



# Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



OCTOBER 2018

MEMBER NEWS

*Celebrating Art &  
Science in the Garden*

*Ahh- a change of seasons, at least by turning the page on the calendar. Welcome Fall and all that the next few months bring.*

COME JOIN IN  
THE FUN

## Events This Month

General Meeting Oct. 12th

### Donald Olsen

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

SmartScape Expo 2018  
Oct. 13th

### Laguna Beach Water District

303 3rd Street Laguna Beach  
8:00am - 2:00pm (see page 9)

Green Thumb Crafts  
Oct. 19th

### Glass Flower Plates



9:30 am at the home of  
Natalie Harlow-Alison

194 Acacia St.  
Laguna Beach  
\$20.00 (see page 6)

New Member Luncheon  
Oct. 24th

12 o'clock, at the home of  
Lisa Fecteau  
28401 Clareton Dr. Laguna Niguel

Trips & Tours Oct. 26th

### Rancho Los Alamitos Gardens & Historic Home

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

The bright colors of summer are changing to the warm yellows, oranges, rusts and golden browns of Fall. While pumpkins and gourds are iconic garden items that evoke the autumn season, chrysanthemums are a flowering plant that truly can bring vibrant color to a garden. I read an article in *Garden Design Magazine* that gave me lots of information I found helpful for the mums

I plan to have for the Fall holidays and beyond. Copy this URL to read the article for yourself.  
[https://www.gardendesign.com/flowers/mums.html?utm\\_source=article-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=chrysanthemums](https://www.gardendesign.com/flowers/mums.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=chrysanthemums)



## President's Message

# Celebrating Gardens & Digging It!

Dear Members,

Over the years, the club's nominating committee would ask me if I were interested in being president, and I always answered that I'd love to, but I couldn't possibly be president and chair the Gate & Garden Tour too.

In 2006 when I stepped up to direct the garden tour, it had just changed from a drive-around to a walking tour. I only intended to keep the job until the event was firmly established as a walking tour.

Twelve years later, I finally realized I had accomplished that goal! And that the tour would flourish with new leadership and new ideas. Karen Nelson called my bluff and offered to run the tour, if I'd accept the nominating committee's offer to be president. Now she's heading up the tour for the next two years and will be fantastic!

And, I am delighted to be president of the Laguna Beach Garden Club!

It's a vastly different job than garden tour chair. For one thing, I want to learn more about all the community projects the club is involved with. For instance, I have known for a long time that the club supports educational school gardens at two local elementary schools, Top of the World and El Morro, and at Thurston Middle School. In fact, we gave \$1,500 to each school last year for their edible garden

programs. That's nice and fuzzy, but until recently, I only vaguely knew what that really meant.

Then on a recent Sunday, I brought my young friend Maya to a "garden workday" at Top of the World school, and now I'm hooked. What a delightful experience! Teacher Kelly Osborn led that workday with enthusiasm and clarity of instruction. Two dozen parents and students tackled a long list of tasks to refresh the garden for the school year. I rolled up my sleeves too and acted as a docent as well. Maya, her classmate Emily and I volunteered to remove suckers from all the fruit trees. The two girls crawled around under the pomegranate trees cutting suckers, and I answered their questions.

By virtue of being on this planet for a long time, I am wiser than your average 10-year-old. We talked about suckers, roots, gophers, worms, weeds, snails, slugs, invasive species, bees, pollination, worms, drainage, soil, and good grubs versus bad grubs. On and on. I remembered how much I love sharing what I know. Help from knowledgeable, effective docents is a tremendous benefit to the school garden

program. The day was a success! And the trees were sucker-free.

I plan to work in the school gardens and on as many "Green Thumb Mornings" of conversation and casual gardening as I can. I hope you will join me.

This club stands for something important. We are committed to the advancement of gardening and conservation through education and participation in community projects. As president, I am honored to speak for all of us who are drawn to the club because we care about nature and care about living, growing things – which extends beyond our personal gardens to encompass the garden we all share: the Planet Earth.

See you in the garden!

Nancy Englund  
President

*"Celebrating Art & Science in the Garden"*



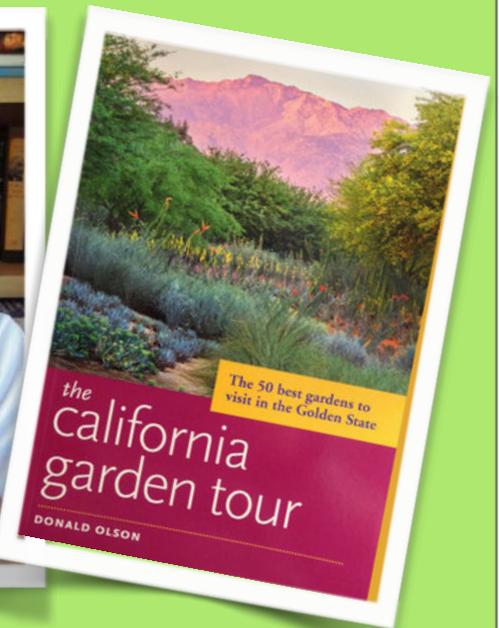
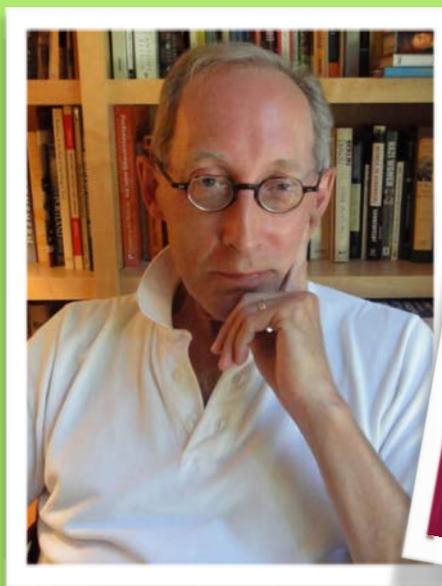
# Getting in Touch With Our Golden Goddesses With Our October Guest Speaker

**D**onald Olson is a passionate gardener as well as a garden lover. He has written garden guide books for the Pacific Northwest and California.

In his newest presentation, "Garden Goddesses: Four California Women and Their Legendary Gardens," Donald will take us on an informative and entertaining tour of four spectacular California gardens and introduce us to the remarkable women who created them. We'll celebrate the achievement of great women gardeners with Donald.

Copies of his book "The California Garden Tour" will be available after his presentation and he'll be happy to sign them.

Donald is a novelist, travel writer and playwright. He has published eight novels, including *The Confessions of Aubrey Beardsley* and the "Venus Gilroy" novels written as Swan Adamson. His travel stories have appeared in *The New York Times*, *National Geographic* and many other publications.



Donald's best-selling travel guides include *The Pacific Northwest Garden Tour*, *The California Garden Tour*, *Frommer's Portland Day by Day*, *Seattle Day by Day*, and *Easy Guide to Seattle, Portland & the*

*Oregon Coast*.

Donald's plays have been produced in London, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, New York, and Portland. He is a popular speaker on garden topics.

## Garden Goddesses: Four California Women and their Legendary Gardens



## Trips & Tours

# Discovering Gardens in North San Diego County

What a day! On September 28 the garden club went on its first *Trips & Tours* of the year. The weather was gorgeous, and the group was fun. We started at *Oasis Water Efficient Gardens in Escondido*. Oasis actually supplies Waterwise Botanicals Nursery in Bonsall with plants.

They also are involved with hybridization of succulents. From there we



went to *KRC Rocks* in San Marcos where several of us bought slag glass and various rocks. Our intrepid leader, Nancy Englund, got herself a small boulder for her garden. Goodness!

Next, we backtracked a bit and descended upon *Ara Lebanese Grill* for lunch. Ara memorized our 15 person order, and brought our food quickly without error! The food was delicious. Our last spot was *Waterwise Botanicals* where we had a

surprise waiting for us: *Debra Lee Baldwin!* She wandered about with us giving advice and admiring the plants.

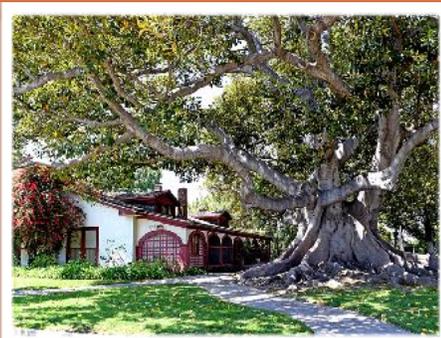
It was a long day, but well worth the time!

See you at our next adventure: *Rancho Los Alamitos* in Long Beach. Remember! You must give Tom your money (\$25) for the tour & lunch at the October 12 meeting.



## Tours & Travel • October 26th

### Rancho Los Alamitos Gardens & Historical Pioneer Home of Early California



Rancho Los Alamitos, 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 1500 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.

Meet at St. Catherine’s Church on Temple Terrace at 8:45am.

We will leave promptly at 9am.

There will be a private docent tour followed by a catered lunch under the 200-year-old Ficus tree.

Pay \$25 for the tour & lunch at the Oct 12 meeting.

# Fall Gardening Tasks to Get Ahead on Next Year's Garden

After a busy summer season of growing and producing, your garden needs some attention in the fall to maintain its beauty and health. Many gardeners do all the heavy lifting to prepare a garden in spring, but planning & planting a garden in the fall is not only good for your garden, it's also economical! There are a few simple fall gardening tasks that can make all the difference.

## Clean Up Debris



While you don't need to remove every seed head and leaf from the garden, it's good practice to remove any diseased plant material or fallen fruit to stop the spread of pests and disease in the following year. This job should really be done throughout the year, but in fall it is especially important to remove anything that would like to overwinter in your garden and can cause you problems in the spring.

## Feed the Soil

The garden has been working hard all summer to produce and has drawn a lot of nutrition from the soil to make those gorgeous blooms and tasty fruit. Give some of that nutrition back by amending garden soil in the fall. Make your own compost at home using a compost bin to turn leaves, food scraps, and more into a soil amendment. Spread the compost around the garden and scratch it into the top 1"-2" of soil.

## Harvest



Possibly the most exciting garden task in fall is harvesting. With armloads of fresh flowers and

baskets of produce everywhere, you are set to the task of reaping what you have sown back at the beginning of the gardening year. Celebrate your success and then get down to the business of **harvesting and preserving herbs**, vegetables, flowers, and **seeds** for future gardens.

## Cut Back and Divide Perennials



Not all **perennials** need to be cut back, but take stock of those that are looking overcrowded or too large for the space. Those are free plants! Many perennials thrive by being divided, especially if they are crowded. To divide perennials, dig up the plant and all of its roots. Then, gently shake the soil from the roots and look for where the plant can easily be split into divisions. Plant those around your garden in the fall and they will look gorgeous next year.



## Mulch

Mulching in the fall creates a warm blanket on the top of the soil that slowly breaks down into humus that will feed the soil. If you have deciduous trees on your property, mulching is easy. Let the leaves fall on the garden and leave them there as mulch. You could also mulch leaves with a lawnmower or leaf vacuum, and spread the chopped-up leaves on the soil. In the spring, the mulched leaves can be left in place when you add a layer of **compost** or top soil.

## Add New Plants (on a Budget)



Another way to build your garden economically is to shop for new plants in the fall. Many of the garden centers will be moving out the warm-season stock. They don't want to spend the time and effort taking care of the plants until next spring, so they will be heavily discounted. Even better news is that fall is the perfect time to plant **perennials**, evergreens, **trees**, and shrubs!

## Clean Your Garden Tools



Fall is a great time to give your garden tools a good scrubbing. Wash hand tools like trowels and rakes with soapy water and a scouring sponge. Use a power washer to get large tools really clean. And take good care of your pruners with these **tips to clean and sharpen pruners**.

## Do Nothing



Leaving parts of your garden alone completely is also a beneficial thing to do! Let leaves go yellow and seed heads harden. Be sure to leave plenty of healthy plant material in your garden to **feed garden wildlife over the winter months**. Be sure to leave some of the leaves on the soil until spring so the plants can get their nutrient boost! Seeds left in the garden provide food for birds, so allow some to drop and stay. *Adapted from GardenTherapy.com*

# September's Green Thumb Craft *Succulent Wreaths*



**Jeanne Yale led a Green Thumb Craft project creating grapevine succulent wreaths** at her home on September 21, 2018. Members had fun as they received instruction and made their own living wreaths. Jeanne has enjoyed leading this activity for several years.

Here you see photos of Rosemary Mendrella, Barbara Grimes and Allison Grimes – and, of course, Jeanne having fun at the workshop.

“The craft class lasted about two hours, and it brought together old and new members who had a great time being creative and building friendships,” said

Jeanne. “That’s why these activities are so great.”



Jeanne supplied the grapevine wreaths and told participants to bring succulent cuttings with sturdy stems, which they worked through the vines before adding glue and moss. About half of each wreath is left bare to reveal the graceful, curving wood.



The class also included care instructions. The moss, when moistened, provides an environment for the succulent cuttings to take root, and these living wreaths can last about six months. Spray or water lightly once a week or less to keep them looking great -- since succulents are drought-tolerant.

And, living wreaths thrive indoors or out – wherever you wish to decorate!



## October Green Thumb Craft *Glass Flower Plates*

You will love making these whimsical garden flowers at the home of Natalie Harlow-Alison  
194 Acacia Street Laguna Beach  
10/19/18 • 9:30am • \$20.00



# Volunteering With Creativity & Sweat Equity

## September Centerpiece

The beautiful abstract centerpiece for the September meeting was made by **Linda Humes**, our Table Centerpiece Administrator.



We look forward to seeing what each month will bring from these members with their centerpiece designs.

October: Sharon McErlane  
November: Becky Martin  
December:  
January: Lecia Davis  
February: Container auction  
March: Diane Lannon  
April: Sherry Stephens  
May:

## Volunteer of the Month

The award for Volunteer of the Month in September went to **Debbie Sugg**. *The Queen of the Plant Table's* hard work makes the plant table an ongoing money maker for the club each month. Debbie arrives early before every meeting to set up the tables, receive plants and other donated items, and price the items for sale. Then she negotiates the sales, hoping to make a deal that is beneficial to both parties. At the end of the meeting she packs up any remaining items and donates them to the Laguna Beach Assistance League Thrift Store.



# Share the Wealth of Your Veggie Garden

Bumper crop of zucchini? Too many lemons and cucumbers? **Bring your extra produce to the meeting Friday 10/12 to share with Laguna Food Pantry!**

As we head into fall there's time to plant beans, winter squash and root vegetables. All the ants coming inside now indicate we will have a lot of rain this winter. Even if you only grow one crop of beans in a pot, the day comes where you will find yourself with too much of something. If you plant an extra row of beets or turnips then every month you can bring your extra produce to the meeting to share with Laguna Food Pantry!

Laguna Food Pantry volunteers collect and distribute food to people in need. They offer free, fresh groceries five mornings a week to anyone who signs in at the front desk to shop in the retail-style setting at 20652 Laguna Canyon Road, Unit B, Laguna Beach, California 92651.

Your help and participation are key.

**Bring any extra produce from your garden to the meeting every month.** Let's try to fill the crates which will be collected by Food Pantry volunteers to stock the shelves at the local outlet.

Volunteers collect and distribute 4,000 lbs. of food every weekday. The pantry serves more than 400 families a week in South Orange County. More than half the shoppers have babies and children to feed.

-LagunaFoodPantry.org



---

# 9th Annual *Smart Scape* EXPO

Live Green

Conserve Blue

10.13.18

8AM-2PM



---

## *Succulent Cuttings Needed & Soft, Pliable Leaves (size of one's hand)*

On October 13 the Garden Club will be participating in SmartScape Expo 2018 at the Water District. We will be giving away **succulent cuttings**, so we need many donations.

And we are offering a Do-It-Yourself Workshop about Print-Making with **leaves**.

### **Four Options: Asking for Leaves & Succulent Cuttings:**

• During this upcoming week , two drop off points:

1. Jorja Puma – drop off on her front or back porch.

5210 High Drive (North Laguna)

2. Synthia Scofield – drop off her front porch or driveway

591 Mountain Road (the Village area)

• **October 12 meeting**

3. Bring to Tankersley Hall for our next general meeting, Friday October 12.

• **October 13 - Saturday**

4. Drop off directly at the Water District on Saturday October 13

Unusual succulents are most appreciated. Please help us out.

Contact Lynn Jax, Past President (E: [jax@cox.net](mailto:jax@cox.net)) with any questions.

---

# Debra Lee Baldwin Delighted Us with Sweet Succulent Stories in September

More than 130 members and guests attended Debra Lee Baldwin's presentation, "Designing With Succulents" at our meeting on September 14, 2018.

Mariann Keenan, Vice President-Programs, introduced Ms. Baldwin, who discussed landscaping and container garden ideas for succulents of all kinds, from many varieties of small aloes to giant agaves to tall euphorbia trees. Ms.

Baldwin said that our semi-arid coastal climate is perfectly suited for growing succulents, including flowering tropical varieties.

Before and after her one-hour talk and Q & A session, Ms. Baldwin sold and signed her books, including the new, second edition of "Designing With Succulents." The first



edition, published in 2007, is credited with launching worldwide interest in succulents. Members said they loved her talk, and her books sold like hotcakes!

Go to [Debra Lee Baldwin](#) to learn more about succulents, to sign up for her newsletter and to connect with her on social media, including her YouTube Channel, which has exceeded four million views.



## Support For Bluebird Farms

At last month's board meeting we discussed how Bluebird Canyon Farms, an invaluable local resource and a model of sustainable urban living, was in danger of losing its operating permit. So, the board decided to show club support of the working farm and wrote a letter to the Laguna Beach City Planning Commission. The Commission hearing is on **October 17**. Just so you know, there's a community rally to show support for Bluebird Canyon Farms in downtown Laguna on October 17 as well, and I'll be there! I hope to see you!

*-Nancy England*



P.O. Box 362

Laguna Beach, CA 92652

[www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org](http://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/](https://www.lagunabeachgardenclub.org/events/club-albums/)



September 27, 2018

Laguna Beach Planning Commission  
505 Forest Avenue  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Dear Commission Members,

This is a letter of support for Bluebird Canyon Farms, which strengthens the fabric of our community by connecting us to the land. We hope you will grant Bluebird Canyon Farms a Conditional Use Permit so they can continue cultivating the land and teaching skills to at-risk youth.

As president of the Laguna Beach Garden Club, I can speak for the 200 members who are drawn to the club because we all care about nature and all care about living, growing things, which extends beyond our personal gardens to encompass the garden we all share, the Planet Earth. We are committed to the advancement of gardening and conservation through education and participation in community projects. We are aligned with the mission of Bluebird Canyon Farms.

With vision, community support and hard work, the current owners of Bluebird Canyon Farms redeveloped the property from an eroding hillside filled with trash and debris to an operating urban farm and unique educational facility. Bluebird Canyon Farms operates safely, carefully and quietly, with respect for the environment and contributions to the community. They teach and train economically-disadvantaged individuals and grow nutritious food that they distribute to the local economy. Their work is an asset to the community, enhances safety and security and promotes healthy practices of land stewardship.

I urge you to support Bluebird Canyon Farms, an invaluable resource and a model of sustainable urban living.

Sincerely,

Nancy Englund  
President

cc: Board of Directors

Laguna Beach Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization • email: [info@lagunabeachgardenclub.org](mailto:info@lagunabeachgardenclub.org)  
Federal Tax ID 23-7297058 • P.O. Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652 • Website: [LagunaBeachGardenClub.org](http://LagunaBeachGardenClub.org)

---