



# Newsletter

# San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

## Presidents' Letter

*June 2025*

We celebrate the beginning of a new year, a new board, new projects and lots of new things to learn. We welcome and look forward to meeting and getting to know our new members and reminiscing with our established group.

We will challenge ourselves to reach out to the community to enhance old and new projects. We are sure to grow in knowledge, friendships and the understanding of nature.

It takes a village to support and maintain a successful and productive garden club. We thank our former Board members, Committee heads, and volunteers and look forward to their guidance in the coming years. San Juan Garden Club is a very special, unique and talented group headed for another successful year in our beautiful City of San Juan Capistrano.

See you all at our meetings, field trips, gardening in your yards, behind the scenes and participating on special projects.

**HERE WE GO!!**

**Kathy & Mary**

## Board News

**Congratulations and appreciation are sent to the newly elected**

**Board of Directors:**

<b>Cindy Sorenson</b>	<b>VP Fundraising</b>
<b>Lou Heimann</b>	<b>VP Membership</b>
<b>Kate Bartholomew</b>	<b>VP Programs</b>
<b>Maureen Gebelein</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Shelley Trainor</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Karen Alms</b>	<b>Advisory Member</b>
<b>Linda Lower</b>	<b>Advisory Member</b>

## Upcoming Events

**June 16 - 10 am**

**Garden Stroll—see additional information in this issue**

**July 21 - 10 am**

**Meeting & Trash to Treasures Auction**

**August 18—Time TBA**

**Evening Fundraiser—see additional info in this issue**

**September 15 – 10 am**

**Meeting and Kathy Hayden, Flower Arranging**

## Garden Stroll

**Monday, June 16, 2025**

Our club garden stroll is fast approaching. And it is not too late to sign up, just send an email to [louheimann4@gmail.com](mailto:louheimann4@gmail.com) with your name, # of guests (if applicable) and whether you plan to attend lunch after at Sol Agave.

We have **five** members who have volunteered their gardens and three of the members have invited us to view their beautiful homes.

An email will be sent to all members with the addresses of the homes a week before the Stroll. After viewing the gardens/homes, you may go to the no-host lunch any time. Sol Agave opens at 11:00am—let them know you are with the garden club.

If you have any questions, contact either Janet Sperber or Lou Heimann, Co-Chairmen

## Walking Club

**9:00 am on Tuesdays at the Arroyo Bird House Park at 27999 Calle Arroyo, SJC. We follow the creek path and can walk with groups of fast walkers and less fast walkers. It is always a pleasant 45 minutes to enjoy the beautiful area, learn about the trees, shrubs, and birds from each other, admire the horses, and enjoy each other's company!**

*Mary Crawford*

## Butterfly Garden Restoration

**Butterfly Garden and Monarch Waystation update: for the last few Monday's, our wonderful garden club has taken on the task of refurbishing an old Butterfly Garden out on the grounds of Rancho Capistrano in coordination with the Peace Farm. Our dirt-under-the nails gardeners have already cleared, trimmed and mulched two of the four garden beds. Come on out, we gather from 9:00-11:00 on Mondays...Drive down to the end of the dirt road and park beside the garden...we can't wait to see ya!**

*Lynn Rollison*

## 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](mailto:chateaulussier@msn.com)**

## A Note From Lynn

**Well, my two-year Program Chair position has come to an end. I'm thrilled our last outing, on my watch, is our Member's Garden Stroll; the committee and home owners have stepped up and have a wonderful day planned.**

**July: Don't forget we have Trash to Treasures coming up in July... start putting aside items you would love auctioned off, welcome our new Program Chair, Kate Bartholomew and consider helping out at this event.**

**Thank you to all the members who partnered with me to bring education and fun to Our Garden Club. You guys are the BEST!**

**Lynn Rollison**



# Membership Renewal Time

Our annual membership renewal deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>. If you don't want to miss the July "Trash to Treasurers" auction, the August **fundraiser** party at the SJ Hills Golf Course in August, upcoming copies of our newsletter or being included in the '25-26' roster, please send in your renewal check for \$65 payable to the SJC Garden Club to the following address no later than June 30

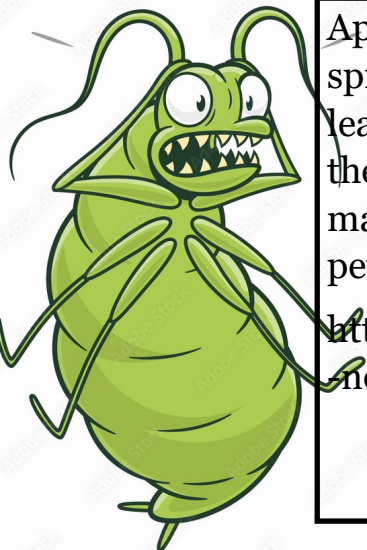
Attn: Lou Heimann, Membership  
SJC Garden Club  
32158 Camino Capistrano, Suite A, PMB 120  
SJC, CA 92675

We currently have 70 members, which includes many new members who joined in the last 12 months and are participating in our meetings, excursions and volunteering their gardens for our Garden Club Stroll, Monday June 16. We look forward to another informative and interesting year. Please sign up at the July meeting for one of our club committees (sign-up sheet will be located at the membership table) for the coming year. It takes all the members to be participants to run an organization. And what a great way to meet new friends.

Lou Heimann,  
Membership Chairman



## How to Get Rid of Aphids—Naturally



Aphids might be tiny, but their damage can be big—especially in late spring when tender new growth is everywhere. If you've noticed curled leaves, sticky residue, or an uptick in ants on your plants, aphids may be the culprit. [This guide](https://www.gardendesign.com/how-to/aphids.html?utm_source=article&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Aphids-5-29-25) walks you through gentle, chemical-free ways to manage aphid infestations while keeping your garden safe for pollinators, pets, and people.

[https://www.gardendesign.com/how-to/aphids.html?utm\\_source=article&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Aphids-5-29-25](https://www.gardendesign.com/how-to/aphids.html?utm_source=article&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Aphids-5-29-25)

Mozelle Sukut

**San Juan Capistrano Garden Club**

**Monday, June 16, 2025**

**10 am—1 pm**

# *Garden Stroll*

**JOIN US FOR A NO-HOST LUNCH AT  
SOL AGAVE, Marbella Plaza**



**For Members and Their Guests**

**Please! Wear closed toed shoes (not all walkways are paved)**

**No children under 18. Not wheelchair accessible.**

**NO PETS!!!!**

**Garden addresses will be emailed to all members**





# AUGUST FUNDRAISER



**Pull out your cowboy boots and get ready to kick up your heels at our fundraiser on Monday, August 18.**

**Enjoy dinner, dancing, raffles, and a fun-filled evening with your friends.  
Prepare your guest list and save the date!  
Details forthcoming!**

**We're trying something new for the raffle at the FUNdRAISER this year! We will be encouraging experiences rather than "things." We will offer "batches of gift cards" rather than the traditional baskets.**

**We will reach out to our community friends for donations of gift cards. We are also asking club members to bring in gift cards to use in the raffle. Most of us have received cards throughout the year that we are not likely to use. If you would like to donate a card or two, it would be more than welcome!**

# Niguel Botanical Preserve

Please join us for *Monarchs & Milkweed* on Saturday, June 7th, 9:30 -10:30am

The event will include a 20-minute presentation, followed by a walking tour of pollinator habitats in our gardens that support the Western Monarch Butterfly. Learn about native milkweed and various nectar species to create your own pollinator garden.

The event will begin at our Butterfly Garden. Look for our volunteers near the top of the amphitheater to lead you to the garden. We will have our golf cart available for transportation to the garden for individuals needing assistance.

We will be offering some fun giveaways as well as a pollinator plant sale. We hope to see you there!

29751 Crown Valley Pkwy, Laguna Niguel

*Niguel Botanical Preserve Board of Directors*

## Plants Can HEAR Pollinators

Our planet runs on pollinators. Without bees, moths, weevils, and more zooming around and spreading plants' reproductive cells, plants and important crops would not grow. Without plants we would not breathe or eat.

When these crucial pollinating species visit flowers and other plants, they produce a number of characteristic sounds, such as wing flapping when hovering, landing, and taking off. Depending on the size of the pollinator, these sounds are extremely small, especially compared to the other vibrations and acoustics of insect life.

In new research presented today at the 188th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America and 25th International Congress on Acoustics, it appears that plants can respond to the tiny wingbeats of insects.

[https://www.popsoci.com/environment/plants-hear-pollinators/?utm\\_source=join1440&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_placement=newsletter&user\\_id=66c4c5ae600ae150759d09ae](https://www.popsoci.com/environment/plants-hear-pollinators/?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=newsletter&user_id=66c4c5ae600ae150759d09ae)

Mozelle Sukut



# Restoring Butterfly Garden/Monarch Waystation



The Butterfly garden is showing off!  
Come on out to see it for yourself!!  
Monday mornings at 9:00 am. Stay as long  
or as short as you want....love to have ya!

Butterfly Garden & Monarch Waystation  
Peace Farm  
Rancho Capistrano

## Powdery Mildew

**Perfect Weather for Powdery Mildew!** by Gary Matsuiuka, Laguna Hills Nursery

From mid-April to July typical Orange County climate is perfect for the proliferation of a serious plant disease call Powdery Mildew. This fungal disease loves high humidity and temperatures between 55 and 85 degrees F. The same conditions that make living here so enjoyable are, unfortunately ideal for this malady. Powdery mildew is commonly seen on roses, grapes, apple trees, Hydrangea, squash and many other plants. Although rarely fatal, it can stop growth and ruin crops.

There are chemical fungicides that are pretty effective at preventing it...but the best treatment we have for eliminating a bad infection is **OIL and BAKING SODA**.

Here is the formula using the "All Seasons Oil" concentrate: In 1-gallon of water add 4 tablespoons of Oil and 1 tablespoon of Baking Soda - mix thoroughly and spray the affected areas. If you get the Ready-to-Use (already diluted) quart then you would add 3/4 of a teaspoon of baking soda to the solution. Shake the container before each use.

The oil kills Powdery Mildew on contact and the baking soda keeps the disease spores from reinfecting for several days. Apply every week for good control. Do not apply during wet or misty weather or when temperatures exceed 90 degrees F.





# WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BABY BIRD



CUT OUT AND SAVE





# WAYS YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE BEES



**Keep honey bees**



**Purchase sustainable honey**



**Create bee-friendly spaces outdoors.**



**Remove swarms responsibly**



**Create a bee bath in your outdoor space**



**provide a home for native bees**



**Skip the pesticides and herbicides for your lawn and garden**

**Plant trees with bees in mind**



**Don't kill bees or shoo them away**



**Educate kids about bees**



**Skip weeding your garden and lawn**



**Eat bee friendly produce**



**Leave stems in your garden through fall and winter - delay pruning until spring**

*Success*



# 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**



# 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](http://plantdepot.com)

Sign up for their monthly newsletter

May is growing a herbal tea garden

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

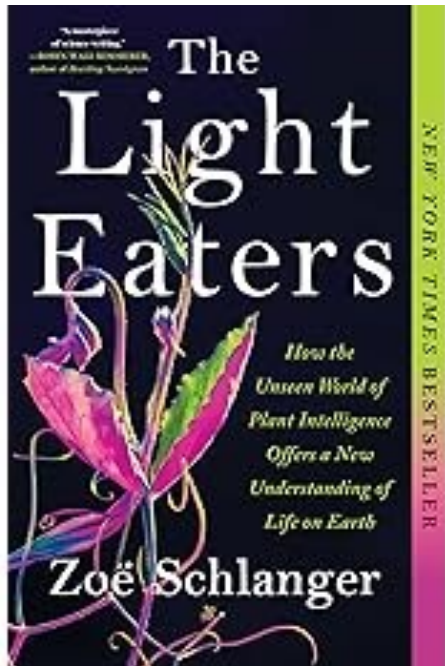
<https://monarchwatch.org/>

All things about Monarch Butterflies





# Book of Interest



## **The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth**

**Award-winning Atlantic staff writer Zoë Schlanger delivers a groundbreaking work of popular science that probes the hidden world of the plant kingdom, “destabilizing not just how we see the green things of the world but also our place in the hierarchy of beings, and maybe the notion of that hierarchy itself.” (The New Yorker)**

It takes tremendous biological creativity to be a plant. To survive and thrive while rooted in a single spot, plants have adapted ingenious methods of survival. In recent years, scientists have learned about their ability to communicate, recognize their kin and behave socially, hear sounds, morph their bodies to blend into their surroundings, store useful memories that inform their life cycle, and trick animals into behaving to their benefit, to name just a few remarkable talents.

*The Light Eaters is a deep immersion into the drama of green life and the complexity of this wild and awe-inspiring world that challenges our very understanding of agency, consciousness, and intelligence. In looking closely, we see that plants, rather than imitate human intelligence, have perhaps formed a parallel system. What is intelligent life if not a vine that grows leaves to blend into the shrub on which it climbs, a flower that shapes its bloom to fit exactly the beak of its pollinator, a pea seedling that can hear water flowing and make its way toward it? Zoë Schlanger takes us across the globe, digging into her own memories and into the soil with the scientists who have spent their waking days studying these amazing entities up close.*

What can we learn about life on Earth from the living things that thrive, adapt, consume, and accommodate simultaneously? More important, what do we owe these life forms once we come to understand their rich and varied abilities? Examining the latest epiphanies in botanical research, Schlanger spotlights the intellectual struggles among the researchers conceiving a wholly new view of their subject, offering a glimpse of a field in turmoil as plant scientists debate the tenets of ongoing discoveries and how they influence our understanding of what a plant is.

We need plants to survive. But what do they need us for—if at all? An eye-opening and informative look at the ecosystem we live in, this book challenges us to rethink the role of plants.



## What It's All About

**Mosquito fogging kills nearly everything in your yard...except mosquitoes.**

If you're working to create a thriving, biodiverse yard full of life, it doesn't make sense to kill it all with fogging!

The Mosquito Bucket Challenge is a simple, visible way to protect pollinators, birds, frogs, fireflies, and your family—without toxic sprays. By safely targeting mosquito larvae, each bucket helps save the wildlife that fogging puts at risk.

It's safe, it's affordable, it's better for biodiversity. And it actually works.

## What You'll Need

A large bucket - 5-gallon works great, but any larger container that holds water will work.

Water

- A small handful of dead leaves or grass clippings.
- Mosquito dunks containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) - widely available online and at most hardware stores, garden centers, or home improvement retailers.
- A sturdy stick.
- Marker or paint for decorating.



A common mosquito dunk brand. (HNP doesn't endorse any brand ).



## Additional Tips

- It's helpful to start early in your mosquito season, before mosquito populations explode.
- Speed up the "funkification" of your water by leaving your bucket in the sun for a few days.
- Drill a hole where you want the water line so that any excess water from rain doesn't cause your bucket to overflow.





# How to Make It

## Step 1 - Decorate:

Write or paint "This bucket saves \_\_\_\_\_" at the top and fill in the blank with an example of the wildlife you're supporting (bees, butterflies, birds, frogs, fireflies, etc.).

Write or paint "Homegrown National Park" at the bottom of your bucket.

Optional: decorate it with the wildlife you chose!  
Feel free to make it as simple or elaborate as you'd like.



## Step 2 - Add Water

Fill the bucket about two-thirds full with water.



## Step 3 - Make It Funky

Add a small handful of dead leaves or grass clippings (you want to make the water stinky!).

Leave plenty of water surface area so mosquitoes have room to land and lay eggs.



## Step 4 - Add Your Dunk

Break up your mosquito dunk and drop approximately one-quarter of the dunk into your bucket.



## Step 5 - Add a Stick

Place a stick in the bucket so it leans out above the rim. This gives small animals an escape route if they fall in.



## Step 6 - Place Your Bucket

Place the bucket in a shady area, away from your house, play areas, or gathering spots. If you have pets or small kids around, place your bucket up high to keep it safe and out of reach. Add additional buckets if you have a larger yard.

Corners of the yard or property lines often work well. Every yard is different—try a spot that stays damp and quiet.