# Weeder's Digest

GROWING & GIVING SINCE 1928

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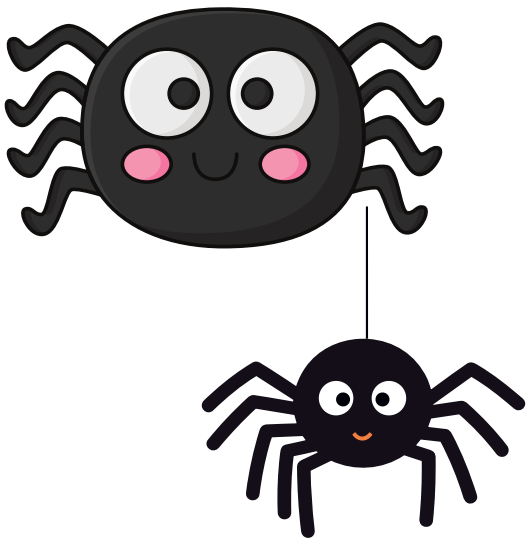

LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB
GROWING & GIVING SINCE 1928

Thanksgiving is a time of togetherness and gratitude.

NIGEL HAMILTON

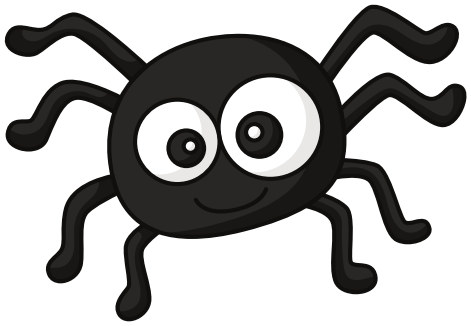
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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### I LOVE SPIDERS: EIGHT-LEGGED, NON-TOXIC PEST CONTROL FOR YOUR HOME, INSIDE AND OUT.



Sure, the big orb webs get all the attention and are spectacular, but look at that little gal down in the corner of your closet and all those dead carpet moths. Admit it, you usually don't realize you have a spider until pest carcasses start to accumulate on the ground beneath it.

Long-legs are the workhorses of indoor pest control and, in fact, their favorite food is other spiders.

*If you see a spider on its web*, it's even more reason to leave it alone. They set up camp where the bugs are, so they are perfectly positioned to get rid of those pests for you!

*Mosquitoes spread West Nile Virus, Zika, and yellow fever, and all have been detected in Orange County. More spiders mean fewer mosquitoes!*

I recently learned that you shouldn't move indoor spiders outside. They will die. But even if you can't stand spiders in your house, at least try to *let outdoor spiders go about their business undisturbed, because their business is being predators that relentlessly deal with insect pests*.

Go ahead, make your garden inviting to all sorts of spiders. It's simple. Don't be too tidy--allow webs to remain on sheds and other structures, leave plant stalks standing in winter, and don't clear away plant debris until spring to avoid disturbing egg sacs. We all win when there are fewer mosquitoes and other pests. *Doing less is doing more for the planet*.

# CHARLES MURRAY & HARRY HUGGINS

# TOGETHER WE SAVED LAGUNA CANYON



Charles Michael Murray and Harry Huggins, editors of the documentary "50 Years of Preservation," will join in celebrating the 37th anniversary of the historic march to save Laguna Canyon. They will share firsthand accounts of the movement and present the book "Laguna Beach and the Greenbelt--Celebrating a Treasured American Landscape."

The rallying cry of the movement was **"Save Laguna Canyon"** in response to the approved Laguna Laurel development, a massive 3,200-home tract development, complete with a golf course and a shopping center, proposed by the Irvine Company. Much of the credit for the rally's success goes to marketing and political savvy of Charles and Harry, who conceived the idea and helped organize the event at the grounds. Their efforts were instrumental in drawing an estimated 10,000 protesters at "**The Walk**" on November 11, 1989, in support of preserving Laguna Canyon.

Please join us Friday, November 13th
Social time and refreshments: 9:30–10:00 a.m.
Meeting begins promptly at 10:00 a.m.
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.

Imagine Laguna Canyon filled with thousands of homes, a golf course and a shopping center instead of the open hillsides and natural habitat we treasure today. That was a very real possibility in 1989.

This November, the Laguna Beach Garden Club welcomes Charles Michael Murray and Harry Huggins, two of the key organizers behind one of the most remarkable environmental preservation efforts in Laguna Beach history.

Faced with the Irvine Company's proposed Laguna Laurel development of approximately 3,200 homes, Murray and Huggins helped turn growing community opposition into a powerful public demonstration known as **THE WALK.**

Murray served as Creative and Concept Director, while Huggins was Executive Director and Master of Ceremonies. Together with local conservation groups, artists, civic leaders, and dedicated volunteers, they helped organize and promote the November 11, 1989, event. Their efforts included a radio public service announcement featuring singer José Feliciano.



On that historic Veterans Day, an estimated 10,000 people gathered and marched from the Festival of Arts grounds into Laguna Canyon, where the enormous photographic mural **THE TELL**, created by artists Mark Chamberlain and Jerry Burchfield, provided a dramatic backdrop.

The demonstration became a turning point in the campaign to save Laguna Canyon. In 1990, Laguna Beach voters overwhelmingly approved a $20 million bond measure to help preserve the land. Much of the threatened landscape ultimately became part of today's Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

SAVE LAGUNA CANYON

# Centennial Fundraiser Cocktail Party

*by Karen Nelson*

The golden late summer sun casts a warm, welcoming glow over the beautiful garden of Ashley Irene, owner of Heirloom Potager, transforming her meticulously designed kitchen garden into the perfect setting for a friendly cocktail party. As guests enjoy the multiple seating and conversation areas in the garden, they admire the heavy clusters of ripening tomatoes, fragrant basil, and lush greenery. The atmosphere is casual and filled with laughter, with friends gathering around raised beds to swap stories while enjoying the comfortable, breezy evening. Ashley's passion for the art of the edible garden shines through every corner, inviting everyone to slow down and appreciate the abundance of the season together.

The evening's refreshments are a true collaborative celebration of community and fresh ingredients. Neighbors and friends gather around the lively bar--generously sponsored by Kirk and Karen Nelson--that features refreshing botanical drinks like cucumber basil elderflower and lime cocktails, alongside crisp strawberry chamomile spritzers. Moving among the 24 guests are incredible, garden-fresh appetizers beautifully prepared by Mae Ho and showcasing seasonal flavors that perfectly complement the drinks. The savory bites and cold glasses pass from hand to hand, sparking happy conversations and a shared appreciation for good food and great company.

As the summer evening begins to cool off, the sweet finale of the night takes center stage with an incredible spread of desserts provided by Susan Denton and Sharon Stephens. Between the incredible hosting by Ashley Irene, the generous bar from the Nelsons, Mae's delicious bites, and the wonderful desserts from Susan and Sharon, the evening captures the true spirit of friendship. Long after the last plates are cleared, the warmth of the garden party lingers in everyone's hearts.

In addition to the wonderful time had by all, $2400 was raised to go toward the club's 2028 Centennial celebrations!







# *Create a Festive Floral Arrangement at the Susi Q!*

*Looking for a fun way to get creative with flowers?*

*Floral designer Kathe Hayden is offering two upcoming classes at the Susi Q Senior Center in Laguna Beach. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn new techniques while creating a beautiful arrangement to take home!*

*There are two classes coming up: Fall into Floral Design and Holiday Floral Magic. These classes promise plenty of hands-on fun, creative inspiration, and practical floral design tips.*

***Class Details***
***Time: 1:00–3:00 PM***
***Location: Susi Q Senior Center, 380 Third Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651***
***Cost: $41 per class, (includes flowers and container!)***

***What to bring: Just your clippers!***

*These classes are fun, informative, and a great value. With holiday arrangements coming up, spaces are likely to fill quickly, so early registration is highly recommended.*

***Register for them individually.***

- ***Fall into Floral Design – November 19th***
  *https://thesusiq.corsizio.com/register/6ac6be035faba76908800aff*

- ***Holiday Floral Magic – December 16th***
  *https://thesusiq.corsizio.com/register/6ac6d3715faba7690887f828*

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Fall into Floral Design



Holiday Floral Magic

Photos are examples, not the actual arrangements that will created.

# The Garden Grapevine

***Our Third tip is from Sharon Stephens***

## Save Your Soil!

Keep your potting soil where it belongs!

Place a plain paper coffee filter over the drainage hole before adding soil to pots. Use the whole filter for larger pots, or cut it to fit smaller ones. (No tape or glue needed.)

White or brown? Either works, but unbleached brown is the eco-friendly choice.

The filter lets water drain while keeping soil in. It will naturally break down over time—no need to replace it until you repot.

A simple trick that saves soil and prevents mess!

**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, has 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!

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 an email.

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



# From Cuttings to Cash Crops: Our Worker Bees Delivered!

## Succulent Workshop Grows Inventory for Valentine's Extravaganza

Our first Worker Bee Workshop proved that teamwork can produce a lot of plants! Volunteers gathered to pot an impressive assortment of unusual succulent cuttings destined for our Valentine's Extravaganza fundraiser on February 12.

With our own Master Gardener, Ingrid Cebula, overseeing the operation, the group got down to business. Plastic pots were washed and sanitized, donated cuttings were sorted, and each succulent was carefully planted and labeled. Ingrid provided expert guidance to ensure every plant got the right start.

The results? Pallets of potted succulents, now happily settling in and growing into what promises to be a terrific selection for our February sale. Not bad for a morning's work!

Mark your calendar for February 12th! Our Valentine's Extravaganza will feature these homegrown treasures, with proceeds supporting LBGC scholarships, grants, public gardens, and beautification projects.
Good plants, good people, a good cause and a whole lot of fun. That's a successful Worker Bee Workshop!



Ingrid Cebula, our Master Gardener, headed up quality control



A special thank-you to our productive and fun-loving crew: Polly Hodge, Sharon Stephens, Nancy Englund, Marsha Youde, Louise Offit, Cathy Miller, Jeanne Yale, Diane Lannon, Jenny Pass, Ingrid Cebula, Diane Reynolds, and Sandy Graham.

Sharon Stephens

# It's November Food Drive Time!

**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN WE SHOW EVEN MORE LOVE TO OUR VERY OWN LAGUNA FOOD PANTRY!**

Along with your egg cartons, let's shower the Pantry with even more love by bringing much-needed food and old-fashioned checks and cash to give them an urgently-needed boost going into the holiday season. Please bring your donations to the November 13th general meeting!

The attached flyer lists the Pantry's "Big 7 Most Requested Items" for your consideration. Monetary donations in the form of checks and cash allow the Pantry to purchase what it needs most at wholesale prices and makes our impact even greater.

Anne Belyea, Executive Director of the Pantry, will be a speaker at the November 13 meeting. I'm sure Anne will share more information with us, but here are a few facts to show how great the need is here in Orange County:

- In 2010, the Pantry served 40-80 families per day. Today it's grown to 275 daily!
- The Pantry serves 34.7% more children and 37.2% more seniors when compared to last year.
- One in 8 people in our county are experiencing food insecurity.

Our egg carton donations from Sept 2023 through October 2026 total 6,738. That translates to a savings of about $3,032, which the Pantry has used to purchase delicious, healthy food for their clients. 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 of bringing cardboard cartons only (no plastic). And now the Pantry can use not only the 6's and 12's, it can also use the 18's! Cartons must be clean and have lids (no plastic, please!). A table will be set up outside Tankersley Hall each month for your donations.

If your cardboard cartons aren't clean or are lidless you can tear them into pieces and feed them to the red wigglers in your worm bins. Same thing for the cardboard inner rolls from toilet paper and paper towels (Shout out to President Nancy!). My worms tell me they love 'em because they taste good and soak up extra moisture better than newspaper. Who knew!

Stack 'em up and bring them with you to the November 13th meeting, and Tom Hensel's son Casey will transport them to the Pantry for us.

Cluck, Cluck!

*Jane Leary*

We believe no one should go hungry.

LAGUNA FOOD PANTRY

## SEEKING YOUR DONATION

# THE PANTRY'S BIG7

## 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

# Garden Club Members and G&GT Homes Win Big at the Beautification Awards

Laguna Beach knows how to celebrate beauty, and the Laguna Beach Beautification Council's Annual Awards Banquet on October 22 was no exception! Held at the Woman's Club, the evening honored the homeowners, organizations and individuals who help preserve and enhance the distinctive charm of this seaside community.

Laguna Beach Garden Club members were on hand to cheer as our own Board Member Karen Nelson and her husband, Kirk, received one of the coveted Most Beautiful Residential Awards! A wonderful honor and well-deserved recognition. Karen and Kirk's garden was on full display at our 2025 Gate & Garden Tour. And the Garden Club connections didn't stop there! Gull Cottage and White Cottage, both featured on our 2025 Gate & Garden Tour, were also winners!

We also applaud fellow Garden Club member Toni Kellenberg, president of the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association, who was honored with the Community Organization Award. Toni's involvement in Laguna's vibrant arts community is another example of the many ways our members contribute to the town we love.

Since 1967, the Beautification Council has recognized exceptional residential properties, historic restorations, public art, landscaping, and community improvements.

Congratulations to all the winners! It's especially gratifying to see so many familiar names and gardens in the spotlight. Clearly, our Gate & Garden Tour has an eye for beauty — and the Beautification Council agrees!

See photos of the winners and our own Laguna Beach Garden Club members in attendance at the awards ceremony on the following page.



*Sharon Stephens*



Pictured left to right: Nancy Englund, Jane Leary, Sharon Stephens, Lynn Jax, Kirk Nelson, Karen Nelson, Patty Gaffney and Susan Denton



Karen and Kirk Nelson's home, Queen Bee's Clubhouse



Gull Cottage






White Rose Cottage

# Gardening 101: California Native Plants — The Perfect Plants for Southern California

Southern California's climate presents challenges, including hot, dry summers, extended periods of drought, and limited water resources. California native plants are ideal for our region because they require less water, are adapted to our local climate and clay soils, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife.

Learn how to plan your native garden, choose the right plants, support wildlife, and find helpful resources. Discover how to plant and care for California native plants, including "super host plants"—native plants that support a greater diversity of birds, butterflies, and other pollinators. With thoughtful planning, you can provide food for wildlife year-round, maintain a beautiful, green garden, and enjoy blooms throughout the year.

Join the UC Master Gardeners of Orange County for Gardening 101, following the November 13, 2026, LBGC meeting.

*Melissa Rapp*

Upcoming talks

| General Meeting Date | Gardening 101 Topic |
|---|---|
| 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 |



# 2027 Laguna Beach Garden Club Gate & Garden Tour

## Do You Know a Garden We Should See?

Planning is already underway for the 2027 Laguna Beach Garden Club Gate & Garden Tour, and we need your help! We're looking for gardens that will inspire, delight and give our tour guests ideas they can take home and use in their own outdoor spaces.

The gardens don't have to be magazine perfect. In fact, some of the most interesting gardens are those that show creative solutions to real gardening challenges. Perhaps a homeowner has transformed a small space, created a beautiful outdoor living area, incorporated a kitchen garden, made the most of a hillside or difficult location, or found a clever way to combine plants, hardscape and entertaining space.

We wnat gardens that:

- Offer ideas that other homeowners can adapt to their own gardens
- Showcase creative outdoor living or entertaining spaces
- Incorporate edible, kitchen or pollinator gardens
- Demonstrate solutions to Laguna's unique gardening challenges, or
- Have an interesting story, design idea or gardening approach to share

Location matters, too. Gardens in areas that can be efficiently served by a shuttle and have reasonably walkable grades are particularly desirable. And if you know of several gardens close together, please let us know! A neighborhood or cluster of gardens within easy walking distance can be a wonderful addition to the Tour.

So, start thinking about the gardens you pass on your walks, admire from the street, or have visited through friends and neighbors. If a garden makes you stop and think, "I love that idea!"—we want to hear about it.

Send your garden suggestions to the Gate & Garden Tour committee. You may just help us discover the next great garden to inspire our 2027 tour guests!

*Susan Denton*

# Membership Update

Welcome to November! I am pleased to announce that we have 247 members as of November 1st, 2026.

Our next meeting is November 13, with the social time beginning at 9:30 AM and the business meeting starting promptly at 10 AM. And we have two fabulous presenters as part of our Speaker Series.

If you have not yet picked up your 2026-2027 Membership Book, please do so. Membership books will be located on an inside table for your convenience.

Name tags; Remember to wear yours so you can receive a ticket to be eligible to win a great prize as a reward for wearing it. If you joined the Club recently and haven't yet picked yours up, it will be ready for pickup at the meeting. For those of you who ordered a replacement or spare name tag, those will also be ready for pickup. Check the inside Membership table.

Our annual New Member Luncheon was held on Friday, October 16, at Tankersley Hall with 25 new members attending. Twenty-three others, including Board members, New Member Ambassadors, and Special Administrators, provided the food and 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. It will include a short biography and photo of each new member so that you will all get to learn more about them. Please introduce yourself to, and welcome, the newest members of our hive. New members can be easily identified by a BEE STICKER (see below) 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. "Invite a friend" cards are available at the Membership Table.

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



Bee sticker for New Member name tags




*Lynn Jax, Director of Membership*

# 2026 New Members Luncheon



Convivial Chatting



Our Cheerful Chipper Cleaning Crew!





# Donate a Decoration for Our Pollinator Tree

The Laguna Beach Garden Club has been chosen to decorate a tree that will be on display at the Winter Fantasy Friday November 20–to Sunday December 6th at the Sawdust Festival grounds.



**Bring your pollinator–inspired decoration and help us decorate!**

# Donate Pollinator Tree Decorations

This year we're decorating a tree for the Sawdust Winter Fantasy. Our theme is "Pollinator Tree." We're looking for donations of pollinator ornaments such as butterfly, bee, hummingbird and dragonfly ornaments or the like. Also flower or fruit ornaments, as they rely on pollinators to come into existence.

Remember, we want to win, so let's make each ornament be a beautiful object to behold on the tree. It is an opportunity to educate the public on what pollinators are and their vital role in our ecosystems and the food chain.

Some ornament donation rules:

1. No food.
2. Nothing that would attract animals.
3. Must be weather resilient (able to take wind and rain).
4. Should be made of outdoor materials such as glass, acrylic and plastic, etc.
5. Because the ornaments are considered donations, they will not be returned to the donors.

Drop off by November 13, 2026, either at:
The general meeting on Friday, November 13, or
Karen Nelson's home (416 Aster Street, Laguna Beach) (Please call Karen ahead of your dropoff - 949-280-4417.)

# Help Decorate Our Pollinator Tree

Dates and Times TBD. Currently scheduled for November 18th, but please email Karen Nelson at nelsonkaren353@gmail.com to receive an email with the exact details.

# Experience the Magic of the Community Tree Lighting Ceremony

Date: November 21 @ 5:30 pm

Tickets required: Nancy will have 25 tickets for entry to the Winter Fantasy at Sawdust for members who are interested in attending.

RSVP: Please contact Nancy Englund at nancyenglund@icloud.com if you would like a ticket

# Hostess Table Centerpiece Silent Auction Fundraiser

A giant Thank you to newbee Lauren Longoria for creating our fabulous Hostess Table Centerpiece for our November meeting, and Congratulations to our very own Garden Club President Nancy England for placing the winning bid!

Each month during Social Time (9:30-10), the Hostess Food Table will feature a living plant display lovingly designed, created and donated by one of our talented and generous Garden Club Members that You can bid on!!!!

Donations go to fund the School Garden Scholarships we award each year.



A silent auction bid sheet will be next to the centerpiece. Minimum bids start at $25.00 and bid up at $5.00 increments. Bidding will close at the start of the general session meeting (10:00 am).

November's Hostess Table Centerpiece will be lovingly designed by Teresa Gossard.

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



*Linda Richardson*

# Matt Willey Bee Mural Sightings

While traveling in Maine recently to see the Fall colors, we happened to see a large bee mural on the side of a building in the heart of Bangor. I felt fairly certain it was created by Matt Willey, so we pulled over to take a closer look. It was in fact one of Matt's murals, and I felt fortunate that we just happened to be driving by.

I thought there might be another mural along our route so I checked the website, and it turned out that there was one at the Community Center in the town of Peterborough, New Hampshire, which was only slightly out of our way as we traveled south before returning home.

if you happen to be on the road in the future, consider seeking out these murals. (Also, the Fall colors in mid-October were spectacular!)









*Jeanne Yale*

# LBGC's "Walking Garden" in the Patriot's Day Parade




The Patriot's Day Parade is a wonderful opportunity for the Laguna Beach Garden Club to celebrate our community and show our support for the town we love—especially as Laguna Beach marks its 100th anniversary!

We're inviting members to join us as we walk the parade route carrying oversized, lightweight, garden-inspired props, including flowers, bees, butterflies and trees. Our colorful entry will reflect the creativity, environmental commitment and community spirit that make our club special. And, of course, our famous Rakettes Drill Team will be there too! You don't need to be an experienced marcher—just come ready to have fun and represent the Garden Club!

Let's turn out, celebrate Laguna Beach, and be part of this special milestone in our town's history--and our special milestone!

Interested in joining with us? Sign up and join the fun at the "Just Do 2" Table at November's Meeting! You can sign up to be part of the garden or as a Rakette.

We hope you'll be part of it!







See you Next Month!