

VOL. 12



GROWING & GIVING

Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



FEBRUARY 2017

MEMBER NEWS

• Get Involved • Make a difference
• Make New Friends • Have Fun

A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust. - Gertrude Jekyll

COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Feb. 10th

**Valentine Container Garden
Silent Auction**

School Gardens presentation (see page 3) Laguna Presbyterian Church
• 9:30 am social 10:00 am meeting

Green Thumb April 21st.

Stone Fairy Garden House

This isn't a typo- the rained out January Green Thumb is rescheduled for April 21st at the home of Natalie Harlow-Alison

194 Acacia Dr.
Laguna Beach



9:30 am (see page 5)

Tours & Travel Feb. 24th

Vista Nursery Excursion

Visit several nurseries in the area that have reasonable prices. This is a very popular tour.

Meet at 9:00 am at St. Catherine's on Temple Terrace (see page 6)



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

I love it when I read about a project, actually do it, and it works! I plant paperwhite bulbs every year right after I take down my Christmas decorations. Watching them sprout and grow is as if I'm watching the new year grow and blossom. In the December's Weeder's Digest an article appeared on how to keep the plants short and compact. Perfect I thought, because mine are usually flopping all over the place when they start to bloom. Here is a

picture of this year's crop of fragrant flowers. The only drawback of this technique is that my kitchen smelled like martinis were being served, because of the vodka in the water! (See page 5)



President's Message

Show the Love & Grow the Gardens

“Laguna Beach Garden Club [you] members are a pure fresh flower in the garden of my heart.”

— *Debasish Mridha*

I sincerely wish a Happy Valentine's Day to my fellow Garden Club members. During this month we treasure our loved ones and take time to show we care with a special gift, note, or act of kindness. Lucky for you, your Garden Club has the perfect answer to this dilemma. LBGC will hold our annual **Valentine Container Auction** where members fashion one-of-a-kind holiday-themed containers of creative shapes and colors at our upcoming meeting **Friday, February 10**. It's a chance to purchase a unique gift for that special someone.

The raffle will increase your chances of going home with an exceptional item because the more you buy, the more you boost your opportunities. Ticket prices are **1 for \$5** and **7 for \$20**. Please invite your friends; **ALL visitors are welcome to attend**.

Bringing **CASH** or **CHECKS** will make checking out go quicker, although we do still accept **CREDIT CARDS**. All proceeds will benefit the club's educational and community conservation projects by supporting:

- school gardens programs (El Morro, Top of the World, and Thurston Middle School)
- scholarships (LBHS, Saddleback College, &

Laguna College of Art and Design)

- our many civic endeavors.

The program for the meeting will a presentation by the school gardens we support. Last June we sent 4 members of the school gardens to the Edible SchoolYard Academy in Berkeley run by Alice Waters of Chez Panisse.



On Monday, January 30, approximately 15 people from Laguna Beach Garden Club, Laguna Beach Beautification Council and the Sister Cities Association gathered in force to undertake a major refurbishing of the Sister Cities Gardens at Heisler Park, located on the corner of Jasmine and Cliff Drive. With all the helping hands, it took us about an hour to complete all the planting. Two of us stayed longer to apply name tags and to as many of the plants as we could. **Sandy Desmond** stayed to water the plants and tried not to water us

gardeners in the process. She mostly succeeded!

We do enjoy ourselves on our Mondays at the gardens! Remember: LBGC's days to garden are the **first, third** and **fifth** Monday of each month. On the **fifth** Monday, all of the groups send representatives to garden. Also, we also clean up and maintain the Memorial Rose Garden by the 9/11 sculpture. We can always use help, so mark your calendar and join us in the fun of getting your hands dirty.

- Synthia Scofield



Annual
Valentine
Container
Garden
Auction
Slated for the
February
Meeting



This is our club's
Second biggest
Fundraiser.



**Bring your planted
container
contribution to our
annual
Valentine Auction
By 9:00 AM
Friday February 10th
2017**

**We will again be
including a raffle.**

\$5 for one ticket

\$20 for 7 tickets

**Buy from Lynn Jax
and Maggie Siegel at
the meeting.**



February Tours & Travel Takes Us to Nurseries in Vista

Several of the numerous nurseries in the Vista area are on the agenda for our February Tours & Travel excursion. Included in the tour is a fruit and vegetable stand/nursery with most reasonable prices.

This tour has been very popular in the past.

Meet at 9am at St. Catherine's Church on Temple Terrace to carpool.

See Tom Hensel for more information and sign up at the Tours & Travel table at the February meeting



January Tours & Travel to Newport Civic Center & Sherman Gardens was a Blustery Success

During a crisp, sunny day, we had another fascinating Tours & Travel excursion. We ventured north to the recently completed Newport Civic Center on Avocado. There, we found statuary and plantings galore! There were out-sized rabbits and dragonflies, as well as cows that were each embellished by a different artist. The grounds are drought-tolerant landscapes which easily carry the eyes to the horizon.

Next, we toured the Sherman Gardens with a docent. The Gardens have truly been changing over the last few years. They have always been beautiful, but now they are truly special.

After all that walking, we needed sustenance and went to the Food Court at Fashion Island.

Join us on February 24 when we travel to the Vista to see some of the fantastic nurseries in the area. The camaraderie is always extraordinary and the

tours can be a wonderful way to get to know your fellow garden club members better!

- Synthia Scofield



Tours & Travel Director **Tom Hensel** talks about the local plants in the NB City Hall garden.



CLUB NEWS

Green Thumb • April 21st Stone Fairy Garden House



Our January Green Thumb project was rained out (who would have thought that was possible two months ago?). We will be building our Fairy houses around plastic bottles on April 21st instead. Participants are urged to start thinking of items they may have like a special shaped plastic bottle or specialty items for windows, doors or any other architectural details. Of course everything will be on hand to complete a beautiful Pebble Fairy Garden House. Cost \$20.00

There is no Green Thumb Project in February

Join in the fun at 9:30 am at the home of **Natalie Harlow-Alison**,
194 Acacia Drive, Laguna Beach.

Volunteer of the Month

Gilda Marshall
was the winner of
the Volunteer of the
Month drawing in
January.
She was presented
this lovely orchid
from Vice President
Lisa Fecteau.



Helpful Ideas

Intoxicating Paperwhites

This is the easy-to-follow plan using alcohol to keep Paperwhite plants short and compact.

Ethanol alcohol, the alcohol found in most "hard liquors" (vodka, rum, gin, tequila) is an excellent growth regulator to keep paperwhite plants short & compact during indoor forcing. A 4-5% solution of Ethanol will do the trick, here's how:

Plant paperwhite bulbs in stones, rock, gravel, marbles or glass beads as usual.

Water as you normally would for 7-10 days.

When you observe roots and 2-3" of green shoots, replace the water with the 4-5% alcohol solution.

Making the solution: 1 part booze to 9 parts = 4% solution. 1 part booze to 7 parts water = 5% solution.

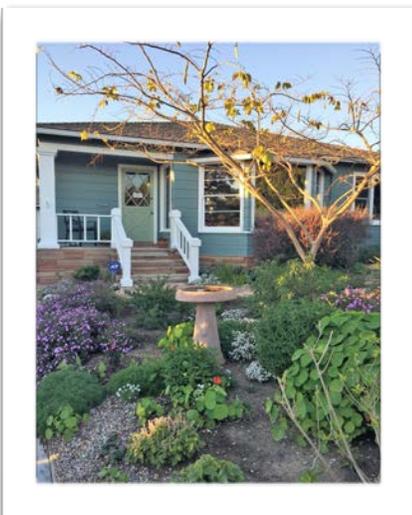
Use this solution for further watering of the paperwhites. The result is plants that are about 1/3 more compact, with flowers just as large, long lasting and fragrant as usual, and they are really happy!



2017 Gate & Garden Tour Will Be a Fiesta of Fabulous Garden Finds

Nancy Englund (left), 2017 Gate & Garden Tour Chair, and **Lynn Jax** (right), Garden Club President, recently visited **Debra Hayburn** (center), owner of a 1929 historic home on Oak Street, whose garden will be on the tour on **May 5, 11 am - 4 pm**. This year's tour will showcase at least eight private gardens and will feature a "Cinco de Mayo" theme -- with tacos, margaritas and agave plants available for purchase, in addition to free homemade cookies, complimentary refreshments and a raffle.

The self-guided walking tour is the club's major fundraiser with proceeds going to scholarships, school gardens and community projects. Tickets are \$45 in advance. Go to www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org for more information."



Why Home Grown Tomatoes Are More Flavorful

Buying tomatoes at the grocery store always disappoints our taste buds. But take heart, because researchers at the University of Florida have identified the chemical compounds responsible for their distinctive sweet, earthy, slightly grassy taste. They also have determined the genetic code for these chemicals & where they can be found in the tomato genome. These results could help breeders create a hardy tomato that will survive the journey from

field to store without sacrificing flavor. We could be on the brink of a “tomato game-changer”.

See the link from the LA Times –
Saturday, January 28, 2017

<http://enewspaper.latimes.com/desktop/latimes/default.aspx?pnum=14&edid=3dca4228-ae58-49a3-b235-dd79a5b26e6b>



It's Patriots Day Parade Time!

Get your walking shoes on and join the fun at the Patriots Day Parade on Saturday, March 4th. The parade is an easy downhill stroll through the streets of downtown Laguna. Half of the town of Laguna Beach participates in the parade and the other half cheers on the marchers from the sidewalks.

Sign up on the clip board that will be passed during the February general meeting.

See Diane Kloke for more information.



Succulents Create Art Near Tree Roots

Although the northern portion of California is out of the drought, Southern California is in its 6th year. Weary of watering? Here's an idea to use your existing drought-resistant succulent to create art in your garden. Remove the grass that surrounds your tree roots and you have a blank canvas. This project can be simple and inexpensive by buying organic cactus soil mix, scavenging your garden for succulent pups, and adding pebbles, rocks or other garden items.

See the link from the LA Times – Saturday, January 28, 2017
<http://enewspaper.latimes.com/desktop/latimes/default.aspx?pnnum=51&edid=3dca4228-ae58-49a3-b235-dd79a5b26e6b>



January Centerpiece Was a Lively Beauty

Bill and Elizabeth Kramer wowed us in January with their centerpiece entitled *"Fill the New Year With Beauty"*. This beautiful arrangement might also have the distinction of being the first centerpiece to have a living animal as part of the composition- a Beta fish swam happily in the bedazzled fish bowl.



Each month we look forward to seeing the creativity of our members when the centerpiece arrives, and Bill & Elizabeth set the bar high for 2017!



Lilac Tea, Walk & Art Alliance of Idyllwild Artists

By the Idyllwild Garden Club

SATURDAY, APRIL 29th: 10:30–3:00 (Tea from 11:00 - 2:00)

A beautiful day in the pines on a docent guided tour of hundreds of spectacular lilacs from around the world. Art Alliance Artists will be on site to show their skills and will have their creations for sale

. Choose to simply enter the garden for the guided walk and art. Or you may also choose to enjoy our popular Victorian Tea on the patio overlooking the Gardens (*Including Sandwiches & Desserts*) Teas donated by Merkaba Tea Company)

Alpenglow Gardens, 25025 Fern Valley Rd. Idyllwild CA

Entrance, Walk & Art : \$5 or

Entrance, Walk, Art AND TEA: \$20

**Pre- Purchase at Idyllwild Pharmacy, Lily Rock Native Nursery, OR
On-line at www.idyllwildgardenclub.net**

tonestar@verizon.net for questions

Day of event: tickets available at entrance

A Travel Opportunity Ojai Garden and Music Festival

Ojai Garden and Music Festival June 9-11, 2017

Dear Friends,

Last year I reached out to you all with a new idea - combining a garden tour with the 70-year-old Ojai Music Festival.

The garden & music package sold out and was such a success that we've decided to do it again. Participants will again stay in deluxe "fireplace" rooms at the Ojai Valley Inn, visit 5 very special private gardens in Ojai, receive VIP seating at 3 concerts in the Libbey Bowl, and be treated to delicious meals featuring local produce and local wines in a variety of venues.

This year, the fun will begin over lunch at the Ojai Valley Inn on Friday, June 9 and wrap up on Sunday, June 11.

In addition to the package, a tax-deductible charitable contribution of \$250 per person to the Festival will secure your spot now.

Feel free to pass this along to any other garden lovers who you think might be interested.

Please contact Gina Gutierrez at [805 646 2181](tel:8056462181) or ggutierrez@ojaifestival.org if you are interested in 2017 year's package.

Hope to see you in Ojai!

Carolyn Bennett (LBGC speaker March 2016 "Savings Our Gardens – Honoring Our Past")

Gina Gutierrez

Chief Operating Officer

PO Box 185 Ojai CA 93024 Direct: [805 646 2181](tel:8056462181)

P: [805 646 2094 x.104](tel:8056462094x104) / F: [805 646 6037](tel:8056466037)

**Join us for the 71st Ojai Music Festival Vijay Iyer, Music Director
June 8 to 11, 2017**

Explore more on OjaiFestival.org

Follow us on Twitter: @OjaiFestivals

Find us on Facebook: Ojai Music Festival



I like gardening — it's a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself.

~ Alice Sebold ~



Recognition Awards

We are creating four new awards to recognize club members and their tremendous efforts that support the club. All members are encouraged to nominate a fellow club member to take notice of their activities and volunteer efforts in which they participate.

Nominations will be accepted at the **April 14, 2017** general meeting. Forms will be forthcoming. Be prepared to write a short explanation for your nominee. The winners will be awarded at the **May 12, 2017** general meeting.

Categories are:

1. Club Member of the Year
2. Rookie Member of the Year
3. Gardener of the Year
4. Garden of the Year



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www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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