



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



Education in the Garden

August 2020

MEMBER NEWS

"Flexibility is the key to stability."

– John Wooden

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

One thing that COVID-19 has taught us is that we all must be flexible. Obtaining groceries has become an exercise in patience and understanding, and a never-ending quest for Clorox wipes. One thing that is constant in our lives is our wonderful weather and our desire to make beautiful garden/patio spaces for our family and (hopefully very soon) friends to share. We still have a lot of sunny days ahead and *Garden Design Magazine* has several articles that might give you an idea for new planting projects,

yummy recipes to make, or projects to do with your grandchildren. Check out this article on their website, I enjoyed reading it and hope you do too.

<https://www.gardendesign.com/summer/>



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Inside This Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mariann Keenan has been busy this summer. See pages 2-3

NEW FORMAT FOR OUR MEETINGS

Zoom will become our new best friend as we move into the digital age. See page 4

MEET THE BOARD

Two new members on the Board of Directors introduce themselves. See page 5

OPEN GARDEN HAPPY HOUR

New format of our popular garden get together. See page 6

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Four local students receive help to further their plant-related education. See page 7

PLANT TABLE RE-DO

Treasures can still be had from our members. See page 8

TIME TO RENEW

Membership renewal form is located on page 9. Send it in now so you won't miss out on anything next year.

President's Message

Summer and Sunny Days Ahead

Happy Summer, everyone! I send my greetings and best wishes to all of you and hope you are enjoying these warm days and sunny, blue skies.

As you know from our June newsletter, **“Education in the Garden”** is my focus for the club for the next two years. And, “education” and the “garden” are my personal working themes this summer. In a time of great uncertainty, I am learning how to fill my days while at home by trying new things in my garden and in the kitchen. Plus, the biggest new excitement in my household has been adopting a three-year old rescue Yorkie Poodle and learning the joys of puppy dog love — but more on that later!



Here's something new I've tried in my garden: milkweed.

Milkweed is the plant on which Monarch butterflies lay their eggs. If you get the chance, check out

Susie Vanderlip's informative presentations on YouTube on Monarch butterflies. Several weeks ago, I watched one of them and began an adventure to add color and butterflies to my garden. It's been very interesting and a life lesson.



While I was at Plant Depot purchasing milkweed, a Monarch butterfly started following me around as I carried the plant -- and proceeded to lay half-a-dozen eggs on it one at a time! That milkweed is now in my yard, and caterpillars have appeared on the leaves. My husband and I are still waiting for the butterflies to emerge. Meanwhile, we've enjoyed seeing several gorgeous Monarch butterflies flutter through our yard every day — such a treat! I have also learned that California native milkweed

is best for our Monarch butterflies — and for our regional environment. The non-native tropical varieties of milkweed plants must be cut back every year to prevent a protozoan parasite that is harmful to Monarchs from living on the plant.

Here are some new things I've tried in the kitchen:

Hopefully, many of you are enjoying fresh fruits and vegetables from your gardens (or in my case the store). Right now, my garden has just one lemon tree and a rosemary plant -- but I am using them in fruit and vegetable dishes. Recently, I prepared cauliflower steaks with cilantro sauce, and it was delicious. The fresh lemon juice in that dish came from the lemons on my tree. The recipe is in the box on the next page.

This summer, my favorite thing to eat has to be waffles with a berry and peach compote that we enjoyed recently. The compote is simply fresh berries (I used blackberries and raspberries) and a nice ripe peach. The peach provided all the sweetness and juice we needed.

(Continued on the next page.)

President's Message

A New Addition in Mariann's Life

Finally, the very best new thing to happen to me this summer:

The addition of a cute rescue dog to our household. His name is **Tripod** or Tripp for short. Why Tripp? Because he had a leg amputated about two weeks before we adopted him. However, one less leg does not stop him from getting around really well. Tripp has also been good for me health-wise. I've quadrupled the number of steps I'm taking every day and I am slowly starting to drop the COVID "seven pounds" that started to appear in March. Tripp and I are both very happy to have found each other.



In closing, be safe, be well, and be happy. May you find new and exciting things to do indoors or in the garden — whether you are alone, with others, or with an adorable, lovable pet! I am looking forward to our September garden club meeting which will be online (see article on page 4) and, of course, to the day when we can all be together again!

Summer Recipe Grilled Cauliflower Steak With Cilantro Sauce

Serves 4

¼ cup olive oil	Cilantro Sauce
1 teaspoon cumin seeds	2 cups roughly chopped cilantro
1 teaspoon minced garlic	½ cup mint leaves
¼ teaspoon chili flakes	¼ cup lemon juice
¼ teaspoon ground turmeric	1 serrano chile
1 large head cauliflower cut into steaks	1 teaspoon salt
Pinch of salt	¾ cup olive oil

Prepare barbecue (medium-high heat). In a small saucepan, heat ¼ cup olive oil until shimmering. Bloom cumin seeds (until the cumin seeds open up) in olive oil and immediately follow with minced garlic. When cumin seeds and garlic begin to color, stir in chili flakes and turmeric. Cool oil slightly. Meanwhile, season cauliflower "steaks" with salt. Brush steaks on both sides with the infused cumin-garlic-chili oil. Grill cauliflower steaks over direct heat or in oven grill pan for about 4 minutes on each side or until charred in places and almost tender. For cilantro sauce, place all ingredients in a blender and puree until smooth. Serve sauce over grilled cauliflower or on the side.



President's Message

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS

YES, WE ARE HAVING A SEPTEMBER MEETING. ON ZOOM!

OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE ONLINE VIA ZOOM WEBINAR ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, 2020

AT OUR NORMAL START TIME OF 10 AM. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LOG INTO THE WEBINAR AS EARLY AS 9:45 AM.

PLEASE SEE THE INFORMATION BELOW ABOUT DOWNLOADING THE ZOOM APPLICATION AND LOGGING IN.

WE HAVE A FABULOUS LINE-UP OF 2020-21 GUEST SPEAKERS

OUR SEPTEMBER GUEST SPEAKERS ARE KAY HAVENS AND TEENA SPINDLER; BOTH ARE MASTER GARDENERS. THEIR PRESENTATION WILL DETAIL THE EFFORTS TO BRING A WORLD-CLASS BOTANICAL GARDEN TO THE GREAT PARK IN IRVINE. WHEN: FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, 2020. BEGINS 10 AM; LOG IN AVAILABLE STARTING 9:45 AM.

OCTOBER'S GUEST SPEAKER IS DR. MATT RITTER, A PROFESSOR OF BOTANY AT CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO AND AN EXPERT ON CALIFORNIA TREES. HIS ZOOM PRESENTATION WILL BE ON THE TREES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, WHICH HAS BEEN HIS LIFE-LONG LOVE THAT HE SHARES WITH HIS HUNDREDS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. WHEN: FRIDAY, OCT. 9, 2020. BEGINS 10 AM; LOG IN AVAILABLE STARTING 9:45 AM.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE ZOOM APPLICATION (APP) ON YOUR COMPUTER OR TABLET

- GO TO WWW.ZOOM.COM TO DOWNLOAD THE ZOOM APP. DOWNLOADING INSTRUCTIONS ARE PROVIDED.
- WE WILL ALSO EMAIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS TO YOU PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.
- IF YOU'D LIKE A ZOOM PRACTICE SESSION OR TO CHAT ABOUT ZOOM WITH A LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB BOARD MEMBER, PLEASE GIVE ONE OF US A CALL: **MARIANN KEENAN, NANCY ENGLUND, LYNN JAX, JORJA PUMA. OUR NUMBERS ARE IN THE LBGC MEMBERSHIP BOOK.** WE'LL BE ORGANIZING PRACTICE SESSIONS IN AUGUST.
- ALSO, THE SUSI Q SENIOR CENTER IN LAGUNA BEACH HAS FREE ONLINE CLASSES FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN HOW TO DOWNLOAD AND USE ZOOM. SIGN UP ON THE SUSI Q WEBSITE: WWW.SUSIQ.ORG.

HOW TO LOG INTO OUR ZOOM WEBINARS

- BEFORE EACH MONTHLY MEETING, WE WILL EMAIL YOU LOG-IN INFORMATION, PROVIDE A LINK FOR YOU TO "CLICK" THAT WILL TAKE YOU TO THE ZOOM WEBSITE, AND FURNISH THE MEETING NUMBER AND PASSWORD.

WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO MOVE FORWARD IN THIS ONLINE FORMAT SO WE DON'T MISS A BEAT PROVIDING YOU WITH A GREAT SERIES OF GUEST SPEAKERS. AND, WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!

TAKE GOOD CARE, STAY SAFE & SEE YOU SOON ON ZOOM!

Meet Members of the 2020-2021 Board

Kari Nies

Director of Website

Joining the garden club in 2020, Kari Nies goal was to turn her black thumb green. She is semi-retired, having worked for over 30 year as a Computer Science researcher at UC Irvine. She also teaches computer programming to high school students through the South Coast Career & College Advantage program. Kari enjoys live music, travel, and sewing. She is looking forward to contributing to the club as Director of Website.



to tear up the backyard so we could have our wedding reception. Then we added a pool in the back and more functional hardscape to the front. My husband called me the Plant Manager. We began by putting in plants we liked and then replacing them with others that would live when the first ones didn't (isn't that how most of us manage our gardens?). It's always a work in progress; otherwise it wouldn't be any fun.

I've also volunteered for the Gate & Garden Tour ticket sales using Eventbrite, updated and maintained the Forest Ave Pocket Part and the Garden by the Sea at Main Beach, promoted the Club and Tour by serving botanical waters at the Taste of Laguna and SmartScape Expo at the Laguna Beach Water District, and distributed succulents on Arbor Day at Main Beach. I received the Rookie of the Year Award along with Patty Gaffney.

Next year, I will take on the challenge of coordinating the Gate & Garden Tour for 2021. Please come help out; it would be wonderful to have your assistance. It's a great

way to get involved, meet other members and do something wonderful for our community.

Susan Denton

Director of Gate & Garden Tour

After retiring from a medical career in 2018, I joined the LBGC in December 2018. I had an interest in gardening but with a busy career, I didn't have much time to spend in our garden. I joined the garden club hoping to learn more about gardening (especially why my camellias wouldn't bloom), but I was primarily interested in forging new friendships with other gardeners, getting involved in the community, and joining the fun activities.

I started gardening when I moved to Laguna Beach 21 years ago. Our first project was



Open Garden Happy Hour's New Format

Share your latest garden innovations

Greetings Laguna Beach Garden Club Members and Friends

To continue our *Open Garden Happy Hour* in the current COVID-19 environment, we will take it to a virtual format. We would like you to take pictures of your garden and submit so we can showcase them in our newsletter, *Weeder's Digest*, in the Fall. We are also researching whether we can view them via video format so if you can also take videos. Please submit your pictures and videos to Dalynn at dalynnmalek@gmail.com

Please stay safe and well and we will look forward to seeing your gardens virtually.

Sincerely,

Shelby Rigg

Open Garden Happy Hour Coordinator



What's been happening in Nancy Englund's Gardening Life?

- 1) My beets and Swiss chard are a feast for the eyes and the palate.
- 2) I put up pretty tiles over a friend's potting bench in Bluebird Canyon
- 3) I had fun repairing the garden when the builders finished our new fence and gate.

In Our Community

Four Local Students Receive Scholarships

\$5,500 in Scholarships Were Awarded

Laguna Beach High School senior **Jeremy Logan Leeds** was awarded \$2,500 from LBHS. Jeremy showed a passion for the environment with his 300+ hours of community service in creating signposts of Laguna Canyon Dilly's Preserve at his own expense as his Eagle Scout project. He is an accomplished writer and plans to major in Creative Writing as well as pursue his interest in ecology, zoology, marine biology and forestry.



Chloe Simpson will join her husband (a recently discharged veteran) at Humboldt State to study Botany, genetic codes of plants.



Susan Ramirez plans to start a new career in sustainable landscape design.



In addition, three Saddleback College horticulture students were granted \$1,000 each to assist them in the pursuit of their degrees.

Christine Villa will transfer to Cal Poly Pomona to obtain her BA in Plant Science and minor in Urban & Community Agriculture.



Laguna Beach Garden Club is proud to bestow scholarships to these well-deserving individuals who definitely meet our mission of advancing gardening, horticulture, ecology and conservation through education. Donations to LBGC and as well our fundraisers support the Club's community projects, such as three school gardens, various gardens throughout the city in Heisler Park and downtown, and coming soon a bottle-filling station in the gardens of the Laguna Beach County Water District.

More This & That

The Plant Table Takes on a New Look During COVID Times

A highlight of our monthly meeting for many is the **Plant Table**. Members could shop and acquire garden items that another member no longer needed. These items range from pottery, plant cuttings, baskets, books on gardening, and decorative garden treasures just to name a few.

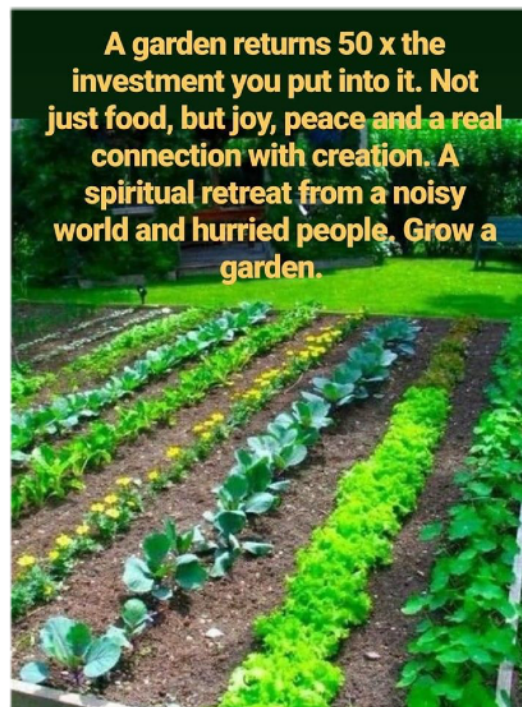
This new feature of the *Weeders Digest* provides an opportunity for members to offer significantly valuable garden-related items for sale to other members via posts in our future editions. The item(s) must be such that a buyer will take the trouble to drive to your home, pick up the item, and pay a fair “plant table” price. Following the transaction you, the seller, are expected to forward the revenue to the Club. The revenue will be used to offset the club’s expenses.

Our first posts:

USED GARDEN WALL BRICKS – Small interlocking garden wall bricks that retail for about \$2.50 each. They are four inches thick, one foot wide, and are used to construct small retaining walls up to three feet high. Fifty cents each. Contact Norman Powell 499-1487.



USED RAIN BARRELS – Two 55 gallon plastic barrels to collect rooftop rainwater. Hardware supplied with the barrel taps into the downspout from the rain gutters. Rainwater that usually goes to the street is saved to water the garden. Assembly is required. User manual included. \$15 each. Contact Norman Powell 499-1487.





Laguna Beach Garden Club 2020 - 2021 Membership Renewal 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 renewed on our website: LagunaBeachGardenClub.org.
- * All dues paid by Credit Card will be \$70.
- * Consider adding a donation. All donations are tax deductible and much appreciated. Donations of \$25 or more will be recognized in our newsletter, membership book and website as an official sponsor.
- * **You can renew as late as our September 2020 General Meeting to be in the Membership Book.**

Please Print neatly!

Note any changes from last year

☐

Check here if your contact information has not changed

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: _____



PO Box 362, Laguna Beach, CA 92652

www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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