



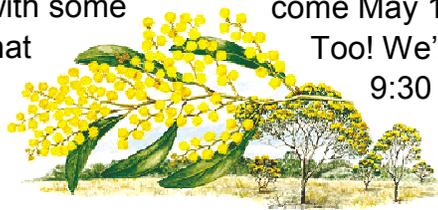
Weeder's Digest

What a Way to Jump-Start Your Summer Planting!

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

Come join us at Tivoli Too! with nurseryman Kevin Naughton, of Laguna Gardens Nursery, as he performs show and tell with some of the gorgeous plants that he stocks regularly at his nursery. Kevin came to us a few years back, and brought a boat-load (or should that be truck-load) of show-stopper plants that had us all oohing

a promise for summer fun in the garden. If you'd like your summer to begin this way, come May 11th to Tivoli Too! We'll begin at 9:30 AM, with our regular meeting at 10:00, followed by our speaker, and then a wonderful luncheon. Cost: \$26.00



and aahing. Most of us went home that day with an arm-load (or should that be a car-load) of plants and



Please call Louise Buckley at 464-9346 to place your reservation and follow-up with a check for \$26. Send your check to: Louise Buckley, 245 Aster, #5, L.B. 92651

New Members
 To be announced in
 September



Darla Lea
 Reba Shanberg
 Current membership
 210



Here's a prickly situation—May is upon us, our last meeting for the club year is May 11, and we haven't received your dues. You do remember that after June 1st, there's that thorny \$10 late fee, don't you? And what about the 2007-2008 Membership book, that sharp little book with members names and numbers? Will your name be cut out, and thrown on the weed heap, because you were too late for the press? Or will the barb miss you, as you fling your \$25 check in an envelope, pointedly addressed to: Jean Fitzgerald, 1645 Sunset Ridge Dr., Laguna Beach, CA 92651?

Relieve that itchy-scratchy feeling; PAY YOUR DUES TODAY!!



A Children's Garden

By Sheila Peterson, M.G.

At 2:15 p.m. on Monday afternoons, the El Morro Elementary School Garden Club gathers at the school lunch tables. After taking roll, the kids a mixture from first grade through fifth grade takes the trek across the playground, about 100 yards, to the enclosed garden plot. There are anywhere from 12 to 20 children who sign up for the eight week, after-school enhancement program; three consecutive sessions are offered throughout the school year. Sometimes a parent will join the group to help out.

Many a day there are supplies that need to be transported from the parking lot to the garden, the children all pitch in with great enthusiasm, carrying plants, tools or bags of soil amendments, some that require more than one volunteer, across the field

The plot is about 30 by 40 feet and entirely enclosed by a chain link fence that was installed last year with funds donated by the Laguna Beach Garden Club. Those funds were part of a \$10,000.00 grant given to El Morro Elementary School for the gardening project and came from the sales of the club's book *Secret Gardens*. Underground sprinklers were also installed and raised beds added earlier this year. Under a young shade tree, planted in a small grassy area used as an outdoor classroom, they can sit and discuss their project for that day.

As it is with gardening, the days are



varied; there are new plants to be planted, soil amendments to spread, deadheading, weeding, watering and fertilizing that take up the forty minutes of allotted time before cleanup. Spent flowers and weeds go in a wire-enclosed compost pile. Liquid seaweed fertilizer is diluted and used to water plants, trees and even the grass with the watering cans. Encouraging birds to help in the garden by eating the bugs, we've hung a birdfeeder that the children keep full of sunflower seeds.

The garden is not without its share of problems. The hardpan, clay soil is so tough outside of the raised beds that it was almost impossible to penetrate. Digging a hole in which to plant along the fence took an them an entire period, with two kids excavating, and one kid pouring water to help loosen the soil

Rabbits have found the garden and even though the chain link fence goes all the way to the ground, manage to noodle under it. These little mischief-makers can ravage an entire "crop" of vegetables, bushes and perennials in one week. As a result, three of the four raised beds were filled with artichoke



plants. Although they still dine on the coarse and prickly leaves, the plants seem to grow faster than the bunnies can consume them. The other beds have chives growing quite happily and untouched. Rosemary and society garlic were planted along one fence border since the rabbits seem to steer clear of these potent smelling plants.

The children, perpetually optimistic, tend to look on the bright side and figure at least the bunnies leave behind little fertilizer pellets!



The garden allows the children a hands-on learning experience, as they ask questions and discuss the progress of the garden. The sighting of a worm during any activity is met with great excitement because worms mean the soil is improving. They know why we pull weeds, and they've learned that just like people, some plants like the sun all the time and some plants don't. The children truly seem to love the gardening, even with the challenge of rabbits and cement-like soil.

Early in March, the rather pathetic looking plot started to show signs of improvement. Daffodil bulbs, that it took two weeks to dig six-inch holes for last October, bloomed profusely. Rosemary, sea lavender, society garlic and Mexican sage were all covered with colorful flowers, as were the bare-root apple trees the children planted. Even the rabbits look as if they found somewhere else to dine for a while.



Dear Laguna Beach Garden Club,

I would like to take the time to say "thank you" on behalf of all of the students and teachers at El Morro Elementary School. Because of your generous donation, we now have a garden on our campus. Planted by the children we have plants that attract butterflies, fruit trees, flowers, and vegetables in raised beds. Your generosity was the seed that allowed our garden program to bloom. We now have a garden to enrich the learning of the students at our school. We look forward to maintaining and nurturing our garden in the years to come.

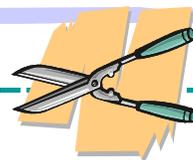
I would also like to take the time to recognize Sheila Peterson for her outstanding volunteer efforts. A knowledgeable leader she was able to answer our questions and get us going in the right direction. We are very appreciative and grateful for her valuable contributions to our children and garden.

Once again, please accept our heart felt thanks for your wonderful gift to our school!

Chris Duddy

Principal

El Morro Elementary School



Where are you? Where have to gone to?

New Address? _____

New Email? _____

Telephone? _____

New Name? _____

Old Name? _____

We want to have all our information correct in the 2007-2008 Membership book, so send me an email, cut this out and mail it to me, just please don't leave us in the dark



Mail to: Pam Luttrell, 25791 Delta Ave., Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Email to: pmluttrell@cox.net

