



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



Education in the Garden

NOVEMBERS 2020
MEMBER NEWS

*"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is
to let things go."* -Unknown

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

Ahhh autumn, a time of changes, gatherings, and hopefully sweaters and soup. The days are shorter, but time in your garden can be just as fun as spring with the tasks of fall. The last of the summer veggies are gone, and spring bulbs are waiting to be planted. I love the Liquid Amber tree in my yard- it is a true indicator of Fall with its multi-colored leaves that decorate the ground. Yes, they are waiting to be raked up and tossed into the green trash can, but for other options, check out Suzanne DeJohn of

National Gardening Association's **10 Things to do With Fall Leaves** on page 11. My favorite is suggestion #1, but the other nine are good ones too. Enjoy!



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Nov. 13

Susie Vanderlip
Monarch Conservation Specialist
(see page 3)

9:30 am-
make your
own cup of
coffee in
your
kitchen

10:00 am-
Zoom in to
the
meeting



October's Green Thumb
Craft Results

Creative ladies painted rocks

(see page
5 for more
photos)

No Green
Thumb
Craft this
month-
see you in
January!



President's Message

Growing Friendships and Community

Dear Members,

Another month has flown by, Halloween is behind us, and we're looking forward to Thanksgiving. It is my sincere hope that this message finds you and your loved ones well and happy.

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness. It teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust." - Gertrude Jekyll, British horticulturalist.



This statement may never have been truer than today during the COVID pandemic. As we hunker down at home, spend more time in our gardens, and grow more of our own food, our gardens have become sanctuaries. My garden is my happy place.

So too, our public gardens throughout Laguna Beach are serene sanctuaries. I am so proud of our club's commitment to local public gardens: Sister Cities Garden in Heisler Park, Garden By The Sea at Main Beach, and Pocket Park on Forest Avenue. Thanks to our volunteers who give their time to maintain these beautiful spaces.

Our club had a busy month in October. Most of you received your 2020-2021 Membership Book by picking it up at the fun drive-by

event on October 12 at Tankersley Hall, or by drop off or by US mail. If you don't yet have your copy, please let me know at mariann@lagunabeachgardenclub.org, and we'll make sure you receive one.

That same day, we collected money for Penny Pines, the reforestation program in the Cleveland National Forest. We also held a food drive for the Laguna Food Pantry, and **Nancy Englund** was on hand to sell Laguna Beach Garden Club swag. It is my pleasure to report that all these efforts were a success thanks to your generous participation.

On October 16, **Susan Denton** hosted our first Green Thumb Craft Workshop of the year — rock painting.



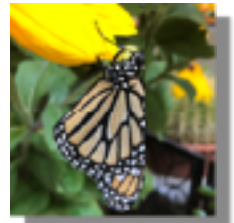
Everyone who participated had great fun and reported it was a

lovely, entertaining morning event. Many members are planning to share their rocks with neighbors.

I sincerely hope that you are getting more comfortable with our monthly meetings and presenters on Zoom. Our speakers so far this year have been Master Gardeners **Kay Havens** and

Teena Spindler and botany professor **Dr. Matt Ritter**. Based on feedback, we would have them back -- no doubt about it.

On Friday, November 13, our monthly Zoom meeting will start at 10 am, and the guest speaker will be Susie Vanderlip, an expert on Monarch butterflies. Please join us on Zoom to learn everything about this iconic and beautiful butterfly and to get all your questions answered.



The Tuesday before the meeting, members will receive an email with the Zoom link from **Melissa Rapp**. To decrease the chances of her message going to spam or junk mail, I encourage you to add her email address to your contact list: reedjandm@cox.net.

I wish you well in your gardening ventures. Autumn is the perfect time to trim back and plant new things.

As Thanksgiving fast approaches, my family and I wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday. Meanwhile, I hope to see you at our next Zoom meeting on November 13!

Your fellow gardener and club President,
Mariann Keenan

November
Zoom
Meeting

Citizen Scientist Susie Vanderlip Shares her love of Monarch Butterflies

Susie Vanderlip first presented to our Garden Club in March of 2015, sharing her knowledge of Monarch butterflies with all who attended. We are all in for a treat this month.

Susie is a Monarch Butterfly Citizen Scientist, who raises Monarchs in her garden beginning in April 2010. She is passionate about Monarch butterfly conservation, education, and encouraging butterfly gardening. She is devoted to help save Monarchs by engaging the public, developers, city councils,



communities and every gardener to plant Monarch way-stations of milkweed and nectar plants to nourish and support propagation of the Monarch butterfly.

She combines science with literacy, imagination and passion. She will share insights into the butterfly life cycle, migration, the impact of global warming and pesticides, and predators.

In January 2020, Susie was appointed as the Monarch Conservation Specialist in Southern California for the Monarch Watch, which is a



Butterfly products available for purchase from Susie's web site are: the large & small butterfly enclosures, notecards and her book and CD about Chester the butterfly.



premiere Monarch conservation and research organization from the University of Kansas for over 50 years.

Susie has been a professional speaker on a variety of topics for over 28 years. She is a Certified Speaking Professional in the National Speakers Association and an inductee into the Speakers Hall of Fame, receiving the Council of Peers Award of Excellence (only 300 people worldwide have received this award).

Several products are available for sale on her website. She has authored the book and produced the 10-minute movie/DVD *The Story of Chester, the Monarch Caterpillar/Larva*, all about the life cycle of a monarch butterfly. Both products are in Pre-K thru 2nd grade classrooms as they meet

STEM requirements for life science curriculum.

Other items include two sizes of butterfly habitat mesh enclosures, notecards, baby onesies, etc.

And Susie will donate 10% of all sales to Laguna Beach Garden Club. Be sure to mention **LBGC** with your name at checkout.

Start your Holiday shopping early and order for your children or grandkids or treat yourself.

www.tinyurl.com/MonarchProducts



See page 9 for a list of flowers and plants that support butterflies.

A "Three-Fer" Drive-Through Event

Garden Club members collect their membership book, give food and Penny Pines donations and purchase LBGC swag

Membership Co-Directors **Grace Balen** and **Cookie Lee** planned our first ever drive through event on October 12 as a truly effective way to accomplish four things at one time. About half our members drove through the parking lot behind Tankersley Hall to pick up their 2020-2021 Membership Books.



At the same time, many people contributed to Penny Pines. By the end of the morning the total in our baskets was \$456. That is as much as we collected in 4 meetings last year. Thank



you to all who joined in our efforts to plant trees in Cleveland National Forest at a time when so many fires are burning around us. Thanks also to **Kathleen Kane** who came to assist for part of the morning. If you would like to contribute again or missed the chance during this event, make a check out to Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. and specify that it is a Penny Pines donation. Mail the check to **Jorja Puma**.

Nancy Englund, Past President and Ways and Means Director, brought Garden Club swag for interested members to peruse. As it turns out, many of you were interested because the denim aprons sold out. All told, \$382 worth of Laguna Beach Garden Club gear was sold. Personally, I needed gardening gloves and prefer the ones we sell. I also like our pens and so does my husband Bob (he's a member too). Garden Club goods may be purchased at any time by calling Nancy Englund.



Finally, **Lynn Jax** and **Perry Stampfel** collected member donations to the Laguna Food Pantry. Thanks to all members who dropped off food.



This was the first chance many of us had to see each other since our last face to face meeting in February. It was really fun and also great to accomplish so much and still be safe. One last thanks to all who worked this event and all who came. Please take good care.



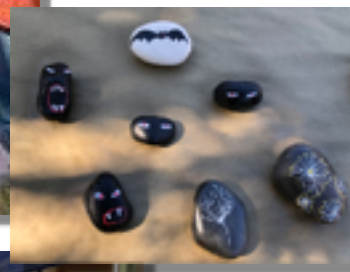
-Mariann Keenan

Drive through workers enjoyed an outdoor lunch at the Lumberyard after their busy morning's work.

Rock On!

October's Green Craft Project - Creative Fun

On October 16 the Garden Club's first Green Thumb Activity was to paint rocks, hosted by **Susan Denton** as our instructor. All attendees wore masks and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Susan provided white and gray rocks as well as print outs of many ideas. **Nancy Englund** also brought several spooky Halloween print outs. We painted with brushes and used paint pens for the finer details. Some rocks required a base coat of white followed by two coats of the desired color to add intensity to the hue. The creations were finished by spraying them with lacquer to preserve the color. Some of the creations include: plant ID markers, faux cacti, Halloween-themed eyes, cats, ethereal fern-like markings, welcome rocks, lady bugs, flower petals and more. The creativity flowed. We all want to do it again. It was so much fun. Thank you, Susan for your inspirations and guidance.



New Member Virtual Meeting Grows New Friends

On Tuesday, Oct 20, we had our New Member Orientation Zoom Meeting. Thank you to all that attended. It was a great opportunity to welcome our new members and get a chance to know each other as we introduced ourselves.

We reviewed our brand new Member Handbook and discussed all the fun ways to get engaged in our club! We appreciate everyone attending. If you did not attend and have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us. Again, welcome to the Laguna Beach Garden Club!

Cookie Lee & Grace Balen
Co-Directors of Membership



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB

Susan Denton, Director of this year's Gate and Garden Tour is putting together the team. Do you have media know how, organizing skills, videographer skills or contacts and more? Contact Susan at cnnpinca@yahoo.com or 949-315-5028

Gardeners needed!
Contact **Monica Thompson** at 949-702-1429 or **Synthia Scofield** at 949-422-6208 to volunteer at Sister Cities Garden in Heisler Park or Garden at the Sea on Main Beach or Pocket Park on Forest Avenue

Forest Avenue Pocket Park

2nd in a Series featuring the Community Gardens that LBGC Supports

The Forest Avenue Pocket Park is located on the grounds of Laguna Presbyterian Church, close to the corner of Second Street and Forest Avenue. A cadre of four garden club members (**Monica Thompson, Susan Denton, Jeanne Yale, and Diane Lamboley**) share a schedule of pruning, weeding, replanting, and general upkeep, which includes sprinkler issues.



The pocket park was originally established in 1984 by Walter von Grep with a vision of a European sitting garden in the middle of town. He created the garden with brick paving, benches, permanent pots, a water system, and sculpture by a local artist as a tribute to his wife and motherhood.

Unfortunately, he was not able to maintain the garden in the manner he envisioned and neglect prevailed. In the spring of 1999, the area was recognized by LBGC as a

potential civic beautification project.

Members met several times, did research at Sherman Gardens and nurseries, presented the project to the Garden Club Board, and contacted Mr. von Grep for his approval. A sign giving credit to Laguna Beach Garden Club for the care of the garden was created. This civic beautification project has



continued to be maintained by our members. Any member is welcome to help out. Just contact **Monica Thompson** via email: mmehren9@cox.net or 949-702-1429.

Next time you take a stroll on Forest Avenue to take a walk or peruse what the Promenade (pedestrian area) on Forest Avenue offers, stop by the tiny Pocket Park and enjoy the serenity.



Read All About It

What Has Blyth Weaton Been Reading?

Wicked Plants by Amy Stewart

The sordid lives of plants behaving badly.-

“Amy is an award winning author of four books on the perils and pleasures of the natural world.”

In keeping with the season of Autumn and Halloween, I'd love to recommend to you a book my mother gave me a few Halloween's ago. *Wicked Plants* seems like it would be an obscure dictionary of things we've never heard of. If you assumed this, like I did, you will be pleasantly tickled by how interesting it is. There are passages about deadly, poisonous and everyday plants that you would be shocked at their wicked nature. This book is an easy and interesting read. Happy Autumnal Equinox!



Wilding by Isabella Tree

The return of nature to a British farm-



Wilding will forever be one of my favorite escapes into reading. It was recommended to me during a very difficult time in my life, a time that I needed to cultivate some hope that change was possible with just a few little steps. Ms. Tree has written a personal account of how an estate, struggling with the agricultural model post WWII in Britain, found inspiration in the possibilities of letting the land go back to weeds and native plants, reintroducing native foraging animal species (pigs, deer, wild horses, and beavers) long removed from the farmed landscape, and see what happens. What follows is a beautiful journey of trial and error, of re-imagining how land is managed, of breaking the mold, fearless optimism, and revealing how interconnected nature, animals, birds and insects truly are. The surprises and results of this land experiment are magical. This book lifted me up and made me happy. Enjoy!

Fall Blooms for Butterflies

Fall flowers for our
fluttering friends



Perennials for Pollinators

Our horticultural experts hand-picked this collection of heavy bloomers specifically for California gardens to provide beauty year after year. These plants are nongmo and grown neonic-free, so that butterflies & other pollinators have a safe resource for nectar & pollen. Locally grown by Armstrong. Selection varies by store. 4 in. pot

Providing the perfect plants to encourage butterflies to visit your garden is as easy as checking this list

(This article is for reference only, not intended as an ad for Armstrong Nursery.)



Osteospermum

This tireless daisy is a perfect addition in any season, to give your garden a welcome burst of color in fall sun. Create a beautiful fall display with blooming perennials & ornamental grasses. Locally grown by Armstrong. Selection varies by location. 1-gal. pot **\$8.99**

Senecio 'Angel Wing'

Big velvety, silvery leaves make a fantastic accent in full to part sun. Use in the garden as a low border, growing to 16 inches tall, or enjoy its touchable foliage in entryway planters with your favorite fall annuals and perennials. Locally grown by Armstrong. 1-gal. pot **\$9.99**

Salvia 'Ignition Vibe Purple'

A favorite of pollinators, this waterwise perennial blooms from spring through summer in full to part sun. Great when planted in groups, growing to about two feet tall and wide in full to part sun. Locally grown by Armstrong. 1-gal. pot **\$9.99**

'Sunfinity™' Sunflower

Cheery bright yellow flowers will catch the attention of butterflies. A superb multibranching variety featuring nongmo blooms that keep going long after varieties have stopped. We've planted them in grab-n-go cache pots, ready to enjoy in full sun. Locally grown by Armstrong. 12-in. cache planter **\$29.99**



Become a Donor - Do a Good Thing and See Your Name in Print

The Laguna Beach Garden Club is a volunteer, service organization dedicated to “growing and giving.” Your donations continue to enrich our community by funding annual scholarships, a number of school garden programs, community beautification and environmental projects.

Laguna Beach Garden Club, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization, thereby making donations tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Add your name to our Wall of Fame or move up a level.

For more information regarding donations, please go to www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org/donate/

Wall of Fame 2020 – 2021

Sponsors

Rose: \$3000-\$4999

LAGUNA BEACH COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Pelargonium: \$500-\$999

SCINTO FOUNDATION

Donors

Major Donor: \$5000+

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Monarch: \$1000-\$2999

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MARY WILLIAMS

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BOB KEENAN

MARLEEN KEENAN

DRANE BLOGE

JOE ENAPP

JACQUELINE ENAURE

DRANE LANNON

LYNETTE LAROCHE

NANCY LAWRENCE

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CHRIS LUTZ

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Aloe: \$25-\$99

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DEE BURN

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In-Kind Donors (goods & Services)

Poppy: \$100-\$499

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PLANT DEPOT

SAN CLEMENTE ANTIQUES

SEASUCKS — N. COAST HWY.

TENTACLE ARCS

THE NURSERY BY SOUTHWINDS

JEANNE YALE

Aloe: \$25-\$99

HARRIET CRAIG

ELAINE DAVIS

DUET

PATTY GAFFNEY

GREEN THUMB NURSERY

DRANE BLOGE

LAGUNA BEACH BOOKS

DRANE LANNON

COOKIE LEE

DOLLYN MAIER

PATTON JOHNSON INTERIOR DESIGN

PURE FILATELS

MARY SANCHEZ

PERRY STAMPEL

SEASUCKS — S. COAST HWY.

Top 10 Things to Do with Fall Leaves

National Gardening Association

By Suzanne DeJohn

Fall leaves are like a big load of free organic fertilizer strewn about your yard. If those nutrients were bagged and sold, you'd pay money for them. In your yard, they're free -- except for the labor of gathering them.

Collect the leaves and compost them, and you have a valuable soil amendment. But leave them where they lay, and they will likely smother lawn grasses, blow across your walkways, and generally annoy the neighbors. But before you head out to the yard, ponder this list.

Ten Things to Do with Fall Leaves

1. Make a big pile of leaves in your front yard -- a BIG pile -- and jump in it. With or without your kids. When your neighbors stop to stare, invite them to jump in, too.
2. Run your mower back and forth through a layer of leaves to break them up, then use as mulch in your perennial garden.
3. Contact your city or county to find out if there is a leaf composting project in your area. Find out when you can start picking up compost.
4. Take long walks around your neighborhood and make a mental note of very tidy yards with big trees. These people probably rake and bag their leaves. Plan to contact them to ask if you can have their leaves for your compost pile.
5. Make a scarecrow by stuffing leaves into old clothes -- or even burlap bags (your local coffee shop might have some). Set the scarecrow in a lawn chair by your front door to amuse the mailman.
6. Fallen leaves provide cover for overwintering beneficial insects, such as lacewings and ground beetles. You can serve both your need for a neat garden and the insects' need for winter homes by creating refugia: make envelopes of chicken wire, fill them with fallen leaves and sticks, and place them in a sheltered location. (Make your refugia into creative shapes, and you have garden art, as well!)
7. Collect the prettiest leaves and iron them between sheets of waxed paper. Mount on matboard and frame them to enjoy year-round.
8. Pile leaves in the paths between your vegetable garden beds. They'll provide a dry walking surface, and next spring you can rake the decomposed leaves into your planting areas.
9. Add fallen leaves to indoor worm composting bins. They introduce key decomposers, such as springtails and microbes, to the worm bin ecosystem that help the worms do their jobs better.
10. Use attractive fall leaves, unshelled nuts, branches with berries, and other fall garden treasures to make creative dining table centerpieces. Make placecards by writing dinner guests' names on sturdy leaves using a gold or glitter pen.

Now aren't you excited to get out and face those wonderful, versatile autumn leaves?



Unmask the Board Members Contest Results

Lynn Jax was the winner of the contest, identifying the most masked women and matching them with their positions on the Board.

President, Mariann Keenan-#1

Vice-President, Jorja Puma-not pictured

Vice-President, Lynn Jax- #6

Financial Secretary, Jorja Puma-not pictured

Treasurer Patty Gaffney- #9

Director of Gate & Garden Tour, Susan Denton-#3

Co-Director of Membership, Grace Balen-#5

Co-Director of Membership Cookie Lee-#7

Director of Ways & Means, Nancy Englund-#9

Director of Media and Publicity, Blythe Wheaton-#4

Director of Website, Kari Nies-#8

Past President, Nancy Englund-#2

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



Scenes from our previous Gate & Garden Tours grace the covers of our new note cards



Share the beauty of gardens! Just in time for holiday giving, Laguna Beach Garden Club is offering Gate & Garden notecards featuring dazzling images of Laguna gates and gardens. Cards are 4" x 6" and offered as a single card with an envelope for \$3 or a pack of all six images, with envelopes, in a gift bag for \$15.

The images were created by Carolyn Bent using photos from the Gate & Garden Tour. For a limited time you will receive a free logo pen with every pack of cards ordered. Shoot me an email to order cards remotely, Nancy Englund Nancy@lagunabeachgardenclub.org



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 Kari Nies

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