

VOL. 12



GROWING & GIVING

Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



APRIL 2017
MEMBER NEWS

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

COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting April 14th

Jeff Moore

Under the Spell of Succulents (see page 3) Laguna Presbyterian Church
• 9:30 am social 10:00 am meeting

Green Thumb April 21st

Stone Fairy Garden House

At the home of Natalie Harlow-Alison

194 Acacia
Dr. Laguna
Beach



9:30 am
(see page 6)

Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer.
-Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

The abundance of flowers that dot the hills around southern California is nothing short of phenomenal. The Headlands in Dana Point are normally covered with dry brown bushes, but last week while walking on the trail, I found they had exploded with beautiful green shrubs filled with yellow daisy like flowers.

For a truly remarkable flower showcase, take the drive down to the Carlsbad flower fields. There are 40+ acres of Ranunculus blooms in bands of sunny colors, a sweet pea maze

and a greenhouse filled with hundreds of blooming cymbidiums in all colors. A hay wagon pulled by a tractor provides a guided tour of the flower farm for those who want to see all 40 acres.

So no matter where you go, get out and enjoy the flowers!



Tours & Travel April 28th

Solana Succulents

Visit Jeff Moore's fabulous nursery in Solana Beach as well as other nurseries in the area.

Meet at 9:00 am at St. Catherine's on Temple Terrace (see page 8)



President's Message

Spring Into Action at the Gate & Garden Tour

While reading the next book for my book club, I came across the following description of life in the desert for a plant.

"A cactus doesn't live in the desert because it likes the desert; it lives there because the desert hasn't killed it yet. Any plant that you find growing in the desert will grow a lot better if you take it out of the desert. The desert is like a lot of lousy neighborhoods; nobody living there can afford to move. Too little water, too much light, temperature too high: the desert has all of these inconveniences ratcheted up to their extremes."

*-Jahren, Hope. Lab Girl.
New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2016, p142.*

I had immediate flashbacks of our recent excursion to the desert of San Diego County to view the wildflowers in bloom, dubbed the Super Bloom of the Decade. Dalynn Malek, Diane Kloke, and I along with our respective husbands made a foray to Anza Borrego Desert State Park; its 600,000 acres make it the largest state park in California and second largest in the contiguous United States. With late afternoon temperatures in the high-90s, it is easy to identify with the plight of a cactus, but the beauty of the wildflowers are worth the heat, and we were not disappointed.

With this year's abundant rainfall, many desert areas, easily accessible within a couple hours'

drive, are in full bloom. I hope you take advantage of this rare opportunity to enjoy what nature has kept dormant for the past twelve to thirty years. Here's a list of some suggestions:

- Death Valley • Joshua Tree • Mojave Desert • Gorman on the Grapevine • Chino Hills State Park • Rivendale Park, Santa Clarita • Coachella Valley Preserve • Tahquitz Canyon, Palm Springs • Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve, Lancaster.



A bit closer to home are the Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch, open daily 9AM – 6PM through May 14. Walk in waist-high cultivated ranunculus.

Many of us are gearing up for our annual **Gate & Garden Tour, May 5, 2017**. If you have not as yet signed up to volunteer, please do so at the April 14 meeting. Jeanne Yale will be passing around our infamous clipboards. We need many volunteers as we have 10 gardens that need docents, guides who will read a script to ticket holders on the bus to & from the gardens, bakers of cookies, those who want to give money to offset

costs, sellers of raffle tickets, registration clerks, refreshment helpers, set-up and clean-up helpers. Double that list of volunteers because there are two shifts. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes assistance needed. Members are expected to contribute to our major fundraiser event. But it is not all work. Fun is the key word to describe the activities that will accompany your time spent. Besides enjoying the tour as a visitor and not just a worker, this year's tour will also feature a fiesta, including a taco vendor, plus beer, wine and margaritas available for purchase at Arabella Laguna where the tour starts and ends.

For the first time we will be selling tickets for the tour at the Farmer's Market April 22 and April 29.

Another opportunity to help out your club is to **donate any size potted agave** for us to sell at the Farmer's Market and at the tour itself. Bring those agaves to the April 14 meeting.



Jeff Moore Will Cast Us *Under the Spell of Succulents at the April Meeting*

Born in Newport Beach, Moore and his family moved to Solana Beach when he was 6 years old. A succulent enthusiast for more than 30 years, the Torrey Pines High School alum has owned and operated Solana Succulents since 1992.

Moore started off as a collector in the mid-1980s. His first purchase was a succulent bonsai.



"I thought they were really weird and cool," said Moore, who first spotted the plant at a Del Mar Fair exhibit. "So I went and got a couple of those plants. And as collections go, you end up with more and then your patio is full. It just happens that way."

Today, it's Moore who holds exhibits at the San Diego County Fair. He has had an exhibit every year at the fair at the Del Mar Fairgrounds for more than 20 years.

One year, he created a garden that looked like a coral reef. It was such a big hit, he brought

the exhibit back the following year and also took it on the road to the Philadelphia Flower Show. In the mid-2000s, he also installed a permanent undersea-themed succulent garden at Encinitas-based San Diego Botanic Garden, formerly Quail Botanical Gardens.

"That's how a lot of people know me," he said.

The collector-turned-nursery owner has also become the go-to speaker on succulents for local garden clubs. He travels around the county and across the state giving presentations at garden-focused associations and organizations.

So it was only a matter of time before he wrote his first book, which he also self-published. With only 1,500 copies printed, more than half have already been sold.

Wanting his words to inspire, Moore hopes the book creates new succulent enthusiasts.

"It's either going to reaffirm what they love, or hopefully, it will convert some new people who are just getting started," said Moore, who is completing his second book, which is focused on aloes and agaves.



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

The largest garden of the ten featured on this year's **Gate & Garden Tour on May 5th**, is a jaw-dropping tropical paradise on Bluebird Canyon Drive that sits on a half acre of terraced grounds with a stream running through it. **Joanie Rowe** has owned this property since the early '70s – 46 years. She says that the garden is a tribute to her late husband Ron's vision and tireless work. The couple had a great backyard canvas to begin with, and they hauled every rock, plank and plant up the steep hill to create a lush and wild wonderland.

The Gate & Garden Tour on Cinco de Mayo will offer tacos, margaritas, wine, beer and agave plants for sale – as well as free homemade cookies and refreshments, craft displays, plein air painters, and a raffle.

Tickets are \$45 in advance at LagunaBeachGardenClub.org and at Laguna Nursery, Laguna Beach Books, Laguna Drug, Tides Inn and Dana Point Nursery.



Brooks Street is the neighborhood of the gardens featured on the tour



Joanie Rowe welcomes all to her tropical paradise garden on the May 5th tour

Gate & Garden Tour Chair Nancy Englund has found an amazing collection of gardens for the annual spring tour.





GATE & GARDEN TOUR ~ MAY 5, 2017

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FOUR SPONSORSHIP LEVELS ~ ALL 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE

\$1,000+ ~ Monarch

\$500 - \$999 ~ Poppy

\$100 - \$499 ~ Pelargonium

\$25 - \$99 ~ Aloe

YOUR BUSINESS NAME WILL APPEAR BY SPONSOR LEVEL IN 5 VENUES:

- 2017 Gate & Garden Tour Brochure for the self-guided walking tour
Reaching up to 500 visitors, local residents, businesses, media and stakeholders
- 2017 Gate & Garden Tour Sponsor Sign in registration area
Reaching up to 500 visitors, local residents, businesses, media and stakeholders
- 2017-18 Laguna Beach Garden Club Membership Book
Reaching over 200 local and regional club members and stakeholders
- 2017 Laguna Beach Garden Club "Weeder's Digest" Newsletter
Reaching over 200 local and regional club members and stakeholders
- 2017-18 Laguna Beach Garden Club Website
Reaching hundreds of club members and non-members annually

*Make your check payable to Laguna Beach Garden Club and mail to PO Box 362, LB, CA 92652
with your business name, address, phone, email and contact name.*

For more info, contact President Lynn Jax at 949 294 1500 or jax@cox.net.

Laguna Beach Garden Club is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization, thereby making donations tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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CLUB NEWS

Green Thumb • April 21st Stone Fairy Garden House



We will be building our Fairy houses around plastic bottles. Participants are urged to bring 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

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

Volunteer of the Month



Polly Dix was the winner of the Volunteer of the Month drawing in March. She was presented this lovely orchid plant from Vice President **Lisa Fecteau** & February winner **Susan Neal**.

SHARING WITH
EACH OTHER

In The Know

A Step Back in Time

Did you know the Garden Club put on a musical in 1995? As Jeanne Yale was browsing through the Club's historical memorabilia she came across an article from March 9, 1995 *Laguna News-Post*. The March meeting was a musical review with a floral theme. "The show was created by Peabody and Emmy award-winning director/producer, Bob Henry [who later served as President of LBGC from 1996-98]. His daughter Ruth wrote the lyrics, and retired assistant district attorney of Orange County, Ed Merrillees, was the musical director. Lois McCrystal, the club's publicist, made an appearance as Second Hand Rose." Who knew?

- Submitted by Jeanne Yale

Hortense Miller Garden Adds New Board Members

Two LBGC members are named to the Hortense Miller Garden (HMG) Board of Directors. **Diane Lannon** will take on the job of Docent Coordinator and **Barbara Deubert** will lend her organizational skills to the board. Both women have volunteered at the HMG for quite a while. Congratulations to both Diane and Barbara, and to HMG for recognizing the extraordinary talents of both of these women.

We Went to the *Top of the World* for the March Tours & Travel

Our most recent Tours & Travel Field Trip was here in town. We went to **Top of the World Elementary School** and met with **Kelly Osborne** and our own **Monette Weiss**. We were given a quick tour of the gardens



before the children joined us. Kelly has done a phenomenal job with the gardens and garnering the interest, not only of the children, but also their parents and the teachers. There are several parents who show up to help in the gardens. The teachers love being able to work with the

children outside and teach them the relationship between their food and themselves. Being able to actually see the vegetables and fruit being grown and having a part in their growing is opening new worlds for the kids. For instance, they made a kale salad a couple of weeks ago, and only one child said that they did not like it. Lucky they didn't ask me! I hate kale.

Kelly led a tutorial on the different stages of buds, flowers, finished flowers, immature fruit, and ripe fruit. Then, we were assigned to a pair of children and given the task of checking the various fruit trees to document where they were in their development.

It was wonderful to see the involvement and interest that the

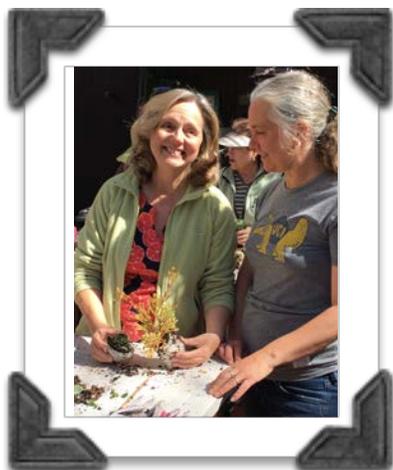
kids all showed. They all dug eagerly into the assignment and thoroughly examined the trees. They showed us their favorite parts of the garden and talked about how they loved being there. Afterward, they made lemonade with lemons from their lemon tree and shared it with us. What a morning!

- Synthia Scofield



She Planted Sea Shells Down By the Seashore

An enthusiastic group of fifteen gardeners met at Nancy Englund's home on March 17th to make beautiful mermaid garden planters. They began by using a Dremel drill to drill a hole in the bottom of a real sea shell to use as the container. Next they filled them with cactus mix and a variety of succulents. The results were a magical home for very lucky



Lynn Jax and Nancy Englund discuss the style of Lynn's mermaid planter. **Debbie Sugg** is enjoying the warm March sunshine as she plants her shell.



Masked drillers prepare the drainage hole in their shells. **Jorja Puma & Wendy Caulfield** work on their creations. Focused on their projects, **Lisa Fecteau & Cheryl Bartetzko** didn't stop for a moment to smile for the camera.

Kathleen Kane, Maggie Owens & Diane Kloke busily work on their planters. **Lynette La Roche** is busily at work on her garden.



Solana Succulents Nursery Calls To Us In April

On April 28th we will venture south to Solana Beach to visit Jeff Moore's nursery **Solana Succulents**. Meet at St. Catherine's Church on Temple Street at 9:00am to carpool to this plant paradise. We will also visit other nurseries in the area and have lunch at a local restaurant.

Sign up at the April 14th meeting



A Beautiful Photo of Your Garden Could Make You Famous

All members are invited to submit photographs from their gardens for our annual Photography Contest. The first and second place entries will be featured on the front and back covers of the 2017-2018 membership directory. The winner of the eleventh annual contest was Nancy Englund's photo of a beautiful cymbidium orchid that brings a spark of color to her beautiful garden. Kathleen Kane's Japanese maple took center stage in the second place photograph.

Photo Contest Rules

Photo entries are due to the contest committee chair, Laura McCants by **Friday, April 21st, 2017** (extended deadline).

Only one entry per garden club member is allowed.

The entry can be either vertical or horizontal format, but vertical is preferred.

If entered via U.S. mail, no identifying information (regarding the submitter) should be written in the back of the photo.

The entry must be a recent photo of some part of the member's garden.

By submitting the entry, the member declares that he/she owns the right to the photo.

Entries will be judged at the April 24th Board meeting.

The winner's photo will be featured on the front cover of the 2017-18 membership book, and the second place winner will be featured on the back cover.

Submit your photo via email or USPS to Laura McCants.

144 Westport, Newport Beach, CA 92660

C: [949-910-0411](tel:949-910-0411)

E: lauramccants@cox.net

Entries will be judged at May 22 Board meeting.



2016-17 Front Cover Photo
Nancy Englund



2016-2017 Back Cover Photo
Kathleen Kane

Great Scents to Add to Your Garden

Getting to Know the Pelargonium

The diverse Pelargonium genus includes 140 varieties known for oil-rich leaves with fragrances that range from citrus to cinnamon, pine to pepper. These plants earn their keep in the ground because they are:

- Drought-tolerant
 - Deer-resistant
 - Attract bees & hummingbirds
- They can reach 1-3 feet tall and wide. Control their size by keeping them in pots or pruning tips during the growing season. They can handle full sun in cool-summer areas, but appreciate afternoon shade in hot climates and do best in fast-draining soil. In all but the hottest weather, established plants can get by with monthly water. Most scented geraniums are frost-tender. Cuttings root easily in water or potting soil.

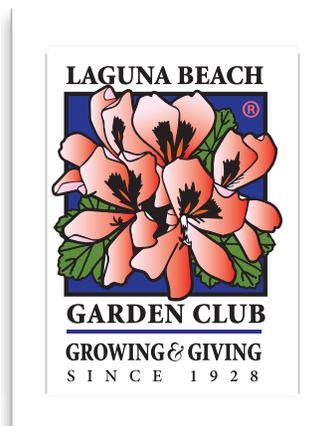
Sunset magazine's picks include:

- Apple – summer sprays of white flowers
- Attar of Roses – rose-scented & needs space to grow
- Chocolate Mint – dark brown splotch in center of leaf & emits mint chocolate aroma
- Colocho – intensely twisted leaves emit strong smell of rose
- Concolor Lace – dark pink flowers all summer; leaves have a nutty smell

- Dappled Oak – oak-shaped leaves have strong, pungent smell
- Fragrant Frost – cream-tipped leaves smell of lemon
- Mabel Grey – strong lemon scent from large leaf
- Peppermint – large furry leaves need plenty of room to grow
- Phyllis – bright cream leaves smell of apricot
- Rober's Lemon Rose – citrus-scented & hardy
- Skeleton Rose – deeply cut leaves smell of rose and citronella
- Strawberry – crinkly, frilly leaves give a fruity smell
- Variegata – nut-smelling with soft white variegation
- Variegated Prince Rupert – cream-color, lemon-scented leaves

Taken from *Sunset*, April 2017, pp 46-47.

- Submitted by Lynn Jax



Garden Tip – Geranium or Pelargonium

Geraniums and pelargoniums are two distinct general in the plant family Geraniaceae. Differences in the flower parts separate the two, and they are often mislabeled in nurseries as all being geraniums. “Ivy”, “Scented”, and “Zonal” are three different species pelargonium. True geraniums are often called “Cranebill” or “Hardy Geranium”. If either of these are healthy, but have no flowers, budworms might be eating the buds. Look for holes in the buds and black droppings on the leaves. If you catch the problem in time, you can prevent further damage by spraying the remaining buds with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a biological control agent (available in nurseries).

- Submitted by Nancy Englund



The Pelargonium is the featured flower on our logos and it is the official flower of the city of Laguna Beach

Club Business - Membership, Elections & Budget

Membership Renewal

You may renew your Laguna Beach Garden Club membership at the upcoming April and May meetings. Membership forms are available on the website and can be filled out online by going to the Members Only section and clicking on the LBGC Membership Renewal Form. The password is Pelargonium with a capital P. You may also fill out the form at the church before the meeting.

Dues are \$45.00 or \$50.00 if paid by Credit Card. **Membership MUST be renewed by June 1st to be included in the membership book.**

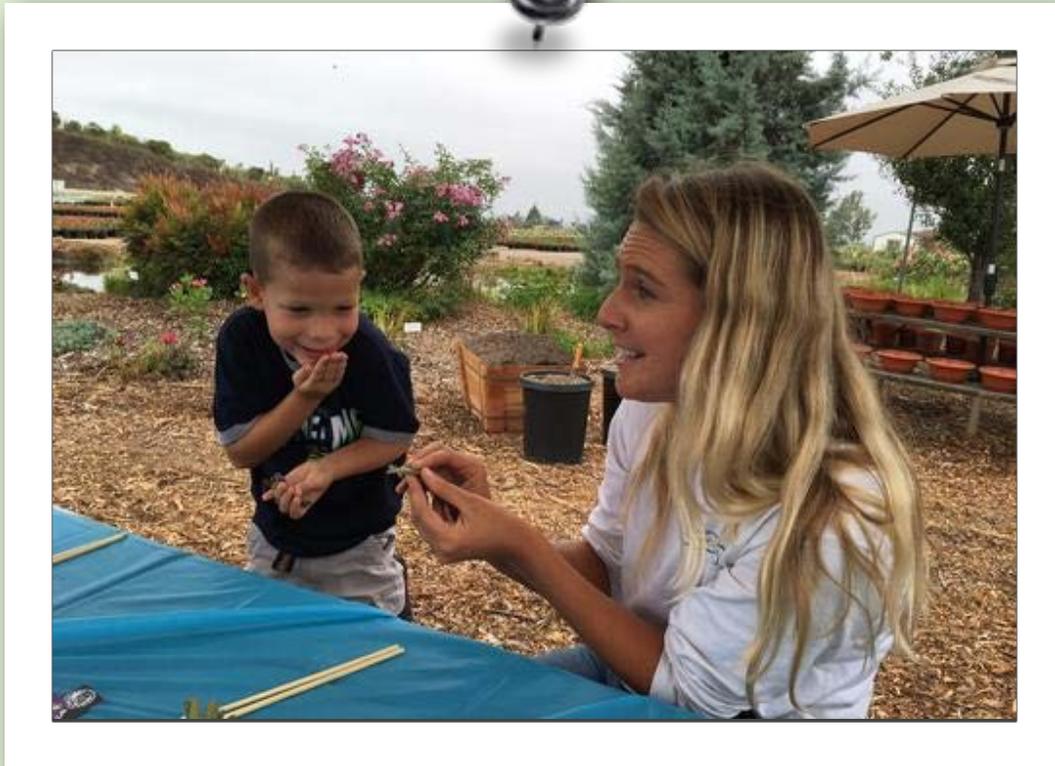
We are happy to announce the slate of nominees for the 2017-2018 LBGC Board of Directors
Voting will take place at the April 14th meeting

President	Lynn Jax
Vice President, Programs	Lisa Fecteau
Treasurer	Jorja Puma
Recording Secretary	Jackie Knauer
Past President	Jorja Puma
Financial Secretary	Jeanne Yale
Co Directors of Membership	Connie Maxsenti & Karen Nelson
Director of Ways & Means	Lynette LaRoche
Director of Gate & Garden Tour	Nancy Englund
Director of Publicity	Dianne Lannon
Director of Website	Elaine Davis
Director of Newsletter	Dalynn Malek

Proposed 2017-2018 LBGC Budget
 Voting for approval will take place at the April 14th meeting

INCOME			
5600	Donations		
19000	Garden Tours Income		
	Grants		
	Masse Green Grant		
	Blue Bell Cat Sanctuary		
9000	Membership Dues		
	Penny Pines Donations		
2650	Raffle Income		
100	Special Events Income		
	Reimbursed Expenses		
3000	Taxable Sales		
39350	TOTAL INCOME		
EXPENSES			
	Cost of Goods Sold		
1000	Cost of Taxable Sales		
	Direct Expenses		
8925	Contributions and Donations		
	Educational Program Expense		
	Raffle Expenses		
5500	Regular Speaker Expenses		
	Restricted Expenses		
100	Community Event Cost		
11525	Gate & Garden Tour Expenses		
	General & Administrative		
1800	Accounting Professional Serv		
120	Bank Chages		
100	Meetin Meetings		
1000	Insurance		
500	Office Expense		
500	Promotion - Publicity		
1000	Dues and Fees		
2700	Club Expenses		
	Hospitality Supplies		
2700	Rent		
2880	Website & Internet		
39350	TOTAL EXPENSES		
-	NET INCOME		

Family Garden Events Happening Around Town



"Nature in the Garden" at Waterwise Botanicals with Kelsey Brandt

You're Invited to a Family Activity!

April 22nd, 2017 @ 9:30 A.M

"Nature in the Garden" is a family activity meant to inspire & teach young gardeners about the great outdoors and respect for wildlife. Bring your kids and join them for a fun-packed nature experience with our own Kelsey Brandt! Learn about some of the garden creatures and elements of nature here at Waterwise Botanicals for some quality "memory making moments". See you then

SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

Your CHECKLIST

**PLANT**

Sow or transplant any cool-season vegetables that will continue thriving through summer, including beets, carrots, kale, leeks, heat-resistant lettuces, peas, and Swiss chard.

Transplant tomatoes this month, but wait until May to set out other heat lovers, including corn, cucumber, eggplant, melon, pepper, pumpkin, and squash.

Sow or transplant annual and perennial flowers, especially more drought-tolerant ones such as alyssum, calendula, cosmos, daylily, dusty miller, gaillardia, hollyhock, lantana, nasturtium, Shasta daisies, and statice.

**MAINTAIN**

Keep onions evenly moist. Bulbs tend to split if the soil is alternately wet and dry early in the season.

Feed all trees heavily for strong growth and fruit production. Use compost and fertilizers high in nitrogen (such as fish emulsion, chicken manure, cottonseed meal, and blood meal) and high in phosphorus (bone meal and rock phosphate).

On deciduous fruit trees, thin immature fruits beginning when they are walnut-size. Continue every couple of weeks until you leave only one fruit at each joint.

For bushier plants with more blooms, pinch new growth of daisies, fuchsias, geraniums,



"Yellow spines and blue-green leaves offer year-round color."

JOHANNA SILVER,
GARDEN EDITOR

lavender, mums, and sedums. Root cuttings for new plants and give them away.

To strengthen spring-flowering bulbs for next year, continue watering and feeding them until their foliage starts to yellow. Then let them dry out.

**PROTECT**

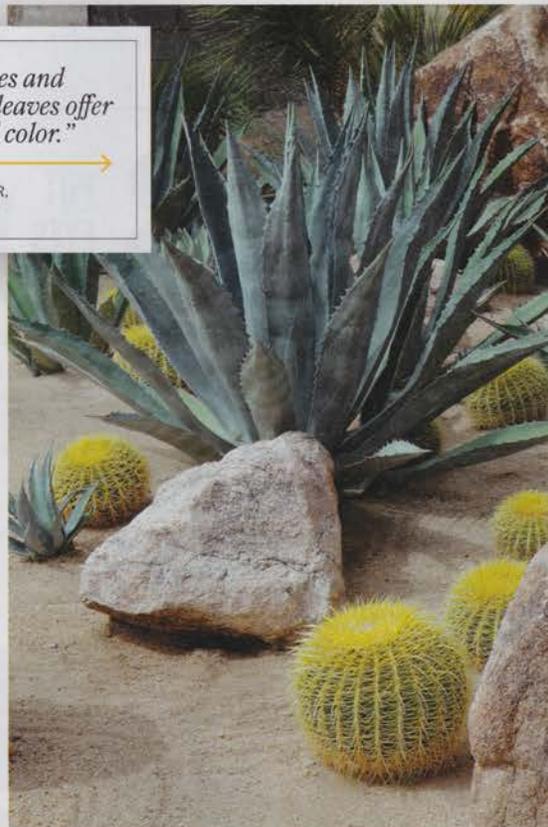
Attract beneficial wasps and flies by planting members of the carrot family, including anise, caraway, carrot, coriander, dill, fennel, and parsley.

Protect new transplants from nighttime chill and early pests by using hot caps or clear plastic jugs with their bottoms cut off and caps removed.

Pull weeds before they flower, to avoid larger outbreaks.

**GO**

For desert garden beauty, check out the Morongo Basin Conservation Association's 7th Annual Desert-Wise Landscape Tour, which will highlight more than 20 drought-tolerant home gardens. \$10; Apr 22-23; mbconservation.org.

**GARDEN WE LOVE**

Power couple

When garden designer Judith Marchyn moved into her Joshua Tree house, the yard was essentially a blank slate. She decided to keep it simple, with a sculptural combination of her favorite desert specimens: blue-green century plants (*Agave americana*) and golden barrel cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*). Both iconic desert plants grow large—8 by 12 feet for the century plant and 4 by 2½ feet for the barrel cactus—but Marchyn spaced them close for immediate effect, removing some every couple of years as they become crowded. Both grow well wherever winter temperatures stay above 17°. ▾



Learn what to plant when with our year-round checklists: sunset.com/checklists.

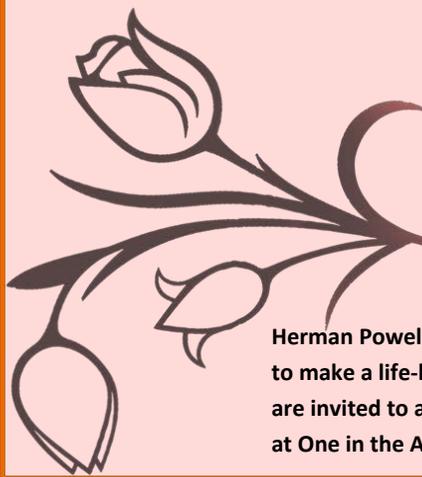


Magical March Centerpiece

This lucky pot-of-gold centerpiece was made by member **Sue Goldberger** for our March meeting. The treat table was especially magical with this colorful spring arrangement.

Thanks Sue!

A Personal Announcement Asking You
to
Save the Date



Herman Powells and Elaine Davis are announcing their engagement to make a life-long commitment to their relationship of love. You are invited to a party of celebration, on Saturday, June 10, starting at One in the Afternoon. A formal invitation will follow.

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.

Forms will be available at the April 14 meeting. Be prepared to write a 2 sentences explanation. If you would like to submit a photo of your garden to be considered, send it to Lynn Jax at: jax@cox.net.

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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