

Weeder's Digest

GROWING & GIVING SINCE 1928

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LAGUNA BEACH



GARDEN CLUB

GROWING & GIVING
SINCE 1928

I have been younger in October than in all the months of Spring'.

W. S. Merwin

Message from our President

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In summer, the days are just too long, too much sunshine! This year's heat was remarkable. Give me the tender air of fall.

Two small groves of liquid amber trees line my morning dog-walk route, and I always pause to admire the colorful fallen leaves. While it's tempting to rake them up, supporting pollinators and invertebrates with winter shelter takes less yard work—simply leave the leaves! They act as natural mulch, suppress weeds, and enrich the soil as they decay. Mulching protects the soil, reduces erosion, and moderates temperature extremes by keeping roots warmer in winter and cooler in summer, and retains moisture, especially during droughts.

Rake leaves from the lawn, but leave them under trees and in flower beds. Designate an area

to remain wild; mine is behind the guest cottage, which I've fenced off to protect vital pollinator habitats from my over-zealous gardener, who likes a tidy garden.

While you are doing less, don't deadhead native plants, as native insects and animals feed on their seeds, and many native plants reseed annually. Embrace an untidy garden!

If you want to get your hands dirty, join us on October 23 for our first gathering to pot up unusual succulents and perennials to sell at the Valentine's Extravaganza. It's a chance to clear out those little plastic pots in your shed and put them to use for the club.

You can sign up at the Just Do 2 table!

RETHINKING THE LAWN BEAUTIFUL ALTERNATIVES WITH BRIANA LYON



What if giving up a traditional lawn didn't mean giving up beauty?

At our October meeting, the Laguna Beach Garden Club welcomes Briana Lyon, an award-winning landscape designer whose work focuses on creating gardens that are beautiful, resilient and better suited to the changing climate of the West. Her presentation, "Beautiful Lawn Alternatives," will explore ways to replace thirsty turf with landscapes that can still provide the softness, openness and visual calm we love about a lawn—without demanding the same amount of water and maintenance.

Lyon brings an unusual combination of art, horticulture and ecological design to her work. A Certified Permaculture Designer, she specializes in drought-tolerant horticulture, California native plants, habitat-supporting landscapes and garden designs inspired by natural plant communities. She is also the founder of California Wild Gardens, which offers preplanned native and low-water gardens, including no-mow lawn alternatives.

Her landscape work and research have been featured by the Los Angeles Times, Sunset, Houzz and CBS, among others. The Los Angeles Times has specifically turned to Lyon for her expertise on low-water alternatives to conventional turf, including native grasses and other living groundcovers.

For Southern California gardeners, the subject could hardly be more timely. Lyon believes the familiar suburban landscape is due for a rethink—not simply because of water use, but because our gardens can do much more. Thoughtfully chosen plants can provide habitat, support pollinators, improve biodiversity and create outdoor spaces that are every bit as attractive as the lawns they replace.

So, if you have ever looked at your lawn and wondered, "What could I put there instead?", this is a meeting you won't want to miss. Come prepared to see the lawn not as something we have to lose, but as an opportunity to create something even more interesting.

Join us in October for Briana Lyon and "Beautiful Lawn Alternatives"—fresh ideas for a greener lawn without quite so much...lawn.

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, down patio stairs, following gen'l mtg.	Speaker: Lenny Kauer ~ Medicinal Herbs, of California
OCT 15	Floral Design Class @ SuziQ 380 3rd Street	
OCT 16	New Member Lunch ~ Tankersley Hall, 415 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach	General Meeting ~ Tankersley Hall. Social - 9:30; Meeting - 10:00
OCT 23	Green Thumb. Potting unusual succulents at Sharon Stephens home.	General Meeting ~ Tankersley Social - 9:30; Meeting - 10:00
NOV 13	General Meeting ~ Tankersley Hall Social - 9:30; Meeting - 10:00	Speaker: Charles Murray & Harry Huggins - Together we saved Laguna Canyon - 37 th anniversary
NOV 13	Gardening 101 ~ 11:30 outside Tankersley Hall, down patio stairs, following gen'l mtg.	

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Our 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!

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). The tip can be in Word or Pages and should be sent as an attachment to your email.

Photos are great to include too. They **are best 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!

Our Second tip is from Pat Carpenter.

Pat's Tip:

Use a chopstick to plant seeds and seedlings.

When planting sunflower seeds (or vegetable seeds), I use a chopstick to make the hole to put the seed into, and then to cover the seed.

It is especially helpful for getting the proper spacing among seeds.

A chopstick is also useful for planting small sprouts and seedlings.

Membership Update

Lynn Jax, Director of Membership

Welcome to October! I am pleased to announce that we now have **243 members** as of October 2, 2026.

Our **next meeting is October 9**, with social time beginning at **9:30 am** and the business meeting starting promptly at **10:00 am**. We have another fabulous presenter as a part of our Speaker Series: **Briana Lyon**.

If you have not yet picked up your 2026-27 **Membership Book**, it will be located on the Membership table located inside Tankersley Hall at our October 9 meeting.

Name tags - Remember to wear yours to receive a ticket to be eligible to win a prize as a reward for wearing it. If you joined the Club in September, or if you ordered a replacement or spare name tag, your new name tag will be ready for pickup at the Membership table.

New members - If you joined the Club anytime after November 2025, you have already received an invitation from me via email to attend the **New Member Lunch** on Friday, October 16 from 11 am to 1 pm. This is your opportunity to learn more about this fabulous club, meet each other, and meet the Board face to face.

Please respond to your invitation no later than October 12.

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. Invitation cards are available at the Membership table if you wish to use them.

Laguna Beach Garden Club Rocks!

LBGC Eats a Lotta Omelettes!

Wow, what a great start to the new Club year egg carton collection drive. With the combined summer and September count of 425, we're well on our way to the goal of 2000!

To keep our momentum going, ask your neighbors for their cartons. Ask your co-workers and friends, too. It's a small gesture that makes a big impact.

You're doing a great job bringing cardboard cartons only—no plastic. But please remember, the Pantry can only use half-dozen or dozen-size cartons, not larger ones. (no 18's). Cartons must be clean and have lids.

A collection table will be set up outside Tankersley Hall each month to receive your donations.

If I have any that are dirty or any of the 18's I tear them into pieces and feed them to the red wigglers in my worm bins. Same thing for the cardboard inner rolls from toilet paper and paper towel. (Shout out to President Nancy!) My worms tell me they love 'em because they taste good and soak up extra moisture better than newspaper.

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

Cluck, Cluck!

Jane Leary



Gardening 101

Keep this second year of Gardening 101 going! This is an exclusive members-only lecture series featuring speakers from the UC Master Gardeners of Orange County.

The **40-minute talks** are scheduled to take place downstairs off the patio at 11:30 a.m. after most general meetings. The dates and topics of the upcoming gatherings are listed below

Thank you to all our Master Gardeners who make this programming possible!

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

General Meeting Date	Gardening 101 Topic
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



GREEN THUMB - PLANTING WORKSHOP FOR VALENTINE'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

For the October Green Thumb activity, participants will gather at Sharon Stephens' home to plant succulent cuttings and other plants to sell during our Valentine's Day Extravaganza on February 12th.

This is a volunteer project and you can sign up at the October meeting at the **"Just Do 2" table**. So get together with your Garden Club friends for this hands-on project in Sharon's beautiful garden.

- *DATE: FRIDAY OCTOBER 23RD*
- *TIME: 10:00AM*
- *LOCATION: SHARON STEPHENS' HOUSE - 25881 PECOS RD, LAGUNA HILLS*
- *BRING: GLOVES, CLIPPERS, SMALL PLASTIC POTS, SUCCULENT CUTTINGS - UNCOMMON ONES PREFERRED*

Other supplies will be provided. If you're not attending the workshop but have small plastic pots and/or succulent cuttings you would like to donate ahead of time, please bring them to the meeting on October 9th.

More information to follow but if you have questions contact:

Sharon Stephens

714-309-7441



Let's Get Growing! Gate & Garden Tour 2027

Spring may seem a long way off, but plans are already beginning to take root for the **2027 Laguna Beach Gate & Garden Tour**, happening **Saturday, May 1!**

Each year, this beloved Garden Club tradition opens the gates to some of Laguna's most beautiful private gardens and brings our community together to celebrate gardening, creativity, and the beauty of where we live. And, of course, the Tour is our biggest fundraiser, helping support **scholarships, school gardens, civic beautification, pollinator gardens, and community education.**

But a successful Tour doesn't just happen—it **blooms because of our members!**

Now is the perfect time to join one of our Gate & Garden Tour committees. Whether you love gardens, enjoy meeting people, have a creative flair, like organizing behind the scenes, or simply want to get more involved with the Garden Club, **there's a place for you.** Working on a committee is also a wonderful way to meet other members, make new friends, and have a lot of fun along the way.

You don't need to be an experienced volunteer or have hours of free time. **Every talent, idea, and helping hand makes a difference.**

So as we begin a new Garden Club year, why not try something new? **Join the team, make some friends, and help us make the 2027 Gate & Garden Tour our best one yet!**

Come find **Susan Denton, Gate & Garden Tour Director**, at a meeting or contact her to learn more about the committees and find the perfect fit for you.

Let's make something beautiful together!

—Susan Denton
Gate & Garden Tour Director



Gate and Garden Committees are listed on the following page . . .

Gate & Garden Tour Committees:

(so many choices!!!)

- *Sponsorship Recruitment*
- *Advertising Recruitment*
- *Ticket Sales*
- *Media*
- *Garden Selection & Homeowner Management*
- *Graphic Design*
- *Brochure Development*
- *Venue Logistics*
- *Garden Docents*
- *Safety & Flow*
- *Registration*
- *Raffle*
- *Bar*
- *Hat Contest*
- *Artist Procurement and Coordination*
- *Refreshments*
- *Shuttles*
- *Security*
- *Route Logistics and Set-up*
- *Plant ID*
- *Food Vendor*
- *Route Ambassador*
- *Photographers*

Member Recognition Awards 2026

Each April, our Garden Club recognizes members who have been nominated by their fellow members for going above and beyond to help our Club achieve its mission. This year, nominations were submitted to me to tally and then present to the Board for final approval. I am delighted to share why these members were nominated and to celebrate their many contributions to our Club.

Club Members of the year

Three members were selected in the **Club Member of the Year** category: **Lisa Tapper, Marybeth Chapman, and Trudy Josephson.**

Lisa Tapper is a constant volunteer and often brings delicious treats to our meetings. She also donated many wonderful items to the Valentine Boutique and worked in the Boutique area during the Valentine Event. Her generosity and willingness to help are greatly appreciated.

Marybeth Chapman has generously donated fabric, notions, her time, and her expertise to create our wonderful Club aprons. She has also enlisted a new member to assist with this project, helping ensure that this special effort continues.

Trudy Josephson is affectionately known as our **"Cookie Lady!"** She has been an active supporter of the Garden Tour for the past three years, talking about how much our homemade treats are appreciated by Tour guests. Our members listened, and this year we had hundreds of delicious treats for our visitors!

Gardeners of the year

Our **Gardeners of the Year** were nominated in recognition of the tremendous time and effort they devote to sustaining the Rose Garden in front of the Church and the Pocket Park Garden alongside the Church.

Paul Wenger is a knowledgeable and prolific gardener who is always interested in making improvements. He has served as a Rose Garden team leader and, this year, volunteered to coordinate the volunteers at the Pocket Park. Paul also has an amazing garden in South Laguna, featuring many beautiful roses.

Brian Jones joined the Club in 2012 and has been a stalwart volunteer in many areas ever since. He became a Rose Garden team leader in 2022 and encouraged Paul to join him in coordinating the Rose Garden and Pocket Park volunteers. Brian recently became a Master Gardener and maintains a beautiful garden on Cuprien Way in Laguna, which many members have had the opportunity to see during our Open Garden Event. His gardening expertise and willingness to volunteer in so many ways benefit us all.

Garden Tour Hosts

Lisa Goodlad, Lois Zeller, and Barbee Martin generously opened their homes and gardens for last year's December Holiday Tour. All three gardens were outstanding, showcasing a wonderful variety of plants and thoughtful organization. Their homes were also beautifully decorated in the holiday theme, and each offered delicious refreshments to our Tour guests.

Sandy Smith, who lives in Portola Hills, invited members attending the April 2026 Trips & Tours outing to visit her garden and meet her desert tortoise. Her garden is filled with beautiful mosaics and sculptures that she creates herself.

Karen and Kirk Nelson have created a beautiful, contemporary, water-wise garden. Their garden received the **Water-Wise Award** on this year's Garden Tour and is truly an inspiration!

Member Recognition Awards (cont'd)

Rookies of the year

We had several members nominated for **Rookie of the Year**, and they certainly brought a new dimension to the title through their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved.

Marti Bruno joined the Club in March 2025 and has already made a wonderful contribution. She has volunteered in the Gift Shop, contributed prizes to the Raffle, purchased a bee costume, walked in the Patriots Parade, and baked cookies for the Tour.

Jean McFarland joined the Garden Tour Committee at the New Member Luncheon, obtained donations for the Raffle, and encouraged a friend to make a generous \$1,000 donation.

Vera Martinez joined the Serve Committee, helps with set-up for our monthly morning meetings, and will serve as the special administrator for the Orange County District Garden Club.

Sarah Jones brings treats to each meeting, helps with morning set-up, served as a docent during the last two Garden Tours, and volunteered to join the Board as Recording Secretary.

Hayley Silva revamped the Gate and Garden Tour brochure and has collaborated with other groups to provide graphic design services.

Nancy Peralta worked with Marybeth Chapman on sewing the denim aprons, contributing her time and skills to this important project.

Diane Reynolds joined the Serve Committee and volunteers wherever assistance is needed, including the Valentine Extravaganza. She also helps with set-up for our morning meetings.

Celebrating Our Volunteers



Each of these members demonstrates the wonderful spirit of our Garden Club. Whether through gardening, hosting, baking, sewing, organizing, serving, creating, or simply stepping up whenever help is needed, their contributions make a meaningful difference.

Mary Jones

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all of our **2026 Member Recognition Award recipients!** Our Club is stronger, more vibrant, and more welcoming because of your generosity, enthusiasm, and commitment.

This recipe was sent to the Weeder's Digest by Lynn Jax. Her grandmother (Clara Schneider) was born in Germany and her recipe for German potato salad is not only authentic but wonderful. Here's hoping it adds to your October celebrations. Thanks for sharing, Lynn!



Warm German Potato Salad (Serve warm).

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds (about 6 medium) potatoes [Yukon gold or Red potatoes are easiest]
- 6 slices of thick bacon – chop into pieces
- 1 cup of onion, white or brown – chop into pieces
- 2 tablespoons of corn starch (if no cornstarch, flour will do)
- 2 tablespoons of sugar
- 1 to 2 teaspoons of salt
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon of celery salt
- 1 teaspoon of dried dill
- couple shakes of caraway seeds
- 1 cup of water
- 1/2 cup of white vinegar or apple cider

Directions:

1. Peel and slice the potatoes and boil until tender. (No need to peel Yukon Gold or Red Potatoes)
2. Rinse cooked potatoes in ice cold water immediately after cooking (to stop cooking).
3. Chop the bacon and cook it in a large skillet until crisp.
4. Scoop bacon out of the skillet and cook the onion in the bacon drippings until tender but not brown.
5. Add corn starch and sugar to the cup of water and stir until there are no clumps.
6. Add the water mixture, the spices, and the vinegar to the skillet.
7. Bring to a boil and stir, and then bring down the heat and simmer for 2 minutes.
8. Taste to see if more sugar is needed to offset the vinegar.
9. Stir in bacon and potatoes heat through for about 5 minutes.
10. Serves 6 to 8.

Upcoming Events at the Hortense Miller Garden

Laguna Beach Farmer's Market

Saturday, **October 10, 2026** from 8am – noon

Garden Art and Container Gardens for sale

Help needed for set up and take down if you have an hour to give from 7:00am – 8:00am or 11:45am – 12:15pm at the Farmer's Market.

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

Workshop – Succulents with Pumpkin or Grapevine Wreath

Saturday, **October 17, 2026** from **9:45am – 11:45am** at the Hortense Miller Garden

Space is limited. Registration required. \$10 Materials Fee

Learn to create a lasting arrangement of succulents on a pumpkin or a grapevine wreath for your fall décor. You just need to bring at least 20 succulent cuttings and your garden clippers.

The pumpkin or wreath and other supplies will be provided for you. The cuttings should have a 1.5 to 2 inch stem and be between 2 and 3 inches in diameter.

Request a reservation by e-mailing diane.lannon@gmail.com

The workshop will take place at Hortense Miller Garden and a short tour of the residence will follow the workshop. This hidden Laguna Gem features a 2.5 acre garden with over a dozen unique trails and a pristine Mid-Century Modern home built by Knowlton Fernald in 1958 on the slope of Boat Canyon. Tucked under towering Canary Pines, planted as one gallon specimens, there are over 600 plant species of which about 150 are California natives. The walls of glass in this home offer breathtaking ocean and canyon views. The original furnishings give the home a rare authenticity, fitting of a true Laguna artist.

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.

Hortense Miller Garden (cont'd)

A native of St. Louis, Hortense Miller moved to Laguna Beach in 1953 and died in 2008 just shy of her 100th birthday. A lifelong writer, ferocious gardener and talented craftsperson, she was straightforward, unpretentious and feisty in her philosophy about gardening, politics, love and life in general. Although the property has been owned by Laguna Beach since 1977 when Hortense bequeathed it to the City, it is managed and cared for by a volunteer Board that must annually raise funds to repair and maintain the house as well as the more than 800 species of plants and trees that fill the dozens of slope side paths.

For more information about HMG volunteer opportunities, contact Diane Lannon at HortenseMillerFriends@gmail.com or 949-374-2696 www.HortenseMillerGarden.org.



... And last, if not least, remember the SuziQ floral design class on October 15th!



