



Monthly Meeting
2nd Friday of month
Neighborhood
Congregational Church
340 St. Ann's Dr.,
Laguna Beach
Social 9:30 a.m.
Meeting: 10 a.m.—Noon.

Bromeliads in the Landscape
By Chris Lutz



You might ask, "What are Bromeliads?"



Well, the most well known Bromeliad is the pineapple, but this family contains a wide range of plants including some very un-pineapple like members such as Spanish Moss (which is neither Spanish nor a moss). Other members resemble aloes or yuccas while still others look like green, leafy grasses.

In general they are inex-

pensive, easy to grow, require very little care, and reward the grower with brilliant, long lasting blooms and ornamental foliage. They come in a wide range of sizes from tiny miniatures to giants. They can be grown indoors in cooler climates and can also be used outdoors where temperatures stay above freezing

Chris Lutz, is not only a member of our garden club but also the president of the Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society,

and in 2007 he won the title of Orange County District Gardener of the Year—Special Collections. Mr. Lutz's personal collection stands at over 1000 Bromeliads. He is presently studying to be a judge for the U.S. branch of the International Bromeliad Society. Join us to learn more about Mr. Lutz's passion and how you might start a Bromeliad collection of your own!



* Remember... *
* there will be no plant *
* table sales at the *
* February meeting. *
* *
*  *
* Save those cuttings *
* and plants for next *
* month! *
* *

Welcome to our new members:

Sandy Desmond
Diane Liljestrom
Linda Roberson



Green Thumb: Melaleuca Picture Frames
This month's Green Thumb will be about making something pretty using Melaleuca bark glued to . . . picture frames, terra cotta garden pots, or whatever you choose to bring (within reason, please . . . don't bring the family pet). But, seriously, the bark is easy to use, adheres well to the hot glue, and makes a glamorous frame for that photo of Hubby trekking in the woods of Big Bear. Or, if you choose to use a terra cotta pot, it quickly takes on a rich look when covered with the bark. Crazy as it sounds, a metal mailbox was covered with the stuff, which became the catalyst for this workshop. All the fun takes place at Gayle Whitaker's house, 1619 Bluebird Canyon Drive, Laguna Beach, February 20th, 9:30 AM. Bring a hot glue gun if you have one—there will be several on hand. Bring your objet d'desire (cheap picture frame, pot, what have you . . .Cost: Free to all who come with a sense of humor, a dose of whimsy, and a thirst for adventure!

LBGC

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*February 13th—Valentine Planters
for Silent Auction*

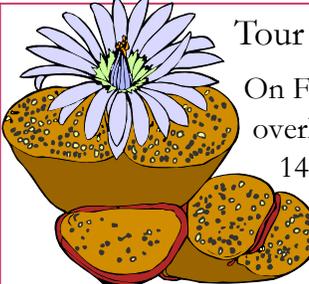


It's our annual Valentine's Day Basket Silent Auction and every member is asked to please donate a planted arrangement in a container of your choice. This event is not only a great time to show off your talents and appreciate our other members' genius, but also one of our major fund raisers supporting various charitable projects throughout the year. Because this event is always so well attended we have set a schedule to keep things running smoothly:

- 9:15 am—Please deliver your planters before bidding begins. A photo of you with your planter will be taken as you arrive.
- 9:30 am—Eat, greet, look and bid before the meeting begins.
- 10:15 am—Abbreviated meeting begins.
- 10:30 am—Short program by Chris Lutz.
- 11:00 am—15 minutes to finish bidding
- 11:15 am—Bidding ends. Bid sheets will be gathered and winners announced. Don't forget your checkbook!




Tour the UC Irvine Arboretum



On February 27, we will visit our local, though often overlooked, Arboretum. The UC Irvine Arboretum is a 14 acre garden and research facility located approximately one mile from the UC Irvine campus. The Arboretum features an extensive collection of South African plants, as well as native and rare or endangered plants. The Arboretum provides a comprehensive introduction to the unique flora of coastal California from Irvine south into Mexico.

Join us on Friday February 27 at 9:30 am in the church parking lot where we will car pool to UCI. Bring a sack lunch and we will picnic at the nearby Mason Regional Park (\$3 per car) Call Madeleine Visca for any further details. 494-7307



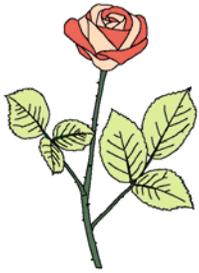
Weeder's Digest is published monthly from September through May for the members of the Laguna Beach Garden Club.

Pam Luttrell, Editor

Additional information about club activities is available at our web site www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org



"Amateur Rose Show"



Feeding Show Roses

Even though this article gives information about fertilizing, do not fertilize your roses until there is three inches of new growth after you have pruned. If you pruned in January, you will probably begin your feeding program at the beginning of March.

Here are a few rules from Southern California exhibitors:

- plant roses in soil that drains well
- use a heavy layer of compost or mulch around roses
- water deep and regularly
- have a feeding plan, and consistently fertilize/feed more often than the manufacturer recommends
- use a variety of fertilizers - exhibitors seldom rely on one brand or type of fertilizer
- Spray for insects and diseases such as fungus.

The Primary Nutrients

Fertilizers contain three elements that are basic for plant growth: nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium "N-P-K". Nitrogen promotes stem and leaf growth and deep green color. Phosphorus encourages root growth and flower production and is necessary for photosynthesis. Potassium helps regulate metabolism of the plant and contributes to hardiness, vigor, good flower color, and disease resistance.

Roses, like many other flowering shrubs, grow best in fertilizer where the ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium is approximately 1:2:1, 1:2:2, or 2:3:1 ratios. Exhibitors apply potassium regularly since it leeches out of the soil quickly. Banana peels are an inexpensive source of potassium.

Besides the three nutrients already mentioned, magnesium and a source of chelated iron are important additions to the feeding process. A good source of chelated iron is *Sprint 330* which is 10% iron. Seaweed, rabbit pellets and *SuperThrive* are other growth stimulants that are suggested for use at the beginning of each bloom cycle.

An easier program is to get a three-month time released rose fertilizer. One of our garden club members, Shahin Fazli has good results with slow release MiracleGro for her roses. When applying a slow-release fertilizer, it is best to move any mulch aside, lightly scratch the fertilizer into the soil, and then put the mulch back. The fertilizer must be in contact with the soil to work.

If you have a successful plan for feeding your roses, and would like to share your expertise, please send me an email with details to vernetta2@cox.net.



You Signed up



to bring refreshments
on February 13, 2009

Synthia Scofield
Gilda Marshall
Susan Layman
Janene Freitas
Nancy Englund
Sheila Peterson
Tyra Dematis
Jean Fitzgerald
Sally Pock
Pam Luttrell

Please arrive by
9:15 a.m. with your
Goodies.

Thank you!



**Please note these changes to
the May calendar:**

May 1st - Spring Garden Tour

May 8th - LBGC meeting.

May 15th - Board meeting



Putting Our Best Foot Forward . . .

Patriot's Day Parade 2009

We all know what “putting our best foot forward” means, but do we really know how it came about? European noblemen and wealthy gentry were overly concerned with beauty. They wore ruffled sleeves, powdered wigs, full-length hose above buckled shoes. Many were so vain that they were convinced one leg was more attractive than the other, and would find ways to pose with the attractive leg and foot in a forward position, for all to admire. Hence, the expression, putting our best foot forward: making a good impression.

What has that got to do with the Patriot's Day Parade? Well, if you recall last year we marched to a choreographed routine, wore flowered hats, carried beribboned trowels, took a VW Bug and gave it an extreme floral makeover. We put our best foot forward and it paid off with a first place trophy!

Now, we wouldn't be so cocky as to presume that we could win first place two years in a row—but, we don't want to be second banana, either. We're blue chip, through and through and we think we're a pretty ritzy group. So, even though it won't be as easy as falling off a log, we think with a new routine by Diane Kloke, with the Merritts transforming the car, and you, with your green aprons, blue jeans, white shirts, flowered hats, and beribboned trowels, we'll have our ducks in a row, be in the driver's seat, and the crowd and judges will go bananas.

Join us at Helga Yaillen's house on March 7th, 9:30 AM to lick ourselves into shape for the march down the hill. Afterwards, whether we bring home the bacon or not, we'll share a luncheon of salads, breads, and dessert at the Assistance League Chapter House. Now, doesn't that make you feel gung ho?



Club Dates to Remember in February

- Friday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.—LBGC monthly meeting. Neighborhood Congregational Church, St. Ann's Drive & Glenneyre, Laguna Beach—Speaker Chris Lutz presents *Bromeliads in the Landscape* Also, the Valentines Day Basket Silent Auction—don't forget your check book!
- Friday, February 20, 9:30 am.—Green Thumb, Decorating with Melaleuca bark at Gayle Whitaker's house. 1619 Bluebird Canyon, Laguna Beach 494-4544
- Monday, February 23, 9:30 am.—LBGC Board meeting, Hostess Polly Dix, 380 Locust Street., Laguna Beach, 497-9051. Committee Chairs welcome. New Members Coffee to follow, all board members to bring refreshments.
- Friday, February 27, 9:30 am.—Tour to UC Irvine Arboretum. (see page 2) Carpool, bring a sack lunch. Further information at February 13 meeting, any questions call Madeleine Visca 494-7307.
- Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.—Patriots Day Parade, meet at Helga Yaillen's house, 790 Catalina Street, Laguna Beach. 494-0166