



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



NOVEMBERS 2018

MEMBER NEWS

*Celebrating Art &
Science in the Garden*

Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true meaning of our Thanksgiving.

-W.T. Purkiser

COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Nov. 9th

Jeff Moore

Soft Succulents
(see page 3)
Laguna
Presbyterian
Church
• 9:30 am social
• 10:00 am
meeting



Green Thumb Crafts
Nov. 15th

**Thanksgiving
Table Centerpiece**



9:30 am at the home
of Natalie Harlow-
Alison with Diane
Lannon
194 Acacia St.
Laguna Beach
\$20.00 (see page 5)

Trips & Tours Nov. 16th

**Solana Beach Succulents
Nursery**

Meet at 8:45am
at St.
Catherine's
Church on
Temple Terrace.
Leaving
promptly at
9:00am (see
page 4)



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Family and friends gather this time of year to count our blessings and reflect on the gifts we receive from our loved ones. Friendships are special gifts that just like plants, grow and flourish when tended to. I know the Garden Club has produced friendships that have germinated into life-long relationships that help us get through the good times and the not so good times. So tend to your friendships in this next season and reap the benefits.

Our President Nancy Englund was interviewed in her garden by our September speaker Debra Lee Baldwin. Here is the link to that interview:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rT9p_ZaRkbw&feature=youtu.be



Making Small Changes for Big Results

Single-Use Plastic? Moi? I don't eat fast food. That's where I thought all the single-use plastic was until I took a good look at my habits. Wow!

I invite you to become more aware of all the single use products in your daily life and try to eliminate them.

Don't think of it as saving the world (though you are)... think of it as doing what you can... every little bit helps. Plus when you go reusable, you end up saving money too! Here are some simple swaps for single-use plastics that our oceans – and your bank account – will thank you for:



Water Bottles: Did you know that plastic bottles are the second most common trash items found on beaches? Go refillable.



Coffee Cups: bring a Travel mug! Bring one to the meeting! put a return address label on it.



Straws simply request upon ordering “no straws please.” If you prefer to drink from a straw, you can still enjoy your beverage with a reusable straw.



Grocery Bags: reusable totes, duh
Produce bags: reusable mesh produce bags, or bring back plastic ones to reuse for yourself.



Cotton swabs: choose ones that are made with paper.



Plastic wrap: covered containers that you can wash and reuse... or for containers

without covers, try a silicone stretch lid.

Zip lock: many companies are now developing reusable sealable bags. Some are even dishwasher-safe.



Take-out: ask if they can package the food in eco-friendly containers like biodegradable paper
Europe has already banned most single-use plastics. Speak up and ask for more environmentally friendly products. The more people ask, the more companies will respond. **Small changes yield results. Thank you for doing your part.**

Nancy Englund
President

*“Celebrating Art & Science
in the Garden”*



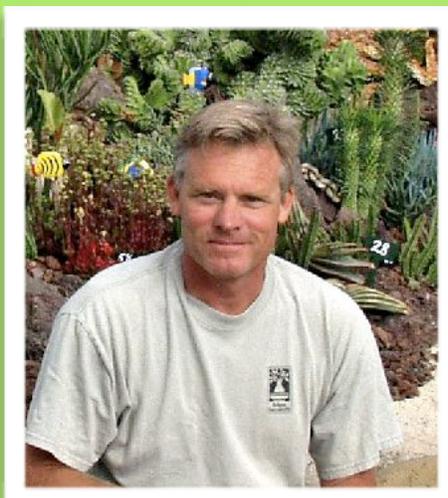
Soft Succulents are a Passion for Jeff Moore

Our November Guest Speaker

Jeff Moore is the owner of Solana Succulents in Solana Beach - which has been in business in the same location for more than 20 years. He is also a garden designer and succulent expert. He is the author of three books featuring succulents: *Under the Spell of Succulents*; *Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation* and *Soft Succulents*.

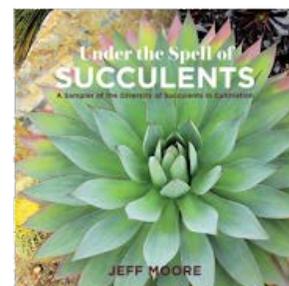
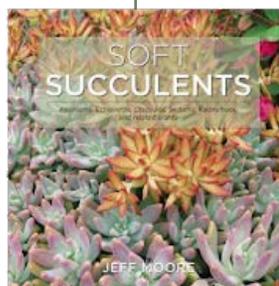
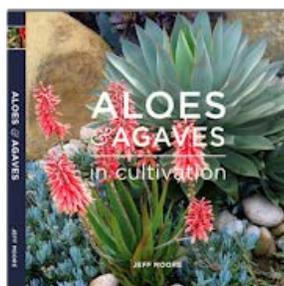
Jeff's presentation will feature his third book - *Soft Succulents*. He'll share pictures and information on aeoniums, echeverias, sedums, crassulas, kalanchoes, etc. and also discuss care and container gardening/landscaping with these plants. Nearly all the images were taken in California, and it is about how we grow these plants here. Jeff will bring plants and all three of his books to sell.

Jeff has been a succulent enthusiast since his college days at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, and he's operated his specialty nursery out of the same space in Solana Beach since 1992. Twenty-six years in business is a feat for any small nursery and 26 years in the same location is even more amazing!



In 2014, Jeff self-published *Under the Spell of Succulents*, an introduction to the huge diversity of succulents found in cultivation. Based on Jeff's nursery experience and his many years of collecting, as well as his friendships with other collectors, the book features 800 photographs, most of them by Jeff himself. Never one to rest on his laurels, Jeff self-

published *Aloes & Agaves in Cultivation* in 2016 and *Soft Succulents* in 2017. Jeff had total control not only over the content but also over the production, and it shows. These are heavy books, printed on state-of-the-art equipment, and the photos are as good as it gets. Copies of his books will be available at the November meeting.



Trips & Tours

Historic Rancho Los Alamitos and Gardens

Weather was perfect, the tour was informative & interesting and the food was fabulous, all in all it was another outstanding Trips & Tours excursion. **Tom Hensel and Synthia Scofield** hit a home run



when they arranged this wonderful tour of Rancho Los Alamitos, the home of the Bixby family. Originally a Spanish land grant, it is also known as the “Ranch of the Little Cottonwoods,” is a Long Beach City Landmark and is twice listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Rancho has a continuous history that stretches back for more than 1,500 years and reflects the many people who have called it home – from the first

people, the Tongva native American people, to the farmers of the mid-twentieth century. The 7½-acre site includes four acres of nationally significant historic gardens, a ranch house (1790-1948), and restored barnyard of the early 20th century working ranch. We were divided into three groups to tour the house, the gardens and the barn and livestock areas. The house is a completely restored adobe brick structure with several additions to meet the needs of Mrs. Florence Bixby and her family. The existing gardens were created primarily between 1920 and 1936 and while such notable designers as the Olmsted Brothers Firm, Florence Yoch, and Paul Howard were involved, the guiding influence was Florence Bixby. She created them in an age of flamboyance, but the gardens

represent a remarkable personal aesthetic at ease with the relaxed dictates of outdoor living. Following our tour of the house and grounds we had a delicious lunch of grilled veggies, chicken and beans & rice. No one left



hungry! Topping off the afternoon was a dose of retail therapy in the gift shop where several members scooped up fabulous Halloween and garden items. Thank you Tom & Synthia for a terrific Trip & Tour!

Additional pictures of the day can be found on page 11.

November 16 • Trips & Tours takes us to Solana Succulents

Visit Jeff Moore's nursery in Solana Beach

Meet at 8:45 at St Catherine's Church on Temple Terrace to carpool

We will leave promptly at 9:00 • After the nursery we will have lunch on Cedros Street at Claire's



October's Green Thumb Craft

Crafty & Creative

Natalie Harlow-Alison led a Green Thumb Craft workshop creating glass flower plates at her home on October 19. Members had fun as they received instruction and made unique works of garden art. Natalie has enjoyed hosting most of our Green Thumb activities since she joined the club in 2010.

“We had a great group; they really enjoyed themselves. The day was bright and sunny, we were outdoors working at tables under umbrellas, and the activity was creative and relaxing!”

An added plus: Natalie took the group on a tour of her new, expanded backyard and tropical garden.

Natalie gave members step-by-step directions on how to make glass flowers. In a nutshell -- plates, bowls or cups are arranged in layers and glued to one another with weatherproof silicone adhesive. By layering the pieces from large to small, the creation resembles the open petals of a blooming flower. Metal piping is added to simulate the flower's “stem” and to serve as a stake.

Natalie said the items used to create flowers can be old or thrift store finds or ones of sentimental value. **“That’s one of the things that makes this workshop fun – when people bring things that have personal meaning and turn them into colorful flowers to put in their gardens.”**

Care of glass flowers is easy, Natalie says. She’s had some in her garden for five years. Just avoid sprinklers to avoid water spots!

“Members so appreciate these workshops. I even get thank you cards!” said Natalie. “I love to empower people to use power tools or whatever it takes to construct garden art. I get great pleasure, and they learn something at the same time.” -Linda Homscheid



November 15th • Green Thumb Craft

Thanksgiving Table Centerpieces

Get great ideas for your Thanksgiving table decor with **Diane Lannon** and **Natalie Harlow-Alison**. Sign up at the November meeting. Meet at the Natalie's home
194 Acacia Street Laguna Beach
11/15/18 • 9:30am • \$20.00



Creativity With Flowers and a Gal With a Green Thumb Ready for Travel



October Centerpiece

The beautiful centerpiece for the October meeting was made by new member **Sharon McErlane**, who unfortunately couldn't stay for the meeting, but brought this lovely arrangement to grace the treat table anyway.

Thank you Sharon!

Volunteer of the Month

If you look in the dictionary for the word *volunteer*, you will see a picture of **Synthia Scofield**; she is the behind-the-scenes strength of LBGC. Assisting with the Trips & Tours adventure each month, she and Tom Hensel scout out fun & interesting places for us to visit. She tends to the *Sister Cities Garden* several times a month and brings vegan treats to every garden club meeting.

If LBGC is having an event like *SmartScope* or *Green Day*, you will surely find Synthia there. She is also the plant identifier and rock scribe for our annual Gate & Garden Tour.

Thank you Synthia for all you do!



Vice President **Mariann Keenan** presents **Synthia Scofield** with a bag of treats as a small token of thanks for all she does for the garden club.

Introducing our Newest Members



Mary Bartok: Mary is a long-time gardener who was used to gardening on over a quarter of an acre north of Seattle. After her husband passed away, she decided to move to Laguna Beach, where she can be out in her garden year round in the amazing weather we have here. Mary found out about our club through GreenThumb Nursery's website, after a visit there. She decided to join after noticing that her Grandmother has the same last name as one of our members - Diane Kloke, and hopes to find out if there is any connection between the two families.

Gabriella Rice: Gabriella grew up in Hungary and has been here in the United States since 1977. She fell in love with Laguna Beach, and has lived here for the past few years after moving from Los Angeles. Her neighbor is none other than our President, Nancy, who invited her to join our club. Gabriella hopes to rekindle her love of gardening, which she had to do as a chore when she was a child growing up in Hungary.

Lois Zeller: Lois returns to us as a member after being away for eight years. She took time off to volunteer at Mission Hospital, but has now told them that she will no longer be there on the second Friday of each month. Lois has lived in Laguna for 40 years, 30 on Temple Hill and for the last 10 in the village. She loves it there because she can happily grow her roses, behind her black picket fence, without the local deer devouring them!!!

Sharon McErlane: Sharon lives in an old Laguna home on a double lot that is mostly garden. In the past, her home has been on our Gate & Garden Tour and the Charm House Tour. She does most of the gardening herself and says she alternately loves and is overwhelmed by it at the same time. Sharon describes her garden as "Old, charming, gloriously gorgeous, and decrepit by turns". They have had many events there, and host a monthly women's meeting in the garden, so it is very well loved.

Inga Bunn: Inga has been a resident here in North Laguna since 1978. She says she is a good gardener, but is just starting to get back into it. She learned about our club through member Patricia Weier, and even helped sponsor a book that Patricia was working on for the garden club in 2003 called, "The Secret Gardens of Laguna Beach," by donating funds needed to help publish it. Inga is looking forward to attending our monthly general meetings, hearing our wonderful speakers, and learning more about gardening.

Lynn Thieler: Lynn is married with three grown daughters, and comes to us all the way from Winterpark, Florida where she has lived since 1972. She tried her hand at organic gardening with vegetables there for two years in a row before deciding that it was just too darn hot to be outside tending to them. She and her husband recently purchased their daughter's home in Laguna Niguel, where their daughter has lived for 10 years, and they are happy to have a chance to be closer to their grandchildren. She is settling in, and has decided that gardening here will be so much more fun! Lynn is excited to be interested in gardening again, and learned about our club from another new member and fellow snowbird, Donna Walling. She is leaving us in November to return to Florida, but hopes to be back in time to help out with the Gate & Garden Tour in May.

Mark Evans: Mark is from Pico Rivera and has been living in Laguna Beach for 19 years, and has been married to his wife for 33 years. He is a lover of succulents and cactus, and our club was fortunate enough to witness just how much when his amazing garden was featured on our 2016 Gate & Garden Tour. He also loves Mexican antiques, early California art, and playing music with local musicians. He enjoyed his first garden club meeting in September and was impressed by the large amount of garden enthusiasts and of course, Debra Lee Baldwin. Mark says, and I quote, "I think ornamental gardening is an art, and the gardener an artist, who also must ensure that his or her creations live and thrive. How many other types of artists have to water their sculptures or fertilize their paintings?? None!! We are the ultimate creators of art!!"

Smart-Scape

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow... can keep the Laguna Beach Garden Club members from passing out succulents

At the 9th annual SmartScape Expo on Saturday, October 13 at Laguna Beach County Water District, even inclement weather didn't prevent us intrepid club members from spending hours or most of the day at this worthwhile event aimed at educating the community at large about methods of conserving water. We educated many curious visitors who wanted to learn more about drought-tolerant and water-wise plants, thanks to our resident "Plant Experts," **Mariann Keenan, Synthia Scofield** and **Lisa Fecteau** who shared their knowledge.

In addition, we disseminated information about our club, collected email addresses from those who enthusiastically wanted to receive updates on our **Gate & Garden Tour on May 3, 2019** and sold some raffle tickets for a chance at winning a **Jeanne Yale** creation of a grapevine wreath studded with succulents. We volunteers were excellent ambassadors for Laguna Beach Garden Club, sharing our enthusiasm and friendly spirit.

We enjoyed giving away the abundant supply of succulent cuttings generously supplied by our club members, and at the close of the day the Laguna Beach Troop of the Girls Scouts volunteered to take all the remaining cuttings to plant at their respective homes and the Girl Scout House in town.

But the most fun of the day, was our craft of print-making with leaves. Besides helping adults and children create their own art, many of us utilized our creative talents and others of us accepted the challenge to play with paint, leaves, rollers and paper. Some created notecards while others decided to make art pieces destined for their refrigerator or a frame on the wall.



October Speaker Donald Olson and The Four Goddesses

At our October 12 meeting, more than 120 members and guests enjoyed a fascinating presentation by Donald Olson -- "Garden Goddesses: Four California Women and their Legendary Gardens." He introduced us to remarkable women who created spectacular California gardens from 1900-1950:

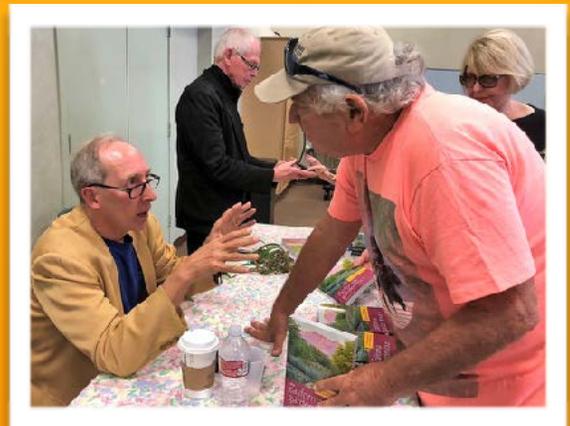
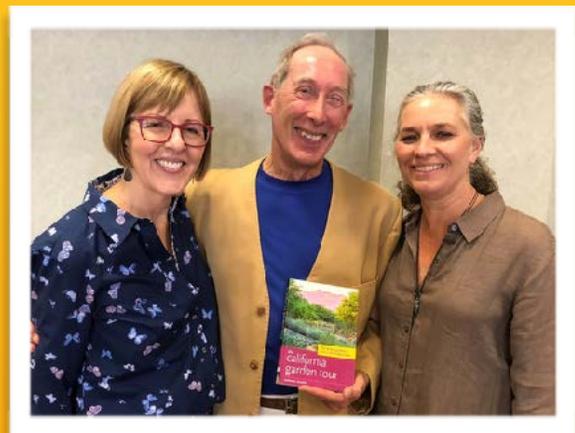
- Kate Sessions, "Mother of Balboa Park" in San Diego
- Virginia Dryden Robinson, "Queen of Beverly Hills"
- Ganna Walska, Developer of "Lotusland Gardens" in Montecito
- Florence Yoch, First female landscape architect on West Coast

Mr. Olson is a passionate gardener and garden lover and has written *The California Garden Tour* and the *Pacific Northwest Garden Tour*. He sold many of these books after his presentation and signed them for eager members who loved his talk.

The night before the meeting, the garden club Board treated Mr. Olson to a cocktail party at President Nancy Englund's home to welcome him as the club's featured speaker.

In addition to writing garden travel guides, Mr. Olson has penned best-selling travel guides, such as Frommer's *Portland Day-by-Day*, *Seattle Day-by-Day* and *Easy Guide to Seattle, Portland and the Oregon Coast*. He has also written travel articles for the *New York Times*, *National Geographic* and other publications as well as novels and plays. To learn more about this well-versed writer and popular speaker, please visit www.DonaldStevenOlson.com.

-by Linda Homscheid





Are you ready to SAVE MONEY on water and landscape maintenance? Whether your goal is to draw more butterflies or birds to your yard, save water, reduce pesticide use, or showcase color throughout the year, native plants can help! Visit the Center on 11-10-18 from 9AM to 4PM to purchase native plants for your garden.

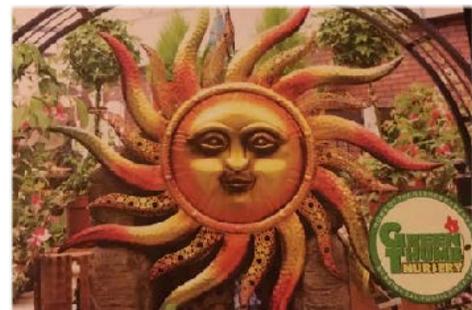
Environmental Nature Center 1601 E. 16th Street, Newport Beach, California, 92663

December Raffle Items Needed

A special **Christmas raffle** will be held at the December 14 meeting. I am seeking your special items as donations. So far, the items include: a gift card from Green Thumb Nursery, and a painted Christmas Gourd. Last year some of our raffle items included an Authentic English Christmas Pudding, a Decorative Gingerbread House, a Parisian Apron, Tickets to Disney on Ice, a Portable Vinyl Turntable and others.

If you would like to add some special item to the raffle, I'd love to hear from you.

Contact **Lynn Jax** (E: jax@cox.net or Cell 949-294-1500).



More views of our day at Rancho Los Alamitos



LBGC members enjoyed a delicious lunch after they toured the historic grounds at Rancho Los Alamitos



P.O. Box 362
Laguna Beach, CA 92652
www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
501(c)(3) Charitable Organization



For additional pictures of Laguna Beach Garden Club activities and information, go to our wonderful web site produced by Linda Homscheid

<https://www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org/events/club-albums/>