



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



May 2020
MEMBER NEWS

*Celebrating Art &
Science in the Garden*

**WHEN YOU COME TO THE END
OF YOUR ROPE,
TIE A KNOT AND HANG ON.**

Franklin D. Roosevelt

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

This issue of *Weeder's Digest* takes on a slightly different look thanks to the modifications in our lives due to Covid-19. Temporarily gone are the wonderful meetings we gathered with long time friends, shared a cup of coffee & a treat, bought a plant or two (or three), and listened to a great guest speaker. There isn't a Volunteer of the Month or a lovely centerpiece to enjoy, but the joy that Laguna Beach Garden Club brings carries on through these pages until we can meet again. We will continue

to bring you issues during the summer so that we can remain in contact and feel connected. Please send me things you would like to share-garden victories, nagging questions, photos of the space that bring you joy and peace in these strange times.
dalynnmalek@gmail.com



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Inside This Issue

NOTES FROM NANCY

President **Nancy Englund** shares thoughts about renewal. See page 2

WHAT'S UP IN MEMBERS' GARDENS

Joe Smisko, Lynn Jax & Patty Gaffney Share stories and pictures about their current efforts in their gardens. See pages 3-5

THIS & THAT

Random good stuff to share. See page 6-7

TIME TO RENEW

Membership renewal form is located on page 8. Send it in now so you won't miss out on anything next year.



Spring & Renewal

Renew: to make like new: restore to freshness, vigor, or perfection

Since we are all spending more time in our homes, maybe you feel your space needs refreshing. You can swap out accent pillows, move your lamps around, or change the pictures on your walls. One easy way to refresh a space is to pack away some of your favorite things. Give them a rest.



In summer, clear, clean surfaces will draw the eye outdoors. In winter find your treasures again and display them in fresh groups.



And flowers. I bet all of you can find nasturtium growing in your neighborhood. Snap off a couple stem and stick them in a casual vase. Chop up a couple of blossoms to add a peppery freshness to a salad. I'm sure you can find some small way to renew the familiar.

Renew: to begin or take up again, as an acquaintance, a conversation, etc.;

resume (an activity) after an interruption

I am really looking forward to the new garden club year which starts in September! Mariann has lined up some great speakers, most of them local, which is refreshing. When I was new to gardening I bought hostas and clematis from White Flower catalogue and then was so discouraged when they croaked.

Gradually I realized that plants prized in Connecticut generally don't thrive in our zone 24. In the same way speakers from all around are interesting and informative but I gain more brass-tacks practical knowledge from

speakers familiar with this region. We hope next year's line-up will have something for everyone.

Renew: to make effective for an additional period: *renew a membership*

Yes, it is time again to renew your membership in the garden club. There is a form at the end of this newsletter or you can pay online by visiting the website. Thank you for being a vital part of the club!

***"We may think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us"** Jenny Uglow*



Nasturtium (which I just learned to spell!) and honeysuckle They don't last long but honeysuckle sure smell sweet

Joe Smisko's Yard Is Abundant

Raised Bed Planters, Composting & Fruits and Veggies

At my home in Fountain Valley, I have grown fruits and vegetables for many years and have ten dwarf fruit trees and am currently growing eight different vegetables. I have six raised beds with two built this year (prior to coronavirus though). I have four projects I wanted to share that I have done since the isolation order started. All photos were taken on April 8, 2020.

One project was for the raised bed that has peach, plum, and

apricot trees. Each year the birds would peck at the fruit just before they got ripe. To keep the birds off, I installed a 2 inch PVC pipe frame around the trees and attached it to the raised bed as shown in the photo and put bird netting over it.

I bricked in my compost pile which is next to my potting area. Note lizard sunning him/herself on the brick next to the stack of pots.

I recently planted cucumbers in the foreground raised bed and in the back raised bed, I planted yellow squash and one of the three tomato plants I bought from the OC Organic Garden Club.

The most recent project was to cut, cook, and eat this purple cauliflower. Delicious!

It's great to have a gardening hobby — especially during the coronavirus! -Joe Smisko



Member's Garden

Lynn Jax Plants a Raised Bed Garden *She Channels Her Inner Farmer*

Did you ever picture yourself as a farmer? It was not one of my fantasies; too much work. But I've been inspired to try my hand at growing something edible, actually several "somethings edible". It all started when I saw a cascading cedar planter on the Costco website. It is made from cedar scraps foraged from a mill in Canada that would have been tossed, so I felt good about not felling a tree just so I could have a planter. Once it arrived Perry and I assembled it, no tools required, just

dowels. Then a trip to Dana Point Nursery to purchase soil and herbs. I came home with more than originally planned: trailing rosemary, mint mojito, scallions, berggarten sage, garlic chives, lime thyme, creeping thyme, sweet marjoram, three kinds of trailing strawberries, and Italian basil. I found 3 empty pots for the mint, rosemary, and basil, and the rest call their home in the cedar planter. Then why not venture into tomatoes. I ordered a sun

gold tomato plant from Ruben Flores at Laguna Nursery and my friend, Sean Hogan at Cistus Nursery in Portland, Oregon, found 2 cascading sun gold tomatoes he sent me that I could plant in a hanging basket. My Meyer lemon tree still has abundant fruit with new buds and some green fruit. The fuerte avocado tree is abuzz with new green growth, feeding the bees. Harvest for those creamy beauties will be in the fall. Now my transition to Farmer Lynn is complete. Here is hoping for a successful harvest. I have reaped 4 strawberries so far. -Lynn Jax



Member's Garden

Patty Gaffney Knitting In Her Garden

Her Yarn & Her Yard Make A Connection

While sheltering at home during this time of COVID-19, knitting is my soothing hobby that is twice the pleasure when enjoyed in the garden. I am finding that my botanical color palette is consistent with yarn color choices. You like what you like, right? Colors speak to you whether it is foliage or fiber.



Favorite colors: deep reds and blues in both plants and knits.

The knitting keeps my mind from noticing new gardening chores and allows me to take in the shapes, color and texture of my garden, to just breathe and enjoy. In my garden, inspiration for my next project is in the shape of a leaf or a dainty blossom and how it might translate to knitted lace. My thoughts wander to the beauty of plant-dyed yarns. Admiring a large succulent rosette, I imagine a color fade for a sweater that migrates from a fresh green to a deep rose tinged pink, and how would that look on a yoke or a sleeve.



Fuchsia and harebell lace: the bell shape of fuchsia and the harebell, or Scottish bluebell.

My small patio garden is perfect in size for me to handle. With many shallow roots of the tree ferns and palms framing the patio, my garden is almost entirely made up of containers. Looking at the

various pots, I am reminded of where I acquired a certain plant from one of the garden club tours of specialty nurseries, the fun of that day, or a design idea picked up from a guest speaker's book.



Knitting outside with my wee beastie, a Yorkie, competing for lap real estate with the knitted fabric hanging from the needles, and a cup of tea or a cocktail/mocktail garnished with an herb sprig plucked from a pot, I am most fortunate during these unprecedented and scary circumstances to have this perfect distraction of color and form, the meditative creativity of knitting in the garden.

This & That

Random Fun Stuff To Share

Some of My Favorite Things *Members Share About Garden Items They Love*

Nancy Englund's Favorites

These are the best tools I have found. I love them because they are sized down for women's hands. Many ratchet making it easy to cut through a one inch thick branch. They are well designed, comfortable to use. I always pick up a new tool at the garden show at South Coast Plaza. Their knee pads are super comfortable and so much more convenient than having to move your kneeling pad around. And they are having a sale!

Wildflower Seed & Tool Company
1628 Milton Road, Napa, CA, 94559

Do you have a garden favorite to share with our members? Send your suggestions to Dalynn Malek- dalynnmalek@gmail.com

Please include photos and purchase information if applicable



Students at **Top of the World Elementary** School recently expressed their gratitude for the support they received from Laguna Beach Garden Club for their school garden.



More This & That

Random Fun Stuff To Share

The physician and writer, **Oliver Sacks**, explains the value of gardens:

"As a writer, I find gardens essential to the creative process; as a physician, I take my patients to gardens whenever possible. All of us have had the experience of wandering through a lush garden or a timeless desert, walking by a river or an ocean, or climbing a mountain and finding ourselves simultaneously calmed and

reinvigorated, engaged in mind, refreshed in body and spirit. The importance of these physiological states on individual and community health is fundamental and wide-ranging. In forty years of medical practice, I have found only two types of non-pharmaceutical "therapy" to be vitally important for patients with chronic neurological diseases: music and gardens."

Source: "Why We Need Gardens" in Everything in Its Place: First Loves and Last Tales



View in my community

This photo of the flourishing *Community Garden in South Laguna* was sent in by **Ann Christoph**. It is a wonderful spot to meander through enjoying the wide variety of veggies growing amongst artful items. In January, I painted with my girlfriends in the garden and we had a very enjoyable afternoon.

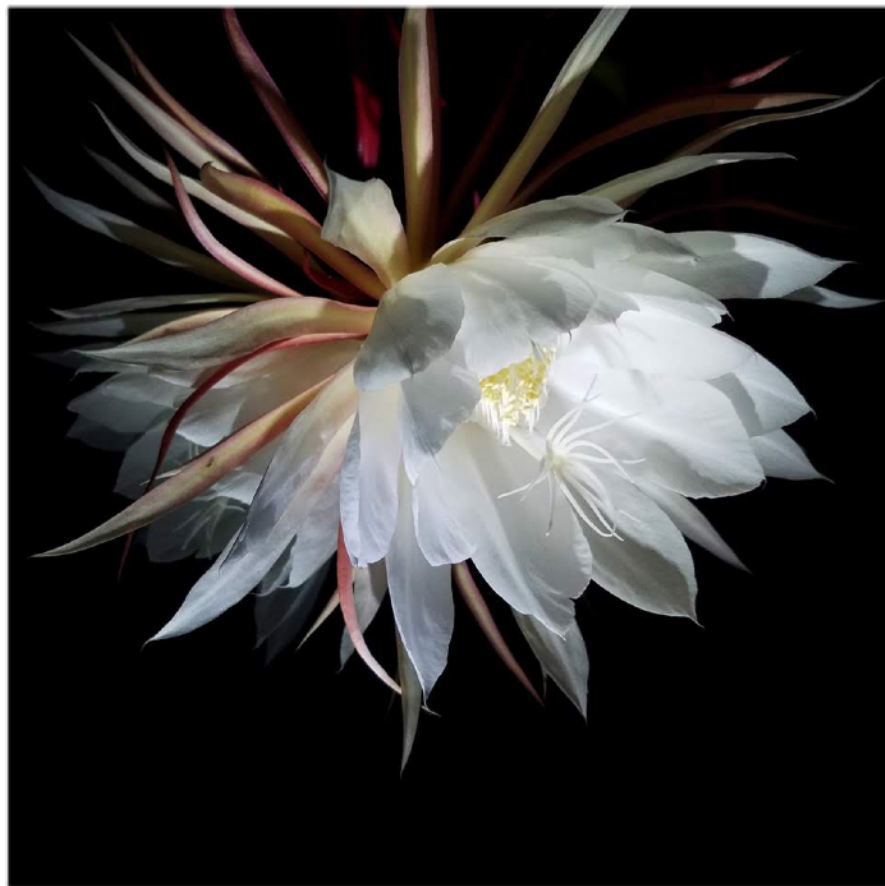


View from my window

You may have seen the postings on Facebook "*View from my window*," where people take a picture of what they see out their window. Images from around the world have begun to appear. **Nancy Englund** had to giggle when she realized that the view on her computer desktop was the same as the view out her window.

More This & That

Winning Results of The Annual Photo Contest



Over 40 beautiful photographs from our members' gardens were submitted to the annual photography contest. **Mary Jones** submitted the winning image night blooming cereus and **Dean Day's** sunset in the garden was selected as the second place photo. Both images will appear in the 2020-2021 Membership Book that you will receive in the fall. Additional entires will appear in future editions of the *Weeder's Digest*. Thank you to all who submitted entries!





Laguna Beach Garden Club

2020 - 2021 Membership

New Member Form

* Complete this form and attach a check for \$65, made payable to **Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc.**

Mail To:

Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. ~ P.O. Box 362 ~ Laguna Beach, CA 92652

- * Membership can be obtained on our website: LagunaBeachGardenClub.org.
- * All membership dues paid by Credit Card will be \$70.
- * Please consider making a tax-deductible donation above the membership fee to offset some of our expenses. All donations are tax deductible and much appreciated. Donations \$25 or more will be recognized in our newsletter and on our website.

Please Print neatly!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

THIS AREA MUST BE FILLED OUT

NAME _____ DATE _____

Your application is considered a photo release, giving the club permission to use any photos taken at club functions for publicity and in social media

Signature _____

Total Amount Paid _____ Dues _____ Donation _____

Cash ☐ Check ☐ Check Number _____ Credit Card ☐

I can help LBGC with: _____



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