **wildflowers**—our volunteers and special administrators who seem to bloom just when we need them. They appear for the Gate & Garden Tour, Green Day at the Sawdust Festival, our February Valentine’s celebration, and so many other activities. They bring energy, creativity, and joy wherever they are planted.

The wonderful thing about a garden is that every part matters—and not every plant has to bloom in the same way or at the same time.

As we begin this new Garden Club season, I encourage you to stretch a little beyond your usual corner of the garden. Meet someone new. Try an activity you haven’t done before. Invite someone to join you.

Ask yourself: **What part of the garden would I like to be this year?**

Then find **Susan Denton** or **Karen Nelson**. They can help you find a new opportunity where you can grow, connect, and bloom alongside the rest of us. They can be found at our “Just Do 2” Garden Club Volunteer Table--outside Tankersley Hall from 9:30 to 10:00, and inside from 10:00 until the end of the meeting.



Floral Design Takes Root at Susi Q

Calling all flower lovers!

Join florist Kathe Hayden for a fun, hands-on Floral Arranging and Design Workshop at Susi Q and unleash your inner floral artist.

With Kathe's expert guidance, you'll learn creative tips and techniques for transforming fresh blooms into beautiful arrangements that look professionally designed. Whether you're a complete beginner or already love playing with flowers, you'll leave with new ideas—and an arrangement sure to impress your friends and family.

Thursday, October 15

1:00–3:00 p.m.

Class fee is \$40

Flowers, containers, and supplies are all provided.
(Just bring your own clippers or scissors—and your creativity.)

There's another very good reason for LBGC members to sign up: Kathe needs strong attendance at this workshop to become an ongoing instructor at SusiQ. If we would like to see floral arranging offered regularly in Laguna Beach, this is our chance to help make it happen!

Come to learn, to create, to have fun, and to help this new class take root and bloom!

Register through Susi Q:

<https://thesusiq.corsizio.com/event/6a39b2c712cf4632f8691773>

Please note: There are no refunds.+



Saddleback Foundation Awards Ceremony ~ May 14, 2026



- Pictured left to right:
- Professor Ken Lee ~ Department Chair, Sustainable Horticulture & Landscape Design Career Education Committee Co-Chair, Saddleback College
- Jane Leary
- Valerie Peabody ~ Saddleback Student and 2026 LBGC Scholarship Recipient

- Pictured below:

- Kyle Schumacher ~ Saddleback Student and both 2025 and 2026 LBGC Scholarship Recipient. Kyle could not make it to the ceremony as he was working on a job for a client.

Recipient Valerie Peabody is scheduled to complete her degree in Sustainable Landscape Design in the Spring of 2027.

Valerie is a Master Gardener, has over a decade of experience in retail garden centers, and has her own landscape design practice in Irvine. She was recently part of the Saddleback College design team whose "California Room Garden" display won second place at the South Coast Plaza Spring Garden Show.

We awarded Valerie \$3,125 toward her studies. As a returning student after career changes, moving, and raising a family, she is extremely grateful for the support this scholarship provides. Valerie expressed her gratitude to the members of the Laguna Beach Garden Club, saying, "Not only will this scholarship help me pay for my tuition and school supplies, but it's also a meaningful vote of confidence in my ability to complete my education. Thank you so much."

Recipient Kyle Schumacher is scheduled to complete his double AA degrees, in Sustainable Horticulture and Landscape Design, after the Spring of 2027.

We awarded Kyle \$3,125 to help him in his final push to earn those degrees.

Kyle is obsessed with understanding the science behind ecosystems, how they work, and how to mimic them in landscape design, both to make his clients happy and to also provide ecological benefits to every space he works in.

He looks forward to helping the OC become even more beautiful and healthy with his work!

Kyle is extremely grateful for the Laguna Beach Garden Club scholarship: "I can't thank you all enough for your help and support through this school journey; it's made a big impact in my life."



Introducing a New “Member-Contribution” Column



This is our place to share tips, tricks and great ideas.

Do you have a gardening tip that has worked well for you? Maybe it is a simple trick for healthier plants, a favorite tool, a watering method, a pest solution, a planting idea, or something you learned by trial and error in your own garden?

This year, Weeder's Digest, along with the Education Committee, is introducing a new member-focused column where LBGC members can share quick, helpful gardening tips, tricks and good ideas with one another. The idea is simple: if it worked for you, it might help another member too!

Our First tip is from Susan Denton.

Susan's Tip:

Tuck a small piece of banana peel behind your staghorn fern and let nature do the rest.

For a staghorn fern, the best way to use a banana peel is simple: place a small piece of peel behind the plant, tucked between the fern and its mounting board or nestled behind the basal fronds.

Do not put banana peel on top of the decorative fertile fronds, and do not pack it tightly against the plant. A little goes a long way.

Tips should be brief, practical, and easy to follow. They do not need to be fancy or formal — just useful.

To submit a tip, please send it to Jean Platt, (jeanplatt@gmail.com), our new Weeder's Digest editor. The tip should be in a Word or Pages document and attached to an email.

Photos are great to include too. They should be sent by text to Jean at 949-371-3334.

We look forward to learning from the many clever, creative, and experienced gardeners in our club!



Coffee Grounds via Lynn Jax

Starbucks is giving away coffee grounds. Well . . . little mini black bags of used coffee grounds. And that, apparently, is something that's really good for our gardens. Read the article that our Membership Chairman, Lynn Jax, found on Facebook and that we have now posted on our website.

<https://lagunabeachgardenclub.org/perk-up-your-plants/>

It explains the benefits and the methods of application for 21 plants that love coffee and will thank you for a cup.



Some pictures of Lynn Jax' travel this summer. At left, she and Perry Stampfel in front of the Isabella Stuart Gardener Museum in Boston. (The plants look like they've all had their coffee.) And at right, the two travelers in front of Le Chateau Frontenac in Montreal.

Membership Report

Our Membership Climbs to 226

-Lynn Jax, Director of Membership

The Club is pleased to report that we are starting the Garden Club season of 2026-27 with 226 members, a truly robust number. Thank you to all who renewed, rejoined and decided we were a good fit and decided to join "The Best Garden Club in OC" - just ask us.

We encourage you to invite a friend to our meetings as our guest to listen to our world-class speakers and at that point if she/he feels we are a good fit, she/he can join. Membership is open to all anytime throughout the year. No requirement to live in Laguna; in fact, 40% of our members live in other communities. Applications are available on our website and will also be available at the meetings.

The new 2026-27 Membership Book will be available for pickup at the September 11th meeting and subsequent meetings. If you can't attend, you can designate a person to pick up yours for you. All newly joined members' name tags will also be available at the meeting. The Membership Table is located to the right of the entrance of Tankersley Hall near the French doors.

Arrive early (social time is 9:30 to 10am) to enjoy a treat, have a coffee, peruse the Plant Table on the patio for great bargains, and check out the new items at the Gift Shop. Sign up & pay \$10 for the Special Event: "Local Herb Walk with Lanny Kaufer" on Saturday, September 12. Space is limited to 30 people and members only.

Please do not park in the church parking lot as our meeting starting and ending times coincide with pre-school pickup and drop off.

Reminder to all: wear your name tag to each meeting to receive a ticket for a chance to win a prize. Be sure collect your ticket from Perry Stampfel, who will be handing them out.

Keep your name tag in a safe place (albeit hopefully a place you can remember). If anyone wants to order a replacement or spare name tag for \$10 (payment can be made at the meeting), please contact Lynn Jax at Email: lynnmjax@icloud.com.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the September 11 meeting.

Laguna Beach Garden Club Rocks!

Final egg carton count September 2025 – May 2026 is 1,928. Hmmm – that number rings a bell. It's the year our Club was formed! This equals a savings of \$867 in just 9 months. That's a lot of \$\$ our Pantry was able to spend on nutritious food for those in need, instead of cardboard egg carriers.

Since I began keeping track in September 2023, we've collected a total of 6,162 cartons for a savings of almost \$3,000 to help Pantry Executive Director Ann Belyea and her team take care of 265+ families per day and distribute about 40,000 pounds of nutritious and delicious food each week. Let's keep our momentum going and stretch to reach a goal of 2000 cartons for this upcoming Club year.

Stack them as in the photo and Tom Hensel's son Casey will be able to easily transport them to the Pantry for us.

I dropped a few cartons off in mid-July and Ann expressed how much our support means to her and the families.

See you on September 11!

Ask your neighbors for their cartons. Ask your co-workers and friends, too. It's a small gesture that makes a big impact. Please bring cardboard cartons only—no plastic. We can use only half-dozen or dozen-size cartons, not larger ones. Cartons must be clean and have lids. A collection table will be set up outside Tankersley Hall.



Jane Leary

Green Day at the Sawdust

Green Day at the Sawdust 2026 was a huge success! Thank you to all who volunteered and helped make this special event such a memorable experience. It was incredibly rewarding to see the joy on visitors' faces as they explored the wonderful selection of plants and succulents.

The first shift of Club members arrived at 9:00 a.m. to sort, organize, and arrange all of the donated cuttings on the large tables provided by the Sawdust. Many of our Garden Club members generously contributed beautiful cuttings and succulents for the event.

When the Sawdust opened at 11:00 a.m., our next group of volunteers welcomed guests to the tables. We were delighted by how grateful and enthusiastic visitors were as they discovered the many plants available to choose from. Answering questions, sharing gardening tips, and talking with guests about our favorite plants made the day especially fun.

Green Day was a wonderful opportunity for our Garden Club to share our enthusiasm for succulents and gardening with the community. It also gave us a chance to promote our upcoming Gate & Garden Tour on May 1, 2027.

Most importantly, Green Day provided a wonderful opportunity to meet and work alongside some of our new members: Polly Hodge, Lauren Longoria, Jan Dell, and Julie Shahan. We are so happy to have them as part of our Garden Club!

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who donated plants, volunteered their time, and helped make Green Day 2026 such a wonderful success. We look forward to doing it again!

Mary Jones



Green Day at the Sawdust 2026



A Visit to Chris Lutz's Bromeliad and Tillandsia Garden

On May 23, 2026, Chris Lutz graciously invited Garden Club members to visit his amazing collection of **Bromeliads and Tillandsias**. Stepping into his garden felt like entering a beautiful jungle paradise, with an incredible treasure waiting to be discovered around every corner.

Visitors were amazed by the beauty, quality, and abundance of Chris's collection. Everywhere we looked, there was another unique and fascinating plant to admire. It was truly a special opportunity to see such an impressive collection up close and to share in Chris's passion for these remarkable plants.

A heartfelt **thank you to Chris** for opening his garden and providing such a wonderful experience for his Garden Club friends. We are grateful for your generosity and for sharing your beautiful garden with us!



Gardening 101

Gardening 101 is coming back for a second year. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity! The Laguna Beach Garden Club is pleased to announce an exclusive members-only lecture series featuring speakers from the UC Master Gardeners of Orange County.

Laguna Beach Garden Club members can, after most general meetings, meet at 11:30 a.m. downstairs adjacent to the patio for a focused learning experience on common gardening topics. The Master Gardeners' knowledge is coming to you, giving you the opportunity to spend 40 minutes learning gardening tips, what's in season, and more.

Thank you to all our Master Gardeners who make this programming possible. Check out the amazing topics below for the coming year.

(We need at least 20 attendees at each session to keep these valuable classes going, so please attend!)

General Meeting Date	Gardening 101 Topic
9/11/26	Adding Annual Color
10/9/26	Orchids simplified
11/13/26	Supporting wildlife with California Native plants
1/8/27	Citrus basics
3/12/27	Tackling the top pests in the garden
4/9/27	Warm season flowers and herbs



Adding Annual Color

Do you love color in the garden? Planting annuals is a wonderful way to add instant color to any garden. With cooler temperatures on the way, it will soon be time for fall annuals. As summer fades, nurseries will begin stocking pansies,

snapdragons, cyclamen, violas, and petunias. The possibilities for color combinations are endless! Learn how color functions in the garden and discover different color schemes to make your fall planting pop.



Meet Master Gardener Melissa Rapp, MD.

Come meet your fellow Master Gardeners at Gardening 101! Each month, we will highlight two of the wonderful Master Gardeners who bring their knowledge, enthusiasm, and love of gardening to this program.

This month we're highlighting Melissa Rapp, MD., who has been a UC Master Gardener since 2022. A retired physician, Melissa has always loved plants and gardening. Her journey to becoming a Master Gardener began when her daughter was applying to college and Melissa discovered the amazing horticulture programs at UC Davis.

Melissa began researching ways to gain similar horticultural knowledge and experience and discovered the UC Master Gardener Program—a perfect opportunity to learn, volunteer, and share her passion without going back to school.

Melissa particularly enjoys educating others and connecting people with the natural world. She has valued her role in the Master Gardener Speakers Bureau. She is also



President of Sea and Sage Audubon, where she combines her love of education with her passion for creating wildlife habitat and conserving biodiversity. She enjoys helping gardeners learn how their gardens can support birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.

She is looking forward to sharing her knowledge through Gardening 101.



See you next month!

(Photo taken May 2026 at Chris Lutz' garden of Bromeliads and Tillandsias)



P.O. Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA. 92652

LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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