

# What's Growing On?

The San Juan Capistrano Garden Club Newsletter

## OUR ANNUAL BBQ WAS A SUCCESS!

Pleasant weather, melodies by the Scallywags, & delicious food and drinks, all contributed to a fun-filled August night. Our 6th annual August BBQ named *Paint the Town Red* seated 59 guests. Winners of the opportunity drawings went home with valuable treasures including many local restaurant gift cards. Beautiful floral centerpieces designed by Donna Sheaffer were door prizes to 6 lucky guests. For those unable to attend this year, do not miss next year's event on August 17th, 2020.



## SEPTEMBER MEETING AGENDA

- GENERAL MEETING COMMENCEMENT
- ANNUAL BBQ INFORMATION
- NAN STERMAN: SPEAKER
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- LA SALA/PENNY PINES/SWEET STEM SENDERS
- SAVE THE DATE - ORCHID FARM
- HUNTINGTON LIBRARY - LAWNS
- MEMORIES FROM PAST GARDNERS
- COMMITTEE SIGNUPS
- OUR SPONSORS
- NAN STERMAN: BOOK SIGNING

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Treasurer**, Pat Kenner  
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**Immediate Past President**  
*Mary Crawford (non-voting position)*

## NAN STERMAN: AUTHOR & TELEVISION CO-HOST

Join us September 16 at the SJC Golf Club, 9:30 a.m., for an informative educational session. The San Juan Capistrano Garden Club presents Nan Sterman. You are welcome to bring a guest that would like to join. Book signing after the meeting.

California native Nan Sterman is host, co-producer, and co-writer of *A Growing Passion*, a television show that celebrates all the ways that San Diego “grows”, from farms and nurseries to backyards and schoolyards, to native habitats and more.

As a garden designer, author, botanist, and award-winning garden communicator she is dedicated to the transformation of planted landscapes from overly thirsty and resource intensive to climate appropriate and sustainable. Her efforts combine age-old techniques with modern technologies. Nan has worked towards this goal since the 1970s when she was involved in the first wave of the sustainability movement. Her initial training was at the Integral Urban House, a demonstration retrofit Victorian home in Berkeley, California. She went on to earn a botany degree from Duke University, a Masters in biology from UC Santa Barbara, and a Masters in instructional design from San Diego State University.

Nan parlayed her early experiences in sustainability to address modern day issues. She is author of *California Gardener's Guide vol II*, the only book about low water, Mediterranean climate gardens written specifically for California home gardeners. In 2010, she added *Waterwise Plants for the Southwest* to her publication list. Her book, *Hot Colors, Dry Garden*, illustrates how colorful low water gardens can be.

Her articles appear in the, *Sunset*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Organic Gardening* and other major publications. She has a monthly water-wise garden column in the *San Diego Union Tribune* and is the gardening expert for *San Diego public radio's Midday Edition* talk show.

Nan speaks, teaches, and writes about low water, sustainable and edible gardening, all of which she designs for client's homes and school gardens. She seeks out plants, methods, and technologies that ensure client gardens are as water-efficient, low maintenance, and beautiful as possible.

Before delving into the professional gardening world, Nan created curricula, training programs, and educational materials for Fortune 500 companies, zoos, aquaria, and not-for-profit organizations. Her ability to take complex information and create effective educational programs is one of her greatest strengths, and a major source of her successes.

Nan lives in Encinitas, California, where she serves as an advisor to the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, the San Diego County Water Authority and sits on the Invasive Plant Committee for the City of Encinitas. She co-founded a 5,000 square foot school garden and founded the annual Encinitas Garden Festival & Tour. Nan is a board member of the Garden Writer's Association and a founding board member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, San Diego District.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MOZELLE SUKUT PH.D.

**Not Sorry!** Have you noticed the current Reese's candy ad when M&Ms are added to peanut butter cups? It concludes with the voice over saying "Not sorry!" I admit to feeling that way about some gardening decisions- when I got rid of our tiny strip of lawn at the street; when instead of planting the HOA approved carrotwood trees, we planted Arbutus Marina; when I kept tiny hens and quail in our courtyard. I try to be a good neighbor and certainly don't grow weeds intentionally nor have noisy pets, but I try to be sustainable in our setting of puzzling restrictions! We certainly have enough grass in our community and there are noisy and pooping geese and ducks everywhere- 22 just did a fly over.

Recently my husband and I had dinner with our grandson and his family. Grandson talked about his Martial Arts group hosting their teacher from Japan. Grandson asked me do gardeners have rankings of proficiency similar to a belt system. What an interesting question! Pondering that, I thought about several systems of gardening to which I have had exposure. But I never received any green belts in proficiency! I grew up on a farm so know about growing edible crops and what was then the norm of DDT use, only later to learn it was damaging to humans and crops. That product's use stopped but morphed into the disturbing use of glyphosate by BigAg which has contaminated soils nationwide and is now in ground water. About thirty years ago I took hort classes at UCI with profs who were trying to educate the CA landscape industry about natives and Mediterranean plants for expanded use in California. Bob Perry's book Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes was published in 1987 and was the text for the UCI classes. Not much proficiency in natives was noted then, no green belts seen regarding using right plant, right place. The norm for residential and commercial sites from the 50s onward was often a formula of acacia, boxwood, privet, carrotwood, flame trees, rafts- the usual suspects which are still being used today. Where are oaks, ceanothus, lemonade berry....?

What would levels of proficiency in gardening be for an amateur gardener who is trying to follow his own ideas yet be sensitive to the appropriate palette for California? We garden to escape, to exercise, to relax, to heal, to increase visual beauty. We know those with Green Belts in botany, entomology, design experts and specialty plants. We join groups as Master Gardeners, and specialty clubs (Rare Fruit, Begonia, Native, Rose) to become more proficient about those plants. (Confession- I like a tropical look of big leaves and flowers. Guess I should live in the Amazon.)

Some try hard to embrace better choices and encourage others to do so! Recently I learned our daughter-in-law planted 2 carrotwood trees and 2 magnolias in her garden redo on purpose! One piece of good news, she also planted 2 Arbutus Marinas. She trusted a good friend who owns a landscape maintenance firm. Nice guy, but certainly no green belt in counseling clients who need input about other possibilities than those inappropriate old standbys. He choose for them what he knows. And he will be long gone when invasive carrotwood seeds spread baby trees everywhere, and those magnolias don't thrive because they need more warmth and water. New input might not be welcomed. It is not easy to fit together a vision of a desired look, with available space, unique climate, and increased awareness and concern for the fragile eco system and hope to be a good steward of nature.

## LA SALA BEAUTIFICATION

Our "plaque" arrived and Roz's husband, Bob Morrissey, installed it for us! Thanks to all of you who donated to the Christmas Fund Raiser last year. The plaque was a part of the bench purchase and it puts the "frosting on the cake".

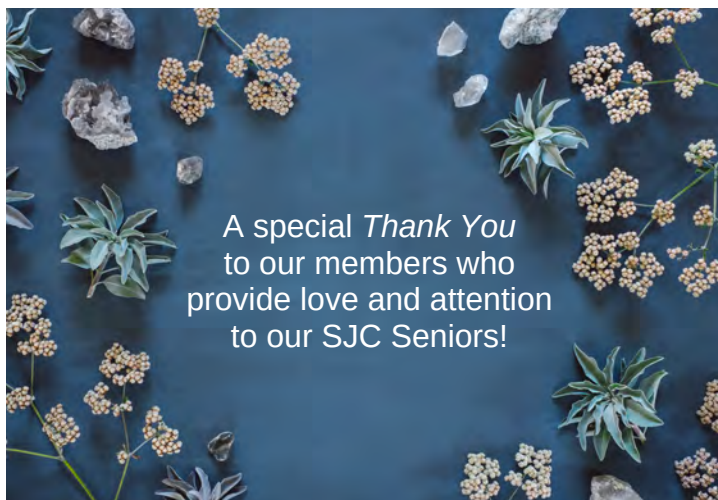


I'm so excited! Our trees have begun to bloom! Lots of buds on all the trees and one tree has actual flowers. Our Crape Myrtles are of the variety *Lagerstroemia indica* x *Cherokee*. As you can see, the flowers are red, and judging by the number of buds, we should have a magical display.

~ Nancy Cangiano, Chairman of La Sala

## SWEET STEM SENDERS FLOWERS & FAVORS FOR SENIORS

Sweet Stem Senders deliver tray favors to two (2) assisted living facilities in San Juan Capistrano six times a year. Tray favors, mainly succulents, adorn the lunch trays of residents who are unable to join their friends in the dining room and eat alone in their rooms. We are now extending our program to a third home in the area.



All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today. Chinese Proverb

## PENNY PINES



EACH \$68 COLLECTED FILLS A ONE-ACRE AREA WITH SEEDLINGS

Bring your pennies to each meeting! We collect them in a basket. Under a conservation agreement with the forest service, your donation along with federal funds, will provide seedlings for reforestation on burned-over and brush covered areas.

## SAVE THE DATE !

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21ST  
CAL-PACIFIC ORCHID FARM, ENCINITAS

More information and sign-ups at our September general meeting!



## THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY NEW APPROACH TO LAWNS

California's classic green lawns are going the way of the dinosaurs. The Huntington Library is experimenting with using alternative grasses in lieu of our 'ideal' of the water intensive, commonly used grasses. Drought tolerant grasses provide a look that is both beautiful and unique, while using less water.



Above is the "Native Mow Free" sod, a mix of three grasses field-grown together. Most of us want a patch of green in the yard without using man-made grass. Installing "Native Mow Free" sod allows one to walk, lie down, and play on it.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST MEMORIES OF PAST GARDNERS

Jenell Blue

A few weeks ago I was unpacking a box I have had stored for years. In that box was a book, "The Book of Wild Flowers", handed down by my Grandmother, Nellie Blye Maginnis. The book was written by the National Geographic Society, copyright 1924, with color plates by Mary E. Eaton. Both my maternal and paternal Grandmothers loved farming and gardening and passed that love to me. The writing in the book I find to be magical.

Here is an excerpt from the Foreword, written by William Joseph Showalter, Sc.D. "Few fields of human interest offer as rich returns of pleasure to laymen who cultivate them as an acquaintance with the wild flowers. One who learns to know them comes to love them, and they become companions who give every stroll a charm, and make every path lead to a Treasure Island of inspiring meditations". *Share a memory of yours.*

**Thank You To Our Sponsors:**

 **Swallow:** Valerie Drey  
*Trails of Discovery*  
*Advanced Real Estate Services*

 **Honey Bee:** California Garden

 **Butterfly:** Sharon Dunn, Marilyn Falls  
Dona Helmick, Tom Hribar, Susan Kudsi,  
Denise Miner, Roz Morrissey,  
Karen Rottmann

 **Lady Bugs:** Nancy Ambrose,  
Nancy Cangiano, Lynne Fair, Inge Harris,  
Pat Kenner

**COMMITTEE**

Our Committees are in need  
of assistance, please volunteer!  
(Information located at end of newsletter)

# Committee Chair Responsibilities

## Civic Beautification:

**La Sala: Chair, Nancy Cangiano** Ongoing past president's project of the revitalization of the La Sala entrance and courtyard of the San Juan Capistrano Library. The Library is a national historical site; designed by Michael Graves. The committee will maintain reflection pool plantings and flower beds in entrance.

**Camino Real Playhouse:** Replant and maintain the entrance of the city owned historic property leased by the Camino Real Playhouse

## Community Outreach: Chair, Wendy Corzatt

Create and make tray favors for local assisted living and nursing homes. Tray favors are to celebrate the following holidays; Valentine's Day, Easter, 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Due to the popularity of this committee members will be rotated throughout the year.

## Scholarship Committee:

Coordinate with Saddleback Valley College to select two horticulture students and present each with a \$500 scholarship annually.

## Youth Programs:

Continue supporting the Del Obispo School Gardening youth gardening program with an annual donation. Identify additional opportunities to support youth gardening activities.

## Penny Pines:

Collect spare change at each general meeting to forward to our National Forest Rangers to replant the Cleveland National Forest. Submit donation form to the CGCI.

## Ways & Means:

**Sponsorship:** Seek financial support from local business to support the ongoing philanthropic programs of the club.

**"Stroll Through The Gardens"** : Annual garden tour and boutique fundraiser. Committee members secure homes for the tour, inspect and obtain CGCI insurance. Schedule students and/or docents to assist with gardening spruce-up. Work with Treasurer and Vice President of Communication. Post flyers and registration forms throughout the city and adjacent areas. Arrange docent schedule for day of tour and supply refreshments at each home. Purchase *Garden Stones* for each garden contributed as a Thank you.

**"Boutique"**. seek donation from members of unique garden craft items and/or unusual plants. Coordinate publicity/ advertising with the Stroll Chair. Seek volunteers for the day of the Boutique to transport items to the selected site and work the sale.

## Membership:

Will assist V.P. of Membership in welcoming members and registering them upon arrival to all general meeting. Assists in recruitment and retention of members.

## Annual Summer Evening Fundraiser :

Select venue, menu, theme and gather donations from local businesses for raffle baskets. Members are limited to inviting 5 guests.

## November Craft:

Select a craft project for club members, keeping in mind cost, time of year and ease of completion in time allotted.

## Holiday Luncheon:

Choose the venue, a theme for the event, menu, décor and entertainment. Committee suggests three charities for donation that fall within the club's mission to present to the Board of Directors. Members fee to include all expenses. Donations are to be collected separately.

## Roadside Beautification:

Identify areas where the club may continue the sowing of wild flowers on the San Juan hillsides.