



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.

**Reuben Flores and Holiday Gardens:
There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays!**



* Holiday plants and décor are good sellers at the Plant Table this month *
*  *
* \$150 was last month's tally! *



Hum along with me . .
*Oh, there's no place like home
for the holidays,
'Cause no matter how far away
you roam
If you want to be happy in a
million ways
For the holidays you can't beat
home, sweet home.*

What better way to relax and enjoy the busiest time of the year than in your own garden, transformed into a resplendent retreat from the frenzy! And, who better to show us how to do so, than Reuben Flores, proprietor of Laguna Nursery and Visionscape, Inc. An internationally known landscape architect, Reuben is best at designing

garden rooms.
If you were fortunate enough to attend last month's tour of Reuben's home and gardens, you know whereof we speak. You saw for yourself how enchanting and inspiring a garden can be, if imagination and vision are employed. Every turn of the head brought into view a different tableau—a photographer's delight, to be sure. All areas of the garden were considered, with no one area overpowering the others. Sculptures, both serious and whimsical brought personality to the gardens, enlivening the experience of the visitor. (Okay, we know we're waxing rhapsodic . . .)
Reuben Flores modestly shares his ideas on the subject: "Choose one piece of art or plant specimen, and make that

the focal point. Now make everything relate to that piece, such as by color or texture." He repeats this formula for each garden room, making sure that the focal point is the foundation for all else. Colors must be compatible, whether bright or subdued. Take a cue from your wardrobe, he suggests, and dress your garden as you would yourself.
If you are now feeling sufficiently empowered to try out some of these ideas out on your own garden, come Friday, December 12th, to hear more. We meet at 9:30 AM for Greet and Eat (and not just sweets, but a variety of savory as well), short business meeting at 10, with Reuben Flores and his PowerPoint presentation to fol-



Welcome our new members:

Valerie Bick
Wendy Caufield
Pamela Hagen
Mary Lou Mettler
Joyce Oliver
Bonnie Smith



Remember to pick up your name tag as soon as you arrive at the meeting, so we get the opportunity to know all our members, new and not so new!



Amateur Rose Show



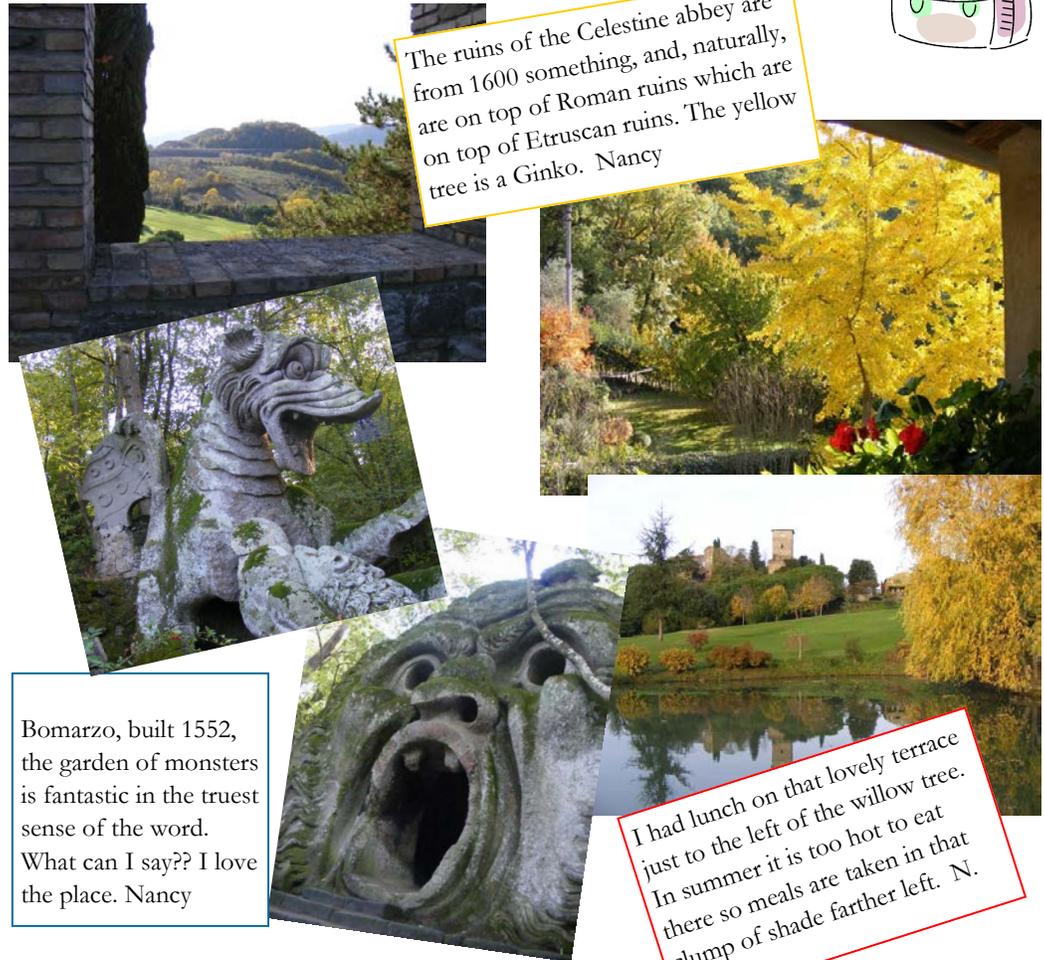
In anticipation of our club's May 8, 2009 meeting, a small team of garden club members are organizing the Laguna Beach Garden Club "Amateur Rose Show" for the May meeting. To help members prepare to be exhibitors at this Rose Show, the Weeder's Digest will have a series of articles to help you better exhibit/show the roses from your own garden. This "Amateur Rose Show" will feature the Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora and the Miniature

Rose classes. This month's article is about rose bush pruning. Our own Bonnie Andrew, an accredited American Rose Society Horticultural Judge, who lives in Laguna Beach, is a member of our garden club and works at Rogers Gardens, will be our program speaker. She will discuss the guidelines that rose judges use for judging roses. Roses are beautiful on the bush. They are also beautiful cut and dis-

played. The practice of the art of showing roses will teach you ways to best present the beauty of the cut rose. The "Amateur Rose Show" team needs volunteers to help put on the show as well as exhibitors. If you are interested in being an exhibitor or a volunteer to help on the small team for the May 8th Amateur Rose Show, contact Vernetta Crandall, 949-366-6049, vernetta2@cox.net.



Postcards from Italy...by Nancy Englund



The ruins of the Celestine abbey are from 1600 something, and, naturally, are on top of Roman ruins which are on top of Etruscan ruins. The yellow tree is a Ginkgo. Nancy

Bomarzo, built 1552, the garden of monsters is fantastic in the truest sense of the word. What can I say?? I love the place. Nancy

I had lunch on that lovely terrace just to the left of the willow tree. In summer it is too hot to eat there so meals are taken in that clump of shade farther left. N.

- LBGC
- Directors
- 2008—2009
- Gayle Whitaker
President
- Nancy Lawrence
1st VP, Programs
- Arline Moran
2nd VP,
Publicity/Web site
- Dee Koski
3rd VP, Ways & Means
- Nancy Englund
3rd VP, Garden Tour
- Polly Dix
4th VP, Membership
- Patricia Weier
Recording Secretary
- Jeanne Yale
Corresponding Secretary
- Pam Luttrell
Newsletter
- Vernetta Crandall
Treasurer
- Dixie Henry
Financial Secretary
- Joyce Conway
Immediate Past President

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

Pruning The Hybrid Tea Rose Bush

The purpose of pruning is to encourage and direct growth. Rueben Flores, owner of Laguna Beach Nursery, recently gave us his advice on pruning roses. When pruning, leave the rose bush at approximately 20 inches. The older the bush, the higher you want to leave the bush. For an established hybrid tea, look for the oldest cane and cut it out. That old cane does not allow the fertilizer to be brought up into the plant extremities and distributed efficiently through the plant. Rueben uses a combination of blood meal, bone meal, and cottonseed oil on his plants for fertilizer that can be purchased at the Laguna Beach Nursery.

One of the most important tools of the rose show exhibitor is her pruning shears. The sharpness of the cut is particularly important for show roses. Clean cuts will facilitate the lasting quality of a cut bloom and are also important for the health of the plant. Crushed stems and canes aid in the introduction of disease and pests and tend to cause dieback.

In Southern California, we begin pruning after Christmas and continue through January. The rose stores excess sugar as starch in its stems and canes. These reserves are available to support growth in periods where sugar production is limited, particularly the winter. Hard pruning unnecessarily eliminates these food reserves, with the result being a smaller bush and fewer Spring blooms. A light pruning is recommended, mentally divide the cane into three equal parts and remove the top one-third, to build a bush that will produce a lot of stems.

How many canes? In "Ortho's Complete Guide to Roses", it recommends that first; the pruner removes dead, damaged or diseased canes, weak and thin canes, and any crossing canes, to enhance the appearance of the plant. Next, the pruner tries to open up the center of the plant to improve air circulation and admit more light, which keeps down mildew and other diseases. Further cuts are made to encourage growth along the canes or at the base of the plant so that growth and flowering are stimulated. Still other cuts are made to give the plant an overall shape.

Always prune to an outward-facing bud so that canes do not grow into the center of the plant. Prune close enough to the bud so that no stub remains to die off and harbor insects or diseases, but far enough away that the bud will not die. A good distance is about 1/4 inch above the growth bud.

All foliage on the rose bush needs to be removed. Finish the job with a 3-inch layer of mulch. Do not fertilize now, when there is 3 inches of new growth, then you should fertilize.

Prune miniature rose bushes to about half their ultimate summer height. Up to six strong new canes can be left after pruning.



You Signed up

to bring food for the refreshment table on

December 12

Sweets:

Synthia Scofield
Vernetta Crandall
Pam Luttrell
Jeanne Yale
Jeanne Schaffer
Jeanne Takahashi
Janene Freitas
Dixie Henry
Birgitta Schoen
Lecia Davis

Savory:

Gilda Marshall
Sande Schwarzstein
Lyndi Fauria
Nancy Kirschke
Dorothy Scott
Marion Rice
Mary Graves
Stephanie Irving
Bonnie Smith
Irene Mickle

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

Thank you!




Share the Joy of the Season...

get acquainted tour.

Our Holiday get acquainted tour will be Friday December 19th. We will be meeting at the church parking lot at 1:30 pm, carpooling to the homes, and returning at approximately 4 p.m.

September, 2009 Excursion to Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis



While September 2009 may be many months away, now is the time to start thinking about whether you'd like to join a group of 20 to 30 LBGC members on an excursion to St. Louis, Missouri from the 15th to the 19th.

St. Louis? What's to see there? Only one of the most amazing botanical gardens in the world, The Missouri Botanical Garden. We'd also visit Shaw's Nature Reserve, the Garden's extensive arboretum and native plant showplace about 30 miles southwest of St. Louis. For more information about the Missouri Botanical Garden visit www.mobot.org.

The five-day excursion would also include lodging at the Chase Park Plaza, the beautifully renovated landmark, luxury hotel on the edge of Forest Park in St. Louis. Forest Park was the site of the 1904 World's Fair and is home to the St. Louis Zoo, Art Museum, History Museum, Golf courses and the Muny (a huge outdoor theater).

We'd leave on Tuesday, September 15 and return on Saturday, September 19. We should be able to reserve direct flights on American Airlines from the Orange County airport. Arrangements would be made by Destination St. Louis, a St. Louis travel agency. Looks like the all-inclusive package including room, meals, transportation, guides etc. (but not airfare) will be in the \$1,200 to \$1,500 range per person. Round trip airfare probably would not exceed \$400, and could be less.

We'll need at least 20 people to make the group trip viable. The maximum number would be 30.

While the botanical garden and the nature reserve would be our focus, we'd probably also do an historic neighborhoods tour and leave some time free for individuals to see what most interests them in St. Louis.

Here are some more websites to give you a flavor of where you'd stay and what you'd see:

www.chaseparkplaza.com; www.explorestlouis.com (Look at 25 things to do in St. Louis for links to Forest Park, the Zoo, the Arch etc.).

If you're interested, e-mail me, Patricia Weier, at lbgardenclub@aol.com. You'll be hearing more about this after the holidays.



Patricia Weier is our new Recording Secretary.

We'd like to thank her for stepping up on such short notice. You are much appreciated!!

Club Dates to Remember in December

- Friday, Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m.—LBGC monthly meeting. Neighborhood Congregational Church, St. Ann's Drive & Glenneyre, Laguna Beach—Speaker Rueben Flores presents Holiday Gardens. *See page 1.*
- The December board meeting will be short and held directly after the monthly meeting.
- Friday, December 19, 1:30 p.m.—Holiday Get Acquainted Tour, meet at the church, carpool from there. For any further details please call Madeleine Visca at 494-7307. *See page 3*