

VOL. 13



GROWING &

Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



DECEMBER 2017

MEMBER NEWS

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

Deck the halls, the trees, and the garden with holiday cheer to bring the spirit of the season inside and outside of your home

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Thanksgiving was a balmy 90 degrees and now the only icicles we see in downtown Laguna are the white twinkle lights that hang from the eaves of the shops & galleries. So we trade snowsuits for wetsuits and snow shovels for garden rakes, yet most of us wouldn't have it any other way.

Living in south Orange County gives us the luxury of being able to tend our gardens 12 months of the year. The days are shorter, so the amount of time we can spend digging, pruning and planting is less, but

the beautiful sunsets we have had lately are the perfect end of a day in the garden.

Merry Christmas and wishing everyone a wonderful New Year ahead!



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Dec. 8th

Steve Kaye

Garden Photography- How to Take Better Pictures (see page 3)



Laguna
Presbyterian
Church

- 9:30 am social
- 10:00 am meeting

Tours & Travel Dec. 15th

Members' Holiday Tour

Join us as we visit the home of Diane Kloke which has been decorated for the holiday season. Meet at 3pm at St. Catherine's on Temple Terrace.



President's Message

Giving Thanks and Looking to The New Year

Once again we spent Thanksgiving in Portland, Oregon visiting our son and his family. The gorgeous autumn colors of the falling elm, oak, and aspen leaves were some of the highlights along with delicious food and family time. December is now upon us with all its holiday glory, including celebrating with family and friends. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and the most happiest of holidays during this special time of year.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual **Christmas Member Tour on Friday, December 15** as our Tours & Travel event. If you have not attended this event before or are new to our club, this is a **MUST NOT** miss event. Members generously open their decorated-for-the-holidays home to us, where we share holiday cheer and enjoy each other's company socially. Sign up at the Tours & Travel table at the December 8 meeting. Plan to make room to carpool as parking is scarce at some homes in Laguna Beach.



Become a Sponsor

As 2017 is winding down, now is a good time to think of **becoming a Sponsor of LBGC by making a tax deductible donation** to Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. (Federal Tax ID# 23-7297058). My husband and I give to reputable, charitable organizations throughout the year, and with the tax year coming to a close, the timing is perfect. At the next meeting, December 8, Sponsor Forms will be available at the Member Registration table located at the entrance for your use. We have 4 levels of Sponsorships - see page 69 of your Membership Book - your name will be listed on the Sponsor Page 68 next year. Sponsors's names will also be listed on our website and in the Gate & Garden Tour brochure. Jorja Puma and Jeanne Yale will accept all donations at the Raffle Table located against the far wall. I will send you an official letter acknowledging your donation that you can use as verification when you file your tax return.

If you love what our club does throughout the year and would like to help us continue to do so, we would very much appreciate your donation in any amount. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

December RAFFLE

A special Christmas raffle at the December 8 meeting offers you a chance to bring home a unique gift for that special someone or for yourself (after all you are worth it). You won't find these gems elsewhere. Tickets are \$5 for one ticket and \$20 for 7 tickets. Bring cash, checks, and we even take credit cards. So far the items include:

- A Parisian Apron
 - A Christmas Gourd
 - A Gorgeous planted Container from Nursery Garden + Farm in Irvine
 - An Authentic Homemade English Christmas Pudding
 - A Decorative Gingerbread House from French's Bakery
- If you would like to add some special to the raffle, contact Lynn Jax (E: jax@cox.net or Cell 949-294-1500).



December's Speaker Steve Kaye Presents: *Garden Photography – How to Take Better Pictures*

On Friday, December 8, Steve Kaye speaks on *Garden Photography – How to Take Better Pictures*.

Steve feels a connection with Nature and a compassion for life. This serves to guide his focus for photographs that capture the extraordinary essence of the earth's beauty in flowers and birds in California gardens. These photographs inspire respect for Nature giving uniquely wonderful experiences and memorable stories. Discover how the art of seeing leads to better, more memorable photos. Gain tips, tricks and techniques used by professional photographers. At one of Steve's workshops, a professional photographer said "It took me 4 years to learn what you just covered in 20 minutes."



If people felt a connection with Nature, they would feel compassion for life. In turn, this would lead to choices that benefited all humanity. They would, for example, conserve resources, avoid pollution, and create sustainable systems.



November Tours & Travel Found Us at the Laguna Niguel Botanical Preserve

A dozen or so intrepid Garden Club folks came out on what appeared to be a cold, rainy, blustery day to hike the trails at the Niguel Botanical Preserve in Laguna Niguel.

Once we got to the preserve, the sun came out, and it was a beautiful, blustery day!

We walked nearly the whole preserve which had several different geographical regions: Chilean, Australian, California/Baja/Channel Islands, South African, and Mediterranean. There are also specific gardens within the preserve: Roses,

Succulents, and Children's. The Labyrinth and Formal Gardens are wonderful! Since it had just rained, the smells and colors were phenomenal! You have to go and see the views from the top of the preserve!

After touring, we had lunch right there in the park and chatted about what we had seen.

I can't wait to visit again in the Spring and see the Daffodils and other bulbs in bloom.

NiguelBotanicalPreserve.org

- Synthia Scofield



Tours & Travel • Dec. 15th Members' Homes Holiday Tour

We will visit the home of **Diane Kloke** to see her lovely home and her Christmas decor. Join us to get in the holiday spirit with some food and beverage as part of the tour.

Meet at 3pm at St. Catherine's on Temple Street to carpool.

Bring a friend- it's free!

GREEN THUMB

MORE GARDENERS NEEDED FOR VALENTINE PLANT SALE EVENT

Valentine's Plant Sale event needs your gardening skills. At our December 8 general meeting, I will be giving our nursery pots for you to root cuttings, or establish transplants. The best way for us to make money will be to have nice looking and nice sized plants to sell – plants that we didn't have to pay for. Put a number of cuttings/transplants in a pot and those that take can be further potted, those that don't can be removed. **I would like to have an average of 50 people take 2 pots to plant and nurture.**

As we are holding this plant sale in February, with the idea of selling what will be Valentine gifts, I think we will do well with house plants as well as outdoor plants. I was at Plant Depot yesterday and bought two 3" pots of Calathea. I will divide each into three plants making a cost of one dollar a plant.

- Elaine Davis



BROUGHT BACK BY
POPULAR DEMAND

Helpful Ideas

Intoxicating Paperwhites

This is an 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. 1part 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!



Blue Bell Gardens ~ A Cat's Paradise

Blue Bell Foundation for Cats has a longstanding history in Laguna Beach, beginning as a boarding facility for cats in the 1960s by its founder Bertha Gray Yergat. Bertha, the quintessential cat lover, opened her home—the cottage that is the Blue Bell sanctuary today—to stray cats, cats of friends who could no longer care for them, and as a boarding facility for cats whose owners traveled. Blue Bell Gardens

also showcases local flora and fauna, graceful fountains and unique garden art and accents. It features the whimsy of Birdhouse Village, colorful art pole and birdbath in the Mourning Dove Garden, and two secluded, peaceful memorial areas--perfect for quiet contemplation. One of the 14 gardens on the property is sponsored by Laguna Beach Graden Club.



The LBGC Board toured the Blue Bell Foundation Gardens in November. It is open to the public and is a wonderful place to visit.

Happenings at the Meetings



The Garden Club apron was redesigned to make the straps more comfortable. **Lynette LeRoche** models the denim apron 2.0, which are on sale at all meetings.



Synthia Scofield's name was drawn as the November volunteer of the month. She received a LBGC pen for her never ending work at the Sister Cities Gardens and many other club activities. Thank you Synthia!



The fantastic fall colored centerpiece for the November meeting was made by **Diane Lannon**

November Table Scapes Capture Fall Colors



Joanie Rowe pictured with her granddaughters, also made a fall table scape for the November treat table.

Garden(er) of the Month (This article appeared in StusNews in October)

Relax in the peaceful tranquility and Zen-like appeal of Linda Humes' hilltop garden oasis in Bluebird

Canyon

Written by SUZIE HARRISON Photos by Mary Hurlbut

Situated on a steep hillside in Bluebird Canyon with spectacular views that stretch to the Pacific, Laguna Beach Garden Club member Linda Humes enjoys the tranquility of canyon life, a peacefulness reflected in the Zen-like feeling she has created throughout her spectacular sprawling garden.

A Garden Club member since 2010, Humes can hardly believe it has been almost 10 years since she joined. The time has flown by. "I think the Garden Club is one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I went and I fell in love instantly," said Humes. "There's nothing not to like; it's really fun, and I have met the best people." And one of the aspects she loves most about the Club is doing good for the community, especially giving scholarships to students. "The students that we've helped, their stories are amazing," Humes said. "There are over 200 members of the Laguna Beach Garden Club. Over 200, that's pretty amazing. And we have a lot of people that come from faraway, that live closer to the Long Beach Peninsula – from there, but from all over. And they come to our Garden Club because that's how good it is."



Linda Humes cherishes the new bluebird gate made for her by an artist friend

Touring her garden evokes a true sense of calmness, washing away the cares of the world. Void of any noise, the only sound you can hear are roosters in the background from across the way at Bluebird Canyon Farms. "I used to have a koi pond out here and lots of flowers that constantly died. And the raccoons ate my fish, so I finally filled it in and made it into a succulent garden," Humes said. "I love succulents. They're my favorites. I don't know the names of all of them, but they grow like crazy; they're so easy. It just takes over." I was amazed at what she was showing me. I couldn't believe they could reproduce like they do. "One of the ladies in the Garden Club gave me these, I think there were seven and look at this, and look at this, see," Humes said, as she pointed to seemingly hundreds of plants. "That's how they multiply, they just keep getting babies." She also said they were perfect during the drought since they don't need much water and are hard to kill. Coming in a close second, Humes likes air plants, which as their name implies only need air. They too are environmentally friendly.

Aloe and succulents of every shape and size reproduce and flourish like crazy

She showed me her gardenias, plumeria, fruit trees, and orchids. Some of the orchids were being rehabilitated. "And see this is from my front yard. Are you sure you want to feature my garden? Because my garden isn't this fabulous garden, I think it's my wall [that's the best part]," Humes said. "I have a gardener and we did this wall together. It was so much fun. We did the stairs and we started the wall and we just kept going and going." What I experienced was a gorgeous wall with a sea of beautiful plants at every turn. I said, yes, your garden should absolutely be featured. The Laguna Beach Garden Club was spot on by choosing hers. From plates to artwork to an Elvis license plate, the wall creates a magical piece of nostalgia accented by some of her favorite things.

(Continued on the next page)

Memory lane... a wall filled with pieces by local artists, nostalgia and “stuff”

“I got this from Shamus [Koch] from the Sawdust. I love him. I have a lot of Michele Taylor I love her. She’s just superb. I have some of her things here and there and everywhere. I have a lot of John Barber, and this is Muffin’s piece. I love to support local artists,” Humes said.

A dream come true for Linda, her own labyrinth built with friends to share

Just when I think it couldn’t get any better, she shared the labyrinth she created. It was gorgeous with a variety of rocks lining the pathways. “With the labyrinth, you can do anything. You can’t help but relax as you walk it. It’s like one way in, and one way out. It takes a while. It doesn’t look like it but it does. Some people walk it, and they hum and sing, and pray,” Humes said. “You can do anything. It’s always different. But you lose yourself because you’re doing this thing. I think it’s good for your soul, for your mind.” “I’ve lived in his house for 25 years. I love my house. I love the canyon. I think it’s terrific,” said Humes. “We’re lucky we live here, aren’t we?” Indeed, we are!



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