



San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

Member of California Garden Clubs, Inc, Orange County District



www.SanJuanCapistranoGardenClub.com

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO GARDEN CLUB
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Organized 2001

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Mary Crawford
(non-voting position)



President's Message

Safer Practices in the Garden, by Mozelle Sukut, Ph.D.

Pesticides, antibiotics and hormones are in our food, water and air. According to concerned scientists as well as the new wave of farmers who have stopped using chemicals on their crops and have returned to regenerative practices, we do not have time to wait and hope chemical companies and politicians will put in safer practices. As Zack Bush, M.D. writes, the shift and solution reside with us at our local level. Covid has made us recognize even more acutely how important all our outdoor spaces are- private gardens, HOA spaces, city parks and streets. Do you know what chemicals your city and HOA use in your neighborhood? Do you use harmful chemicals in your private gardens without thinking about the consequences to you and wildlife? Now is the time to find out and help to ban harmful pesticides in your community. You have heard about glyphosate. There are many others. We all have a role to help OC and our families.

County Supervisors Discuss Possible Ban of Weed-Killers

To read article click [here](#). The SD Board of Supervisors took a first step toward banning the use of weed-killers linked to certain cancers, on county properties and infrastructure.

Ban glyphosate! - Action Alert

Bayer/Monsanto has agreed to pay \$10 billion to resolve thousands of lawsuits alleging that glyphosate, the active ingredient in the popular herbicide Roundup, causes cancer. Los Angeles County has banned Roundup, when will Orange County follow suit? Read article, click [here](#).



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MEMBERSHIP

By: Carol Mansukhani, V.P. Membership

End of renewal period is rapidly approaching. Don't risk missing any of our great stuff coming up by letting your membership lapse. Visit our Club website to renew online now!

SanJuanCapistranoGardenClub.

PROGRAMS

By: Kathy Dixon, V.P. Programs

A big thanks to Steve Kaye for his wonderful presentation on Bird and nature photography! Steve presented beautiful pictures with lots of humor and uplifting wisdom. Steve inspired us and demonstrated how simple it is to make a difference and how the simplest of gestures can inspire another. Check Steve out on his website at www.SteveKaye.com

September: Monday the 21st we will be hosting Joel Friesen and his knowledge of Staghorn Ferns. Joel is a Horticulturist from The Sherman Library and Gardens. He will share the quirks of growing Staghorns, covering everything from their life cycle to creatively mounting and displaying these interesting plants.

October: We will also be looking forward to meeting Debbie Zimmerman in October. She will educate us on Gourds and show us some exemplary pieces of art.

Sweet Stem Senders and *Excursions* are on hold until further notice.

LET'S COMMUNICATE

By: Jenell Blue, V.P. Communications

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM.....

Like it or not Zoom is in our lives to stay for a while. For some it is like an unwanted guest. Want to learn more about Zoom? Send us an email and we will set up a zoom date with you. We can go over basics, how to log on, how to look good while using zoom, how to put in a background or just have a chat.

SUBMIT GARDEN IDEAS AND PHOTOS

Seriously, it is difficult to make up new information and create new ideas for the newsletter. All of our members are creative so please submit suggestions along with photos.

A Real Life Club Activity! (NOT a Cookie Exchange)

By: The Board of the SJC Garden Club

Where: Los Rios Park

When: 9:30 am each Thursday in September, by reservation only (Limit 9)

Our members have been saying they miss face-to-face Club activities, and we hear you! We would love to see all your smiling faces, so within the restrictions of today, we are planning to hold PLANT EXCHANGES every Thursday morning in September. Only nine (9) Club members will be able to attend each Thursday morning plant exchange, so you will need to sign up in advance.

How it works: Ask for your reservation, and plan to bring one to three plants you are willing to give to the exchange. This can be a single potted plant or a few cuttings or seedlings that are ready to plant in the garden. Also please bring a 3x5 sized card with the name of the plant and any useful information. (Why you love this plant, how to care for it, etc.) Arrive at Los Rios Park (parking lot access available from Adelanto) by 9:30 am on the Thursday of your reservation; wear your mask.

You will set your plant(s) on the exchange table and tell the group there a bit about your plant. (Show and tell!) In return, you can select to take home your choice of the other plants available that day.

The Plant exchanges will begin promptly at 9:30 am on September 3, 10, 17 and 24, but only for Club Members with a prior reservation: Call or text Carol Mansukhani (Phone# in Roster) at least 24 hours in advance to request to be on the limited list of attendees for each date.

So, pick your Thursday in September, make a reservation and plan on what plant(s) you will bring. Look forward to seeing you there!

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Tile Triptychs Celebrate San Juan Capistrano's Culture and History

Beautiful tile triptychs are located around downtown San Juan Capistrano, created by Melissa Thompson and her wife Patricia Waterman, owners of [The Ceramist Studio](#). The triptychs celebrate early life of our beautiful city.



WAYS AND MEANS

BY: LINDA THOMAS JONES, V.P. WAYS AND MEANS

MEMBER DONORS

Thank you to all our members who have donated funds in excess of their dues. Your support enables us to continue with our philanthropic mission to our community. Please visit the club website to view our updated donation program.

Call or email Linda with any questions about the programs, their benefits and how to combine them to fit your goals. Special thanks to Karen Rottman for her targeted donation to the Leck House.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020-2021 MEMBER DONORS AND BUSINESS SPONSORS



MEMBER DONOR PROFILE

Marilyn Falls

Marilyn has been a member of the garden club since 2004. She loves the mix of people, as well as, the socializing aspect of our group. And while excursions; such as, to the Huntington Library, have been educational, inspiring and fun, she loves our speakers too, in particular the program on tomatoes. Her favorite “good works” projects of the club are those that give to students, as well as, Penny Pines which is fun and a good thing. During this time of limited socialization, she decided to perk up her garden by putting in more color, making her beds appear more cheerful. Geraniums are a favorite of hers. She and her husband Fred are going to make their way over to Plant Depot again soon to pick up more color plants; however, they realized as they drove by Plant Depot last Saturday (and there wasn't a spot to be found in the parking lot) that a mid-week visit might be more prudent :-)

We are thankful for Marilyn's years of membership and service, as well as, her years of support through donations.

GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT - CHRISTINE VILLA

By: Mozelle Sukut and Pat Kenner

Christine Villa is the student recently awarded our Garden Club scholarship. She was chosen by the Saddleback College Foundation to receive our funds based on her financial need, level of achievement, and our request that the funds go to a Horticulture student. Christine is in her third year of study at Saddleback, taking extra classes in horticulture to broaden her knowledge in specific interests of agriculture and natives. She also works at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Educational Center* where she oversees portions of their food forest, aquaponics, and bee keeping area. When her supervisor recently left, Christine was given the encouragement to not only continue the programs in operation, but to develop new ones. One outreach for youth education there is aptly titled “Wonder Sprouts”! Christine plans to continue her hort education at Cal Poly Pomona.

Congratulations Christine!



*Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center | Youth Programs. The mission of the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center is to serve all youth of Orange County by providing quality outdoor educational programs that instill in them an appreciation of the outdoors and the environment, teach effective teamwork, instruct about the cultural history of Orange County, and provide access to the natural resources of the surrounding areas.



THE LECK HOUSE

BY: PAT MARTIN

The Leck house was recently painted and with the newly planted flower beds things are looking very sharp. We recently fertilized everything and the new plantings seem to be weathering the 90 degree plus heat we have been experiencing recently.

Our next work party is set for Thursday Sept. 3rd. at 9:30. Come join the fun as we work our way down the walkways into the back yard and orchard, trimming and cleaning as we go.



LA SALA

BY: NANCY CANGIANO

Our Crepe Myrtles make a beautiful foreground in this picture of La Sala and the Basilica.



MEMBERS' GARDEN

Pat Lussier

When we moved to San Juan Capistrano in 2019, we inherited 34+ mature rose bushes - almost all different varieties. Neighbors tell me some are 25+ years old. My project this year is to number tag, photograph and identify them. Would love to know their names.



MEMBERS' GARDEN

Jenell Blue

I am amazed this year to see so many Praying Mantises. The unusual creatures seem to love Iceberg Roses. A fellow gardener told me these are the dastardly insects that hop a ride from the far east to come here and eat our moths and butterflies.



ARE THE 'DOG DAYS' OF SUMMER TAKING THEIR TOLL ON YOUR FLOWERS?

By: Rick Schoellhorn. Garden Design.

What you often see in the heat of summer and moving into fall is a combination of issues: soil drying out, fertilizer running out, high temperatures exhausting the plants, and sometimes the accumulation of old flowers, or seed. Each of these things builds up over time and causes the plant stress. For example, each time a plant dries out to the point of wilting, it hardens the plant a little bit, like hardening arteries in people. The stems get thinner, the water has a harder time getting through the thin stems and slowly the plant loses its ability to really power out new flowers and new growth. The same is true when the fertilizer runs out, or the temperatures are extremely high, or the plant starts to set seed... they all cause the plant to lose strength.

Here's how you can help your plants cope with the summer conditions:

Try to make sure plants are always moist (not soggy but never wilting).

For many folks, a drip irrigation system can do this and can be set up on a simple timer to water your plants each day. It is simple to install and simplifies your life. This is a tough thing to pull off, but is certainly a worthy goal.

Try increasing your fertilizing frequency as we pass the midway point of summer.

Give the plants a little extra food to help them deal with summer temperatures and conditions. A slow release fertilizer is good, but I think the instant energy of a water soluble is even better.

Water your plants thoroughly.

The potting soil by this time of year frequently begins to pull away from the sides of the pot, which is bad news because it means more of your water is running around the outside of the root ball instead of percolating down through it. Thoroughly hydrating the soil can mitigate this issue. Water your container, wait thirty minutes to give the soil time to soak up water, then water again. Repeat a few times. Alternately, put six or so inches of water in a tub, sit the container in the tub for a few hours and let it soak up water until the soil is rehydrated.

Give your plants a haircut.

If things become stressful for your plants, they may try to make seed. We don't want that to happen because those seeds divert a lot of energy away from new growth. Removing the spent flowers or seed heads (deadheading) with a sharp pair of scissors or clippers will help the plant use its energy to make new flowers and foliage.

