

San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

President's Message

September 2026

I hope all of you are as proud as I am of the job done by the August FUNdraiser committee. We not only had about 20% more attendees, but the raffle, game and auctions also generated almost 30% more money. The evening was great fun with delicious food and a wonderful DJ. Many thanks to everyone for a very successful event.

While our new fiscal year started in July, September always feels to me like the beginning of the year – must be a reflection of the time I spent in education. We have great programs lined up though the end of the calendar year and are working on the programming for 2027. Please plan to attend all of our activities, starting with the meeting this month featuring Chris Lobo, a Mission Indian and founder of Native Hands Wines – a tribute to the Mission Indians and wines they produced at our local Mission.

I am ever hopeful that I can start to enjoy working in my yard this month with a reprieve from the August heat and humidity. I usually spend time cleaning out the vegetable raised beds and planting seeds for a cover crop for the winter. My beds don't get enough sun for reliable cool season crops although I'll probably try a few plants anyway (always optimistic.) I will also do some removal, thinning and pruning in my yard to prepare for adding some more native plants maybe in October. My newest dilemma is how to deter coyotes from visiting our yard and leaving an undesirable "calling card."

Yay for the upcoming Fall season!

Upcoming Events

September 21—10 am

Meeting and Speaker: Chris Lobo—*Local Wines*

October 19—10 am

Casa Romantica Field Trip

November 16—10 am

Meeting and Craft: Traditional Basket Weaving

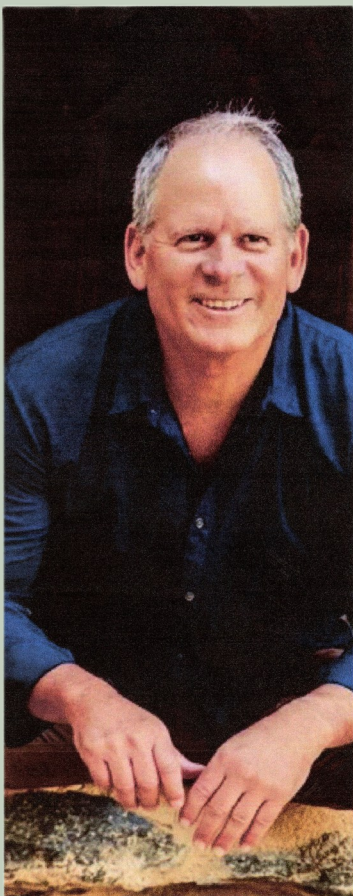
December 14—10 am (NOTE THIS IS THE 2ND MONDAY)

Holiday Express—Brunch & Bingo

SCMFO—donate baby items



September Speaker



Don't miss our September 21st meeting! San Juan's own Chris Lobo is our featured speaker. He will be sharing his research into the history of winemaking at our mission as well as some insight into his personal journey in getting his own wines produced and to market.

Chris A. Lobo is a 9th-generation Mission Indian, with ancestral ties to three Mission Tribes: Juaneño, Luiseno, and Diegueño. As one of the core families of San Juan Capistrano, his lineage can be traced through Mission sacramental records to at least eight village sites documented as early as 1709, before sustained contact with outsiders.

Chris' beverage experience spans more than 38 years, beginning as an opening team member at the Ritz Carlton in Dana Point and culminating in a 15-year tenure as Beverage Director of Operations, which he completed in 1999. In 2002, he founded his own wine company, Native Hands Wines, focusing on sales and marketing. During this time, he collaborated with many iconic brands and some of the finest restaurants and retailers in the region.

Membership News

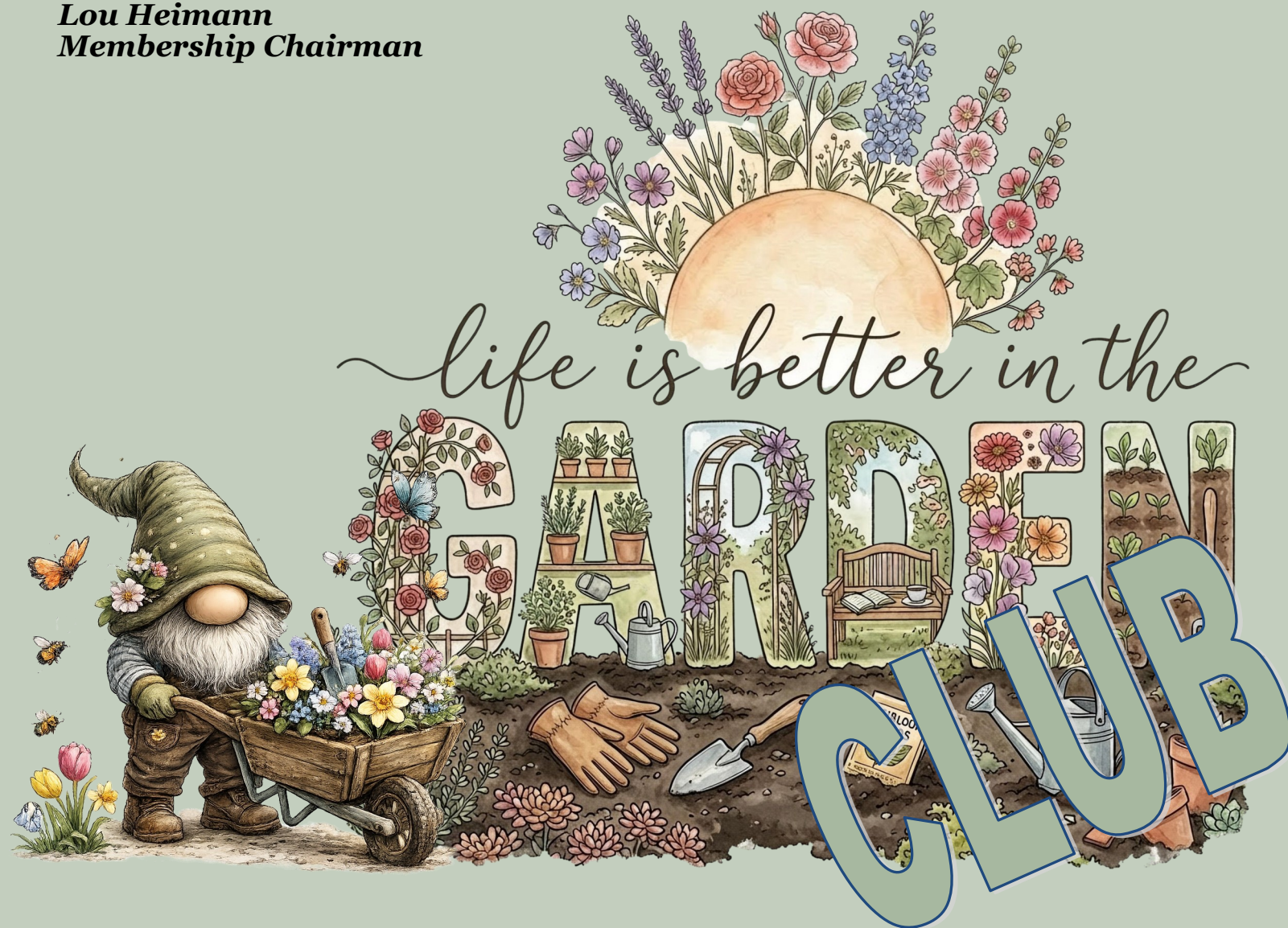
September always seems to me as the beginning of our garden club calendar year. We start with an interesting program presented by Chris Lobo on the local wines in honor of the Mission Indians, California 's first winemakers. Chris is from SJC and co-founded Native Hands Wine.

If you have not paid your membership dues for the 2026-27 year, you are past due. The names will be removed from the roster and mailing list after the September meeting. Please mail in your \$65 check payable to SJC Garden Club and bring to the September meeting or mail to

ATTN: Lou Heimann, Membership
SJC Garden Club
32158 Camino Capistrano
Suite A, PMB 120
SJC, CA92675

Look forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

Lou Heimann
Membership Chairman



October Field Trip

COME SEE THE MAGICAL RESTORATION

Heavy rains pummeled South Orange County on April 27, 2023, resulting in the landslide that damaged a significant amount of Casa Romantica's grounds. Nearly a half acre was lost including Ocean Terrance and Native Bowl gardens. Additional damage was done by 18 months of stabilization work. Garden Manager, Kim Neil, and team are working to restore and renew the gardens including an edible teaching garden and butterfly garden.

More interesting info about Casa Romantica:

This 1927 bluff-top estate was built as the private home of Ole Hanson, the founder of San Clemente. It is designed in the classic Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style, and features original handmade tile floors, authentic woodwork and a historic central courtyard.

It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Our field trip to Casa Romantica is Monday, October 19, 10 am.

****There is a very small parking lot at Casa and street parking can be "iffy" carpooling is recommended!!**

****Admission is \$8 – cash, checks or credit card will be accepted at the door.
If you are paying with cash—please be kind and bring small bills.**

****No-host lunch will be at: TBA**

Sign-up sheet will be available at the September meeting.

Please indicate your interest for the docent tour at Casa and no-host lunch so that the venues can be advised of approximate numbers to be expected.



November Craft

Our November meeting will be atypical of past craft meetings. Domingo Belardes and Marcella Ortiz-Belardes from the Blas Aguilar Adobe Foundation will give us a presentation on local Indigenous Acjachemen culture and instruct us in traditional reed and plant-fiber basket-weaving.

The first 35 people to sign up and pay \$5 in advance will be able to try basket-weaving as instructed by Domingo and Marcella with supplies they will provide. The craft portion of the meeting is optional, but will provide participants a personal perspective on local culture.

This is a unique opportunity to tie horticulture into the 250th celebration of San Juan Capistrano by learning more about the indigenous cultures while optionally getting a chance to put your crafting skills to use (no judgment on whether you finish your basket, what it looks like if you do, or if you choose just to watch others try basket-making). A bit of laughter along with some learning is expected!

Many thanks to Pat Lussier for identifying and pursuing this fun and informative activity for us.

PLEASE

**Sign-up at the
September meeting as the October
meeting is a field
trip.**

\$5/basket

**limited to the first
35 people to sign-
up and pay.**

**Don't miss this
opportunity to
learn about this
traditional
culture.**



THE ART OF BASKET WEAVING

LEARNING AN ANCIENT TECHNIQUE

Basket weaving is a traditional Acjachemen skill passed down through generations. Acjachemen weavers gathered and carefully prepared local plants such as juncus reeds and deergrass to create baskets for everyday life. Baskets were used to gather, carry, store, and prepare foods and other materials. The knowledge of which plants to gather, when and where to gather them, and how to prepare and weave them reflects a deep understanding of and relationship with the land. Through basket weaving, Acjachemen people continue to carry forward the knowledge, traditions, and connections of their ancestors.

This basket weaving activity introduces the basics of basket weaving using reed. The session provides an opportunity to learn a traditional technique that has been used for centuries by Indigenous communities. While traditional materials include juncus, deer grass, and yucca fiber, this class will use reed, making it accessible and fun for beginners.

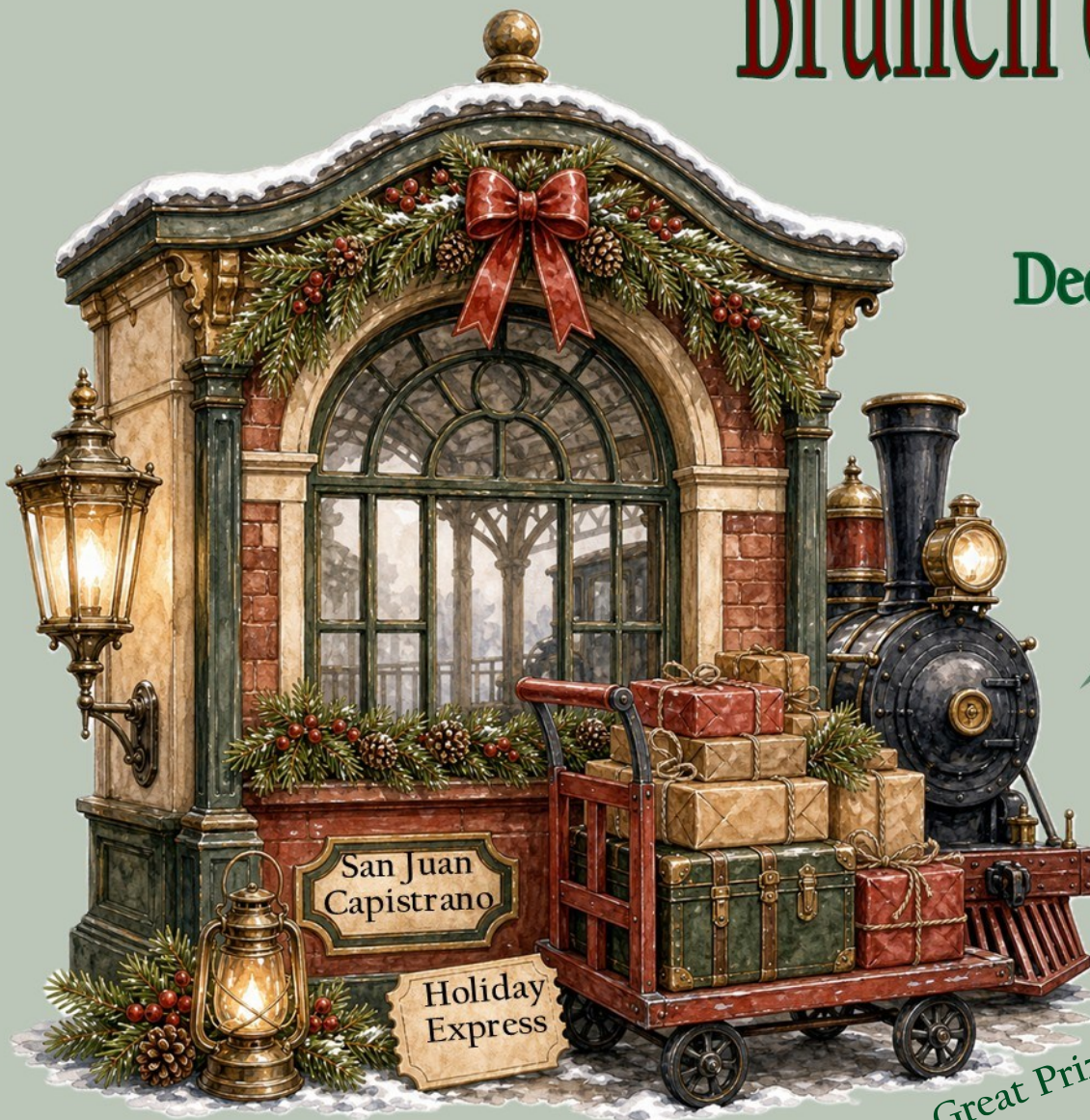


**Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum
Juaneño Acjachemen Cultural Center**

San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

ALL ABOARD For the Holiday Express Brunch & Bingo

Monday
December 14, 2026
10 a.m.



Sign-up today
Don't be left at the
Station

Great Prizes!

\$52 per person for brunch + \$5 donation for each Bingo card
Deadline: Monday, November 30

Bring \$5 donation to the event for centerpiece opportunity drawing



Each January/February, SCMFO** has a baby shower to 40-50 new/expectant military Moms from Camp Pendleton Marine Base. Our club has provided significant (and greatly appreciated) support to this organization—food items as well as baby/toddler items.

If you would like to support SCMFO during this holiday season please bring unwrapped items to our Holiday Brunch on December 14.

Below is a list of baby items that are always needed:

Pajamas/sleepers/onsies/darling outfits – size 3-12 months

Bibs Socks

Bath Towels & wash cloths

Receiving blankets & other soft blankets

Swaddles Burp cloths Pacifiers

Small books (cloth or plastic) Baby toys

Hygiene items: baby shampoo/lotion/bath soap

Diapers size 4-6 Wipes

Target or Walmart gift cards

Consider neutral colors—some mom don't know baby's gender

If a group would like to pool funds & purchase larger items, there is always a need for:

Car seats Strollers

Pack 'n' Play Baby carriers

Baby Einstein/Fisher Price Activity Mats

YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

****SCMFO—San Clemente Military Family Outreach**

August FUNdraiser

The August fundraiser Americana was a wonderful evening. Delicious barbecue dinner, 24 wonderful raffle baskets, 2 great silent auction items, plus the 50/50 auction (a guest won over \$100). Roy Sutherland, the DJ, did a great job and it appeared a fun time was had by all.

Thanks to a truly great committee!



Thanks to Kathy Rowley for all these great pics

More August FUNdraiser



Gardening Happenings



News from Mike Evans (formerly Tree of Life Nursery)

I'm thrilled to share some big news for our members: Cal Native Hort now has a home! We have officially established an office at ENC Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary in Modjeska Canyon, through a new partnership with the Environmental Nature Center.

This is our inaugural location and it's hard to overstate what that means for us. Tucker is a 12-acre preserve with a rich riparian habitat and a long history of environmental education in Orange County. We'll be occupying dedicated office and nursery space there, giving us room to grow our propagation work, our educational programs, and our community events in a setting that reflects exactly what we're about.

There's also a piece of history here that feels especially precious. The land that makes up Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary was once part of Helena Modjeska's estate, where a young gardener named Theodore Payne worked in the 1890s. That experience shaped Payne's lifelong dedication to native plants and helped launch what eventually became a major branch of the native plant movement in California. More than a century later, we're bringing native plant propagation and education back to the same canyon that helped start it all.

Do you have any garden pics or tips that you would like to share with your fellow garden club members?

Email to:

chateaulussier@msn.com



More Garden Happenings

2026 Fall Plant Sale

*Fall is the time
for planting!*

- Vegetables & Herbs
- Cacti & Succulents
- Flowers & Perennials
- Shrubs & Houseplants
- Natives, Seeds & Bulbs

**Saturday, Oct. 10th
8am - 2pm
SC Community Center
Del Mar @ Seville**

Flea Market with seasonal stuff!
Horticultural advice available.

Free Admission!



San Clemente Garden Club
sanclementegardenclub.com



In partnership with:
City of San Clemente Beaches,
Parks, & Recreation Department

If you are aware of neighboring Garden Club events that may be of interest to our membership, please send print-ready copy to: chateaulussier@msn.com



MACANUDO By Liniers



And More Garden Happenings



In Mafra, Portugal next to the Palace
Another interesting flower A Coxcomb



Secret Garden Huntington Beach

A serene place to enjoy nature. Created in 1992, the garden was built to showcase drought tolerant plants. The Huntington Beach Tree Society has spent many hours restoring and reviving the once forgotten Secret Garden.



<https://www.surfcityusa.com/listing/secret-garden/2137/>

The Farm + Food Lab

is a unique and interactive outdoor classroom for visitors of all ages, filled with themed gardens and interesting plants. Visit the numerous spaces containing plants for delicious food, tea, medicine, sweets, herbs, construction, and other uniquely themed beds.



<https://cityofirvine.gov/great-park/farm-food-lab>

Noguchi Garden also known as California

Scenario: Six principal elements comprise California Scenario: Forest Walk, Land Use, Desert Land, Water Source, Water Use and Energy Fountain. The centerpiece of the garden is The Spirit of the Lima Bean, a sculpture of dramatic portions, composed of 15 rust-colored granite rocks cut precisely to fit together. This sculpture was created in recognition of Henry T. Segerstrom's friendship with the artist, Isamu Noguchi, and the Segerstrom family's contribution to the agricultural heritage of Southern California.

<https://www.noguchi.org/artworks/public-works/view/california-scenario/>



Thanks to Donna Pennington for all these great suggestions

Meet Steve



Today let's celebrate the reproductive success of New Zealand's kākāpōs (*Strigops habroptilus*). The gorgeously goofy flightless parrots have had **a record breeding season this year** in response to a bumper crop of berries from the rimu tree (*Dacrydium cupressinum*). Kākāpō mating is triggered by an abundant rimu 'mast' year, and this is the first since 2022. "The last time the population is thought to have exceeded 300 birds may have been as long as 75 years ago," says conservationist Deidre Vercoe. Their good news also gives me another chance to highlight the kākāpō closest to my heart, and those of many readers: **Steve** (voice by comedian Rhys Darby).

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/sep/01/record-breeding-worlds-heaviest-parrot-nz-endangered-kakapo?](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/sep/01/record-breeding-worlds-heaviest-parrot-nz-endangered-kakapo?utm_source=Live+Audience&utm_campaign=9803e5de03-nature-briefing-daily-20260902&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-)

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Thanks to Mozelle for sharing this delightful news



Need The “411” on Garden Club Events????

Check out our website—open 24/7

<https://www.sanjuancapistranogardenclub.com/>

Click on “Newsletters”



Board of Directors

Shelly Trainor - President

Cindy Sorensen—VP Ways & Means

Lou Heimann—VP Membership

Maryann Shanks—VP Programs

Pat Lussier—VP Communication

Maureen Gebelein—Treasurer

Donna Pennington—Secretary

Lynn Rollison—Advisory Member

Ginny Kerr—Advisory Member

Newsletter

Members are welcome to submit print-ready items for publication that would be of general interest to our membership. Submissions are subject to editorial review.

Send to: chateaulussier@msn.com

Gardening Questions & Help



Have gardening questions?

Your garden deserves expert advice, not guesswork.
UC Master Gardeners of Orange County
share research-based solutions on pest and
disease management, water conservation,
and smart gardening practices.
Email our Hotline anytime.

ucceocmghotline@ucanr.edu



"In The Garden" Radio Show

Presented by
**UC Master Gardeners
of Orange County**

Every Thursday Morning
8:30 - 9:30am

Airs on KUCI (88.9 FM)

Gardening Resources

Harmony in the Garden

<https://harmonyinthegarden.com/>

Blogs, tips, photos—Check out the issue:

Garden Ideas from Garden Tours: Takeaways, Tips, and Inspiration

Garden Design

<https://Gardendesign.com>

English, Japanese, Mediterranean, Tropical, Eco-friendly

LEARN ABOUT BUTTERFLY GARDENING

<https://naba.org/butterfly-gardens/>

Laguna Hills Nursery

Free gardening classes

<http://www.lagunahillsnursery.com/Classes.html>

Perhaps the most important lesson I learned when I began gardening in California and wanted success with certain perennials, trees, shrubs, and annuals, was the information on soil from Gary Matsuoka. Fortunately he is still teaching the concepts below. It is worth a trip to his Saturday classes at his nursery! The Soil Class is held several times a year.

Mozelle

Check out their extensive YouTube Content including:

Compost is NOT Good Soil:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GarysBestGardening>

Paper Garden Workshop

<https://www.papergardenworkshop.com/>

Garden Design and Landscape Graphics in a FUN way



And More Gardening Resources



Did you know OCCNPS has an online archive? Search for "Fall Color" and find helpful resources from past newsletters like "[Fall Blooming Plants](https://chapters.cnps.org/oc/2018/10/29/summer-and-fall-blooming-favorites/)" and "[Plants for Fall Color](https://chapters.cnps.org/oc/2018/10/28/plants-for-fall-color/)." Use the search feature to find exactly what you are looking for!

<https://chapters.cnps.org/oc/2018/10/29/summer-and-fall-blooming-favorites/>
<https://chapters.cnps.org/oc/2018/10/28/plants-for-fall-color/>

"Visit SJC" SJC Chamber of Commerce
Sign up for their newsletter for events/happening in and around SJC
<https://www.sanjuanchamber.com/>

Orange County Bird of Prey Center
<https://www.ocbpc.org/>
Sponsor a bird for release—how cool is that!

Knowable Magazine
A nonprofit publisher dedicated to synthesizing and integrating knowledge for the progress of science and the benefit of society
<https://knowablemagazine.org/>

Voice of OC
A nonprofit, reader-funded newsroom
<https://voiceofoc.org/about/>

California Native Horticulture Foundation (Mike Evans)
calnativehort.org

O C Library—Seed Library Program

Availability: At specific branches, including Brea, Costa Mesa, El Toro, San Juan Capistrano, San Clemente, and Westminster.

How it Works: Adult patrons can obtain a limited number of seed varieties per month.

Purpose: To promote sustainable living, community gardening, and reduce reliance on industrial agriculture.

And Even More Gardening Resources



City Farmer's Nursery

<https://www.cityfarmersnursery.com/>

A Little Bit of the Country in the Heart of the City

Online database of bluebird trails in
OC & surrounding areas

<http://tiny.cc/SCBC-database>



Southern California
Bluebird Club

plant depot

NURSERY & GIFT

plantdepot.com

Sign up for their monthly newsletter
Seasonal plant ideas, garden/soil/fertilizer guides

Santa Margarita Water District

<https://www.smwd.com/>

Lots of free classes , events and tours—gardening, landscape design,
water saving, irrigation, trips to local water storage & water treatment

UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR)

<https://ucanr.edu/>

Loads of articles on all aspects of gardening

California Native Plant Society

<https://www.cnps.org/>

All about CA native plants

Calscape

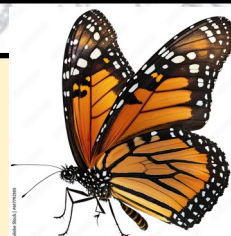
<https://calscape.org/>

Spectacular resource for finding, identifying and caring for native plants
from CA Native Plant Society

Monarch Watch

<https://monarchwatch.org/>

All things about Monarch Butterflies



And Even More Gardening Resources

Super cool idea from Janell



<https://farmersdefense.com/collections/farming-sleeves?pb=0>

A Worm Tube or Tower is buried in a garden and, when kitchen scraps are added, it can create a worm farm and will be a great place to dispose of kitchen compostables.

Make sure to keep the cap on it!

Here is a You Tube video with information *(may be a bit TMI):*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJXLCjuEQSE>

I bought premade ones on Amazon

