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**The 2006-2007 LBGC Membership Book will be waiting for you at the September 8 meeting. Please pick up your copy.**

## *New Time for September 8 Membership Event; Bring Prospective Members to Learn About Us*

There's a new time and a new name for our annual recruitment event on Friday, September 8, but the purpose remains the same: To preview the year and to introduce as many prospective members as possible to Laguna Beach Garden Club. A great program is planned too.

Tea has become The Membership Coffee and will run from 10 a.m. to noon at the Neighborhood Congregational Church at St. Ann's Dr. and Glenneyre Rd..

There will be plenty of time to catch up with old friends, greet guests and hear about the slate of programs for the coming year.

Gayle Whitaker writes: "We begin our year contemplating our navel, so to speak, by having Mary Fegraus come to us from the Laguna Canyon Foundation. With slide show and native plants, she will teach us all about "backyard" wonders that await us when we venture forth into our wilderness park system."

The annual Membership

Program chairperson

## *Members Tour Set for Friday, September 29*

The first Laguna Beach Garden Club Members Tour of the year will begin at 10:30 a.m., Friday, September 29 at Bob and Annette Henry's Rockledge Road seaside and succulent garden.

Continuing uphill, participants will visit gardens

tended by Barbara and Larry Clarence, Madeleine Visca, Pat Randel and Arline Moran. Bring a sack lunch for a picnic in Arline's garden.

This continues last year's well attended series of Members Tours designed by

Madeleine Visca, tours & travel chairperson, to share our unique gardens and encourage members to get to know one another.

Please park along PCH near Rockledge to visit the Henry garden and then carpool from there. There should be plenty of parking at that time of the morning.

### **New Members**

**Jo-Ann Cameron, Corona del Mar**

**Gigi Meeker, Laguna Niguel**

**Peg Park, LB**

**Mary Nelson, LB**

**Flora Taylor, LB**

**Rosaura Ulvested, LB**



## *Want to Lend A Gardening Hand?*

Hands On Gardening is a new committee designed to provide garden care for those who are no longer able to tend their own gardens. This is an opportunity to get to-

gether while learning hands on gardening skills such as design, pruning and planting. We'll also be helping others as we beautify our town. There will be four to six projects during

the club year. To nominate a garden in need of care or to volunteer, contact Janene Frietas, 497-9920 or Princess\_JBF@hotmail.com.

-Nancy Englund

**LBGC  
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2006-2007**

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*Weeder's Digest is published monthly from September through May for members of the Laguna Beach Garden Club.*

Patricia Weier, editor  
Sept. edition

Francie Holder, editor  
Oct.-May

*More information on club activities is available at [www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org](http://www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org).*



*Garden Club members (l to r) Synthia Scofield, Janene Freitas and Nancy Englund completed the new landscape scheme at the Laguna Beach Library this summer by filling planters with a colorful variety of succulents. Lola (the fair) and Zada (the shaggy faced) looked on. Nancy reports that children's librarian Rebecca Porter is taking excellent care of the planters.*

## *An Easy Riddle About The Garden Tour*

Riddle: How are our annual spring garden tours like Christmas trees? Answer: Every year we think that this is the best one ever.

If you missed the tour of Three Arch Bay on May 4, you did miss the best tour ever. First, few had ever seen any of these gardens. Sec-

ondly, it was the first look for many of us at the inside of this gated community. Each garden was so unique, so gorgeous and so well situated for ocean views that one had to wonder if she was dreaming. The walking area to be covered was reasonable and there was plenty of time to see everything and relish the day.

And for all of Nancy Englund's and her committee's brilliant efforts we netted a tidy sum of \$8,559. Those proceeds fund our philanthropic gifts, such as the \$2,000 in horticultural scholarships at Saddleback College and a \$1,500 college scholarship for a LBHS graduate.

## *And the Winners of Fabulous Prizes Were...*

LBCG member Peggi McDonald won the Big Enchilada Numero Uno garden tour door prize. It included a Dana Point Nursery arrangement; a \$2,000 nursery gift certificate

from Dana Point Nursery AND a \$2,000 gift certificate to the Bel Air Hotel. WOW.

There is not enough space to list items in the second and third prize groups but Peg

Kansteiner and Betsy Breddau, both of Laguna Beach, were the winners.

# Joyce Conway: Our Most Musical Gardener

Without question, music has been the major theme of club president Joyce Conway's life.

Naturally gifted and dedicated to music from a young age, she became the church organist for the Mandan, North Dakota First Lutheran Church at age 12 and continued in that role until she graduated from high school.

It was the day after high school graduation that Joyce left Mandan for California, where she has continued to use her musical gifts over a lifetime.

## **Musical Career**

She was a music performance major in piano and organ at U.C.L.A and UCI. Later, juggling husband, home and children, she taught private piano lessons and had the pleasure of seeing many of her students win honors and scholarships. She was the organist at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Laguna Beach for 40 years and was also adult and children's choir director for some of that time. She has performed organ and duo-piano music with the Sadleback Orchestra as well as being an adjudicator for other musical events.

Joyce also has been president of the Music Teachers Association, Orange Coast Cities Branch, and chairman of many of

their events.

Her sexiest gig was at the old Laguna Playhouse in 1961 where she was the organist during a four-week run of "John Brown's Body" featuring neophyte actor Harrison Ford.

But Joyce's life has been about more than music. Gardening has been one of the minor themes of her life ... although she wasn't quite the natural in horticulture that she was in music.

## **Novice Gardeners**

"While I did help my folks in their big vegetable and flower garden in Mandan, I admit to later killing many of the plants in my first yard by over fertilizing and moving things around too much," recalls Joyce.

That yard was attached to her and Keith Conway's first house in Redondo Beach where they did successfully grow grass for their four stair step daughters to play on. In 1961 Joyce and Keith and daughters Terry, Valerie, Sandy and Kathy (all under the age of six), moved to Laguna Beach and bought a large lot on Morningside Drive overlooking Bluebird Canyon and the Pacific Ocean.

## **Fred Lang to the Rescue**

"We designed and built our home as a garden home with an eight-foot picture window in the living room. There is also a picture win-

dow in the master bath that overlooks a small garden," says Joyce.

Once the garden home was built, there was the challenge of creating a garden on the large dirt lot that slopes steeply.

"After killing so many plants in our last yard, we hired Fred Lang as our landscape designer. We brought in lots of mushroom compost that Fred wanted and Keith and I planted the yard to Fred's design to save money," Joyce recalls.



That original Lang design created a "good bone structure" for the garden, one that the Conways have stuck with for all these years, but they've added a pool, redesigned, replanted, pruned and removed plants many times since 1962.

Their efforts have paid dividends. Joyce and Keith's garden has been featured on this club's spring tour, was included in *The Secret Gardens of Laguna Beach* and earned

Joyce a *Gardener of the Year* award from the California Garden Clubs Orange County District in 2003.

Joyce's latest garden project has traded roses for butterflies. Out went fifty roses in the sunken rose garden (at the foot of a steep slope) and in went a "water wise butterfly garden."

"Much easier," notes Joyce.

"But, my favorite plant now happens to be my Proteas," she says. "They require no

care and give me hundreds of flowers from February through July."

A member of the garden club since 2000, Joyce has shared those Proteas with the club for table centerpieces on several occasions. She has also given of her time to serve as program VP, co-ways and means VP and green thumb chairperson.

**Continued on next page**

## Joyce Conway continued...

Married for more than 50 years, she and Keith, a retired aeronautical engineer, both enjoy gardening, music, reading, bridge, ballroom dancing and traveling.

"We've traveled to over 50 countries, some many times," says Joyce.

While the two share many

interests, Keith has his own passion that might equal Joyce's love of music. He has an extensive train collection with a room of its own in their home.

"Our house is big enough so that he's at one end, and I'm at the other with my two grand pianos," says Joyce.



The Plant Table Boutique will be open for the Sept. 8 Membership Coffee. We stock and shop so bring labeled, potted plants that you've divided or propagated; bouquets of fresh flowers in vases; garden accessories; unique baskets, pots, vases; gardening books; garden motif knick-knacks. Shoppers bring cash.

## First District Meeting Oct. 9

A program on floral design with Gundrun Kimmel will be featured at the October 9 meeting of the California Garden Clubs Orange County District. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. at Lake Forest Beach

and Tennis Club, 22921 Ridge Route Dr., Lake Forest. Lunch is \$8. Reserve at 240-2185 with Jana Hoffman, district representative, and make the luncheon check out to her.

**Of Interest To Gardeners**

FUSANO'S LAGUNA NURSERY

**Free classes on Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.**

Sept. 2—*Planning for Fall, Winter, Spring Gardens*

Sept. 9— *French Kitchen Gardens*

Sept. 16—*Planning Cottage Gardens*

Sept. 23—*Basics of Garden Design*

*Two-hour Garden Institute classes on Tuesday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. \$50. Advance reservations required. Includes materials. Free parking.*

Sept. 12— *French Kitchen Gardens*

Sept. 26—*Advanced Garden Design. Includes field trip to 'Cristin' garden.*

497-4880

[www.fusanoslagunanursery.com](http://www.fusanoslagunanursery.com)

ROGER'S GARDENS

Sat., Sept. 9, 9 a.m.—*Containerized Water Gardens*

Sat., Sept. 23, 9 a.m.— *Spring Blooming Bulbs*

Sat., Sept. 30, 9 a.m.— *Late Summer Care for Coastal Roses*

1 800 647-2356

[www.rogersgardens.com](http://www.rogersgardens.com)

**September Garden Club Dates**

Friday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m. to noon— Membership Coffee. Neighborhood Congregational Church.

Monday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m.— LBGC Board of Directors meeting. Shirley Forden's, 175 Sunset Terrace, Laguna Beach. Standing committee chairs encouraged to attend. Please carpool. Parking spaces are scarce.

Friday, Sept. 29, 10:30 a.m.—Members Tour. Park along PCH near Rockledge Rd. Carpool from there.

[www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org](http://www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org)