

VOL. 15



GROWING & GIVING

Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



September 2021
MEMBER NEWS

*"Reading allows us to see and understand the world
through the eyes of others."*

— Chris Riddell

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

School starts and it becomes time to hit the books. The joy of grabbing a good book and settling in to travel to a different place doesn't end when one's school days are over. We now have the freedom to read at the beach or in a sunny spot in our garden instead of a school library or classroom. Getting older does have some nice privileges.

One book you will want to get your hands on is the 2021-22 *Laguna Beach Garden Club Membership Book*.

Make sure to get your copy at the September 10 meeting.



**Come Join in
the Fun**

Events This Month

General Meeting Sept 10

Bob Borthwick - "Our World is a Garden" (see page 3)

Laguna
Presbyterian
Church
9:30 am
Social

10:00 am
Club updates



Trip & Tours Sept 24

Location will be announced at the September 10 meeting



Look closely at the above photo, there are no plants in the picture, only insects!

A September of Celebration

Dear Members,

Was your summer fun and exciting? I hope your travels were delightful, and your celebrations full of joy. If you had health scares, I hope you and your loved ones are doing well and are resting and enjoying life as best as is possible.

Happily, I can report, our summer was special, fun and exciting. Bob had a milestone birthday which we celebrated with family and close friends. We visited with all but one of our six grandchildren. The sixth was traveling in Croatia and sharing lovely pictures.



We had our first annual "Gotcha Day" with Tripp. He has settled in as a wonderful addition to our family.



My garden is thriving and loving Laguna Woods and its close proximity to the ocean breezes of Laguna Beach. We are just one mile from the city limit and five miles from Main Beach. We love being a 15-minute drive away (except in summer traffic). Native milkweed is attracting Monarch butterflies on a daily basis. Some just fly by and others stop to spend a moment or two. The plump succulents are blooming and loving our glorious California sun.

It is with great anticipation that we prepare to meet in person for the first time since February of 2020. It hardly seems possible that it's been so long. The focus of our September meeting will be a celebration: of being together again, of our wonderful

fundraising success; of our new board and the one that finished its service in May and June. Plus, we will celebrate all of our wonderful volunteers: those who work in town gardens, those who worked the Gate & Garden Tour and all those who do good work on behalf of the Laguna Beach Garden Club, including many of you!

Of course, we'll have a wonderful speaker. That goes without saying. I'm as excited as you to see who it will be. You'll find the answer somewhere else in our amazing Club newsletter edited by volunteer Dalynn Malek. Thank you Dalynn. We'll also update you on some projects and scholarships awarded making excellent use of club funds.

See you soon, with much affection,

Mariann



Speaker Series

Bob Borthwick -

Our World Is A Garden

Landscape architect and Laguna resident **Bob Borthwick** will be the Laguna Beach Garden Club guest speaker on September 10. The title of his presentation will be: **"Our World is a Garden"**. He has been involved in many projects in Laguna and has been appointed to numerous city committees and task groups

His presentation will focus on three of his award-winning past oceanfront projects, including the Avalon Downtown Waterfront on Catalina Island, the 2.4 mile San Clemente Beach Trail, and the current phase of the Crystal Cove Cottages Historic District in Newport Coast.

Mr. Borthwick received the Harry Lawrence Award in 2015 from the Laguna Beach Beautification Council, and the American Society of Landscape Architects Public Stewardship Award in 2016 for his pro-bono work in preserving Aliso Creek



and Laguna Creek. Laguna Beach projects include the recent DeWitt Property / Laguna Creek restoration in Laguna Canyon, Alta Laguna Park, and portions of Heisler Park, among others.

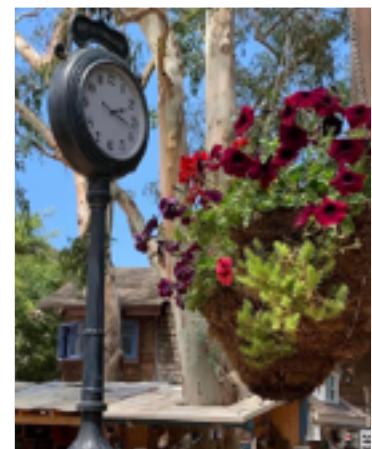
We look forward to his presentation at our first meeting.

The Sawdust Festival Administrator called asking for help and the Laguna Beach Garden Club said Yes!

The hanging baskets featured near the stairs in the center of the Sawdust Festival and in some other locations were in need of replanting and your club agreed to complete the task. **Kathleen Kane, Mariann Keenan, Nancy Englund, Ora Sterling and Synthia Scofield** filled more than a dozen large hanging baskets with a gorgeous variety of summer plants and fresh soil.

Before starting, we laughed while removing last year's plants, some holiday decorations from Winter Fantasy and giving the baskets a good soak.

The end product is glorious and if you have a chance to visit the Sawdust Festival, you'll see that they stayed glorious all summer long.



Green Day at Sawdust ~ Succulent Give Away



The generosity of the club was once more on display when we gave away piles of succulent cuttings to attendees of the Sawdust Festival on July 18, **Green Day**. Members **Mariann Keenan, Kathleen Kane, Synthia Scofield, Nina Ostensen, and Nancy Englund**, all organized by **Janet Chance**, had fun educating the public about waterwise plants like succulents and sharing our love and knowledge of growing things.



Raffles Are Coming

We have another exciting Raffle planned to welcome you back to the Garden Club's general meetings. First raffle will be held at the first meeting on September 10. Come prepared with cash, check or credit card for your chance to bring home one of the fabulous prizes offered.

Ticket prices are always **1 ticket for \$5 or 7 tickets for \$20**. Wishing good luck to you all.

-Lynn Jax, Raffle Administrator

Raffle Items Needed



Speaking of raffles, I could use some donations. Gift cards, special plant, or anything cute or fun are always welcome. Jeanne Yale has already agreed to create one of her fabulous succulent wreaths; her creations are always very sought after.

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

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

Hortense Miller's Home

A HIDDEN LAGUNA TREASURE NEEDS YOUR HELP



Unlike Laguna's art festivals, theatre and art museum, the iconic mid-century home and the 2.5 acre wild, hillside gardens of the late Hortense Miller aren't visible, or even accessible, to most Laguna locals or visitors without a reservation. Most visitors fall in love at first sight with the house, the furniture, the artwork and the grounds that all once belonged to one of Laguna's legendary figures. And as the Hortense Miller Garden property attracts more visitors, its upkeep and special events need more help.

The Friends of Hortense Miller Garden are actively seeking experienced volunteers to head several specific efforts. The last Open House attracted over 280 visitors in 2019. There is a wonderful and dedicated group



of volunteers, but with interest in mid-century architecture, native gardening and crafts renaissance booming, more help is needed, particularly anyone with experience in planning and managing special events for other nonprofits, QuickBooks expertise, or social media/

marketing. In addition to the organization's Open House, the group also hosts art workshops, exhibitions of local artists and meditation retreats and weekly house and garden tours of the property.

The current special exhibit in the Aviary Gallery

explores the history of the *Friends of the Hortense Miller Garden*, from its earliest beginnings in 1977 as a group of volunteers dedicated to fulfilling Hortense's desire to make the Garden a perpetual refuge for



both wild things and for people as a public garden. Nature also challenged the commitment of the Friends when the December 1979 Boat Canyon Fire raged

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A HIDDEN LAGUNA TREASURE



through the Garden, taking with it much of the work they had done. Led by Ginny Worthington, the volunteers sprang into action immediately, taking cues from Hortense's attitude of respect towards the fire. The Garden grew back in abundance; the fire had released dormant poppy fields and other native plants. Much of the research for the exhibit was done with great curiosity and enthusiasm by Barbara Deubert: without her



commitment this exhibit would not have happened. Working with Barbara was Kristy Melita, who continued the project and received original slides, photos and artwork from the estate of Ginny Worthington. These items were incorporated into the exhibit with the help of Michele Leighton and Cheryl Michelon.

A native of St. Louis, Hortense



moved to Laguna Beach in 1953 and died in 2008 just shy of her 100th birthday. A lifelong writer, ferocious gardener and talented craftsperson, she was straightforward, unpretentious and feisty in her philosophy about gardening, politics, love and life in general. Although the property has been owned by Laguna Beach since 1977 when Hortense bequeathed it to the City, it is managed and cared for by a volunteer Board that must annually raise funds to repair and maintain the house as well as the more than 800 species of plants and trees that fill the dozens of slope side paths.

For more information about HMG volunteer opportunities, contact Diane Lannon at HortenseMillerFriends@gmail.com or 949-374-2696

Hortense Miller Garden wants YOU!

This hidden gem of Laguna needs our help. There are many ways to help: from 1 or 2 hours a week weeding and trimming in the garden, to becoming a docent for one 90 minute tour a month.

It's a fun group of men and women that tend to the 1958 Historic Mid-Century Modern home and 2.5 acre hillside wild garden. If you haven't visited yet, book a tour to check it out at www.LagunaBeachCity.net

Upcoming events at the Garden:
Reservations required for all.

Sunday, Sept 26 at 4pm-
Concert in the Garden
with Jessica Haddy

Saturday, Oct. 2 at 10am -
Meditation Workshop
with Lori Kahn

Friday, Oct. 22 at 9:30am
HMG Craft Day
in VISTA, CA - at Marsha Bode's Home to make Garden Art and Container Gardens.
Lunch provided.

For more info contact Diane Lannon at:
HortenseMillerFriends@gmail.com
or sign up at the back table with Diane at the Sept. 10 meeting.

Norman Powell - Plant Table

The Plant Table Is Back!



Do you know what the plant pictured below is? It will be on display at the September **Plant Table**, where you may find something for your garden that you may take home in return for a modest donation.

Remember to bring your surplus garden items the Plant Table, be they potted plants, bare root plants, cuttings, pots, tools, etc., so we will have plenty of items for recycling to your fellow garden club members.

-Norman Powell



Pictured here is the 2021 Laguna Beach Garden Club Scholarship winner from Laguna Beach High School, **Tess Booth**.



Susan Denton - Director of Gate & Garden Tour

Who Were Those Masked Tour Goers?

On Saturday, May 1 more than 550 ticket holders enjoyed walking through Woods Cove to Moss Point and visiting eleven open gardens at the **2021 Gate & Garden Tour**.

Ticket holders bought raffle tickets for the opportunity to win items from a fabulous selection of raffle items donated by local Laguna businesses and artists. The most popular raffle item was donated by the owner of Chicken Hill. She assembled a prize with eggs, honey, and fruit from her garden as well as a vase on which she handprinted milkweed and monarch butterflies.



We welcomed **Team Laguna** as a new sponsor for our shuttle buses, and welcomed back our dedicated sponsors **Laguna Beach County Water District and Dana Point Nursery**. Dana Point Nursery donated not only a splendid orchid planter and gift card, but also a beautiful living garden arrangement which became a “special” raffle prize.



The tour began for most guests at the headquarters of the **Laguna Beach County Water District**. In addition to providing a space for tour registration and the display of our raffle prizes, the Water District also recognizes one landscape participant in the “Most Waterwise Gate & Garden Contest.” **Ellen and “Laguna Provence”** was the 2021 winner. The winning

garden serves as a water-efficient role model during the tour, showcasing appropriate plant selection, creative design, appropriate maintenance, and efficient irrigation methods. Each year, the winning garden receives a mosaic tile stepping-stone to display in the garden.



The tour was a success due to the perseverance and hard work of the planning committee and to the almost **100 Garden Club members, family members and friends** who volunteered their time to make the tour possible.

Volunteers baked dozens of cookies, greeted guests at reception, talked about historic and notable buildings on the buses or welcomed guests into the gardens.

A huge thank you to the committee chairs: **Nancy Englund, Mariann Keenan, Carolyn Bent, Lynn Jax, Jeanne Yale, Karen Nelson,**

Continued on next page

Sandy Graham, Melissa Rapp, Dalynn Malek, and Diane and Dan Olson who worked on this COVID-19 safe tour for months. Also, gratitude and appreciation to **Jackie Knauer, Sherry Stephens, Diane and Pete Lannon, Joann DeYonker, and Ruben Flores** for all their help and hard work in so many ways!

The *2021 Gate & Garden Tour* raised over \$30,000; these funds will support our community projects and scholarships in the coming years!

If you are interested in volunteering for the *2022 Gate & Garden Tour*, contact Susan Denton.

Best,
Susan



Lynn Jax Director of Membership

Membership News

Happy September to all you wonderful Garden Club members. I am very pleased to share with you that we have 160 members to start off this year. We added 19 NEW members and 4 members REJOINED.

We want to recognize 4 long-time members and congratulate them on their dedication to the Garden Club:

- Ora Sterling – joined in 1983 = 39 years
- Polly Dix – joined in 1991 = 32 years
- Brigitte Freund – joined in 1994 = 28 years
- Linda Moore – joined 1996 = 25 years

By now you should have received an email from me (Lynn Jax) introducing myself and describing/ explaining the new name tag drawing to win a prize by simply wearing your name tag to each meeting and the press release signature form needed. And new members received additional information of where/ when our meetings take place & information about the New Member Luncheon.

If any of you did NOT receive the email, please contact me so I can get it to you.

I encourage you to invite a friend to attend our first meeting or any other meeting. Guests are welcome to attend our meetings once or twice to see if we are good fit for them. Invitation cards are available at the Membership table; please take one or two to hand out to your friends. We have a wonderful line-up for our Speaker Series. Please see the Membership Application form below to share with your friends.

The new 2021-2022 Membership Books will be available at the September 10 meeting. Please sign the check off sheet and write your name on the back cover. If you can't attend the September meeting, rest assured you can pick it up later. Feel free to contact me.

I am truly looking forward to seeing you all the first meeting, September 10. It's been a long time. Is it true that "Absence makes the heart grow fonder?" Maybe so.

Lynn Jax, Director of Membership
Email: jax@cox.net
Phone: 949-497-7363
Text: 949-295-1500



June 23, 2021

Laguna Beach Garden Club LotusLand Excursion



Twenty-two club members, family, and friends boarded a luxury-chartered bus at Laguna Beach High School parking lot early in the morning for the day-long excursion to the famed **Lotusland** in Santa Barbara (Montecito). Two others joined at the garden.



Madame Ganna Walska, a well-known Polish opera singer and socialite, purchased the estate in 1941 and spent the next 43 years creating **Lotusland**, which is now recognized as one of the ten best gardens in the world. The 37-acre garden is a spectacular collection of exotic plants. After her death in 1984, Lotusland became a non-profit foundation and opened to the



public in 1993. Prior to arriving at the gardens for our appointment, our bus driver found a lovely spot at Chase Palm Park near downtown Santa Barbara for us to enjoy our lunches, followed by time to stroll on the pier or State Street to stretch our legs. Upon arrival we broke up into small groups and followed the map of the garden to explore at our leisure as much of the garden

as we wished. It was truly a wonderful garden, filled with such rare specimens; we garden lovers appreciated it all. And kudos to our bus driver who used back roads to cut off at least an hour on our drive home. **Thank you to Nancy Englund** for organizing this amazing outing.



Thank you to our generous donors

2021-2022 Wall of Fame

Major Donor: \$5000+

Rose: \$3000-\$4999

Monarch: \$1000-\$2999

Joe Smisko

Pelargonium: \$500-\$999

Mae Ho

Linda Moore

Poppy: \$100-\$499

Leigh Bell

Carolyn, Bent

Janet Chance

Blair Contratto

Harriette Craig-Neghabat

Cheryl Czyz

Dean Day

Englund, Nancy

Ruben Flores

Patty Gaffney

Catherine Hall

Lynn Jax

Mariann Keenan

Robert Keenan

Diane Kloke

Diane Lannon

Chris Lutz

Norman Powell

Shelby Rigg

Mary Sanchez

Synthia Scofield

Blythe Wheaton

Gayle Whitaker

Aloe: \$25-\$99

Jeri Bailey

Elizabeth Blackburn

Cristy Brenner

Etta Cannon

Patricia Carpenter

ElizaBeth Chapel

Barbara Crane

Nancy Daudistel

Lecia Davis

JoAnn DeYonker

Polly Dix

Susan Ferrari

Pam Hagen

George Heed

Tom Hensel

Linda Homscheid

Jacqueline Knauer

Elizabeth Kramer

Jeannine Layman

Vernetta Lieb

Kathy Marconi

Peggi McDonald

Linda Middlebrooks

Dale Palas

Lynn Pries

Gay Redcay

Perry Stampfel

Emille Villa

Patricia Weier

Jeanne Yale

Shari Yamamoto



A Monarch Butterfly Garden in Laguna Beach

During the consent calendar on Tuesday (August 10), Laguna Beach City Council will consider establishing a monarch butterfly and pollinator garden in Heisler Park, which includes planting of native milkweed plants and installation of an educational sign. If approved, the action will also direct staff to work with volunteers for coordination and planting.

Laguna Beach Garden Club has agreed to donate the informational signage and provide the initial native milkweed plants.

“The purpose of the garden is to spread public awareness about the endangered monarch butterflies and allow the public to view the butterflies,” the staff report explains.

The proposed special habitat for North America’s arguably most beloved butterfly was presented at a Recreation Committee meeting on June 7. Committee members unanimously supported the proposal, saying it’s non-invasive, usable, achievable.

“Who could be against butterflies?” committee member Anna Cathleen Greiner said at the June meeting.

Volunteers hope to create a butterfly garden and conservation sanctuary for monarch butterflies in an approximately 200-square-foot area at the park, on a sloped space slightly inland of the whale sculpture.

A pollinator garden would fit in nicely in the area, said Laura Ford, local resident and founder of Pollinator Protection Fund of Laguna Beach (a nonprofit formally organized earlier this year), when she presented the idea to the Recreation Committee in June.

The slightly sloped space was chosen because it already has irrigation, is in need of some more planting, and is a good location for interaction with the public, explained Laura Ford.



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www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

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