

# San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

## President's Message

## May 2026

May continues the garden season that started last month. Our Garden Stroll is the 11th and many others occur this month. Hope you will get to as many as you can in addition to ours. This is generally a wonderful time in our gardens before the heat of the summer.

Seedlings planted in March and April are putting on new growth and preparing to fruit and flower. There's still plenty of time to plant anything with a summer growing season. A little April rain has been beneficial along with sunny, but not too hot days.



From now until the fall is the more difficult time to start SoCal natives as their growing season is our winter (can be done, but new plants will need regular extra care.) Insects (those we like to attract and those we don't) are now coming out in force. Please use the least harmful (to people, beneficial insects, and the environment) methods to reduce their presence. Feel free to ask me about IPM or locate UC IPM (internet search) to get lots of good information on controlling pests in your garden.

The club's fiscal year ends next month. June will be the last general meeting of our year. We'll have an interesting speaker along with membership renewal and some business items to end our year.



Happy Gardening – See you at the Stroll!

# Upcoming Events

May 11—10:30 am—1 pm

Garden Stroll

June 15—10 am

Meeting and Speaker: Andrew Stroscher—*Carnivorous Plants*

Food Drive for SCMFO

DUES ARE DUE

July 20—10 am

Trash to Treasure Sale

DUES ARE DUE

August 17, TBA

August FUNdraiser

September 21—10 am

Meeting and Speaker: Chris Lobo—*Local Wines*



## June Speaker

Andrew Stroscher, the speaker we have all been waiting for will be with us at the June meeting to share his expertise on carnivorous plants. Be sure not to miss his informative presentation and the rare opportunity to learn about an entirely different kind of plant tending.

*Ginny Kerr*



# Rotten Tricks:

How hot and stinky plants woo pollinators



To attract insects, thermogenic plants turn up the heat, emit strong odors and even disguise themselves as corpses

[https://knowablemagazine.org/content/article/living-world/2025/how-thermogenic-plants-woo-pollinators?utm\\_source=Knowable+Magazine&utm\\_campaign=bcae5ee787-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2026\\_03\\_13\\_12\\_19&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_150f6a5cbe-2af6ebdb98-546200589](https://knowablemagazine.org/content/article/living-world/2025/how-thermogenic-plants-woo-pollinators?utm_source=Knowable+Magazine&utm_campaign=bcae5ee787-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_03_13_12_19&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_150f6a5cbe-2af6ebdb98-546200589)



# Garden Stroll

**Monday, May 11  
10:30am to 1:00pm**

**Our club's Garden Stroll is fast approaching. All members and their guests are welcome to attend, even if you did not sign up.**

**On May 4, an email was sent to all members with the addresses of the homes.**

**One SJC resident and four members have volunteered their gardens, and one member has opened her beautiful home, for viewing. Each garden is unique and shows the of lifestyle of its owner – from an edible garden for a young family, cottage gardens, entertaining gardens, and small space gardens.**

**After your stroll, Sol Agave has arranged for space for a no-host lunch. The restaurant opens at 11:00am –let them know you are with the Garden Club. There is plenty of FREE parking and it is in our neighborhood.**

**Please come and enjoy!**

**If you have any questions, contact us - [louheimann4@gmail.com](mailto:louheimann4@gmail.com)  
or [mathtrainor@gmail.com](mailto:mathtrainor@gmail.com)**

## Membership News

Our club membership stands at 65 members strong, many members attended the excursion to the Moulton Museum last month and come to our regular meetings always with some special program or activity. If you have been missing out on club events, please open all emails coming from the SJC Garden Club (check your trash if not receiving them) and read the fabulous newsletter brimming with garden club activities, events and helpful garden tips.

**Mark your calendar for the Garden Stroll, May 11.** There are five lovely gardens to tour. Information about the locations was emailed May 4.

It is that time of year when we will be collecting the annual dues. Our calendar year is from July 1 – June 30. The dues are \$65 for the year and should be paid by the July 2026 meeting.

# Garden Stroll



**FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS—BRING A FRIEND (or two!)**

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

**Please! Wear closed toes shoes—No HEELS (due to uneven walkways)**

**No Children under 18. NO PETS! Not wheelchair accessible.**

**Garden addresses have been emailed to all members.**

# Food Donations—June Meeting

The San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO) continues to see a significant number of military families requesting food assistance. This is due to some assistance programs closing down.

We are hoping that you would consider making a donation to help replenish the depleted pantry. Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Below is a list of the items that are popular with young military families:



Size 6 diapers (Walmart or Costco for best price)

baby wipes

Crackers: Graham, Saltines, Ritz

Apple sauce and/or peach cups

Strawberry jam

Maple syrup

Mac and cheese (microwave cups)

Ketchup

Chocolate chips

Cheese and cracker packs

Small bags trail mix

Pasta sauce

Shaker cheese

Canned: pineapple, peaches

Canned: corn, peas

Pancake mix (add water only)

Cup of Soup

Ranch salad dressing



**WE NEED YOU**

**The August FUNdraiser**

**Committee needs 2  
additional members**

**SIGN—UP TODAY**

**This is our club's major  
fundraiser for our  
educational programs**

**Contact Maryann Shanks  
maryannshanks3377@gmail.com  
or 714-213-9515**

# Welcome to New Board Members

Welcome to our new board Members

**Donna Pennington—Secretary**

**Maryann Shanks—VP Programs**



## Field Trip To Moulton Museum



# Mary's Garden Tip



Of course, I am happy with all my beautiful flowers in my garden. But what I am most happy about is the trick I use so I don't fall and break a bone in my rocky dry wash! That black garden ornament also serves as a "grab bar" I can use as I make my way around. It's stuck real deep in the ground so it is a sturdy assistant if I need help balancing!

*Mary Crawford*

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](mailto:chateaulussier@msn.com)



# Have You Seen These?



If you like the attractive utility boxes that have been wrapped with historical depictions of our great community, and would like to see additional wrapped boxes in our neighborhoods, contact one of your town officials (see contact info on the next page of this issue). The boxes are located at the corners of LaNovia and San Juan Creek Rd; Calle Arroyo and San Juan Creek Road and Rancho Viejo Rd & Calle Arroyo.

Getting the go-ahead to wrap the utility boxes, like all our neighboring towns, came about after several years of getting the final approvals from various city agencies. Thanks to The Alliance for San Juan Art (TASJA), a nonprofit started several years ago by Rich Heimann (spouse of our own Lou Heimann), to place more public and visible art in our community.

Become an active citizen of SJC, email your city council member or city hall staff and ask them to approve more. The contact info on the next page.

These wraps were paid for by donations from folks like you.

*(If you would like to support these efforts financially, TASJA needs donations to continue to spread art though out our city: [tasja.org/donate](https://tasja.org/donate))*

# Community Contacts

If you would like to see more utility boxes wrapped with historical depictions contact some of these people:

City Council

Howard Hart <[hhart@sanjuancapistrano.org](mailto:hhart@sanjuancapistrano.org)>

Mayor John Campbell <[jcampbell@sanjuancapistrano.org](mailto:jcampbell@sanjuancapistrano.org)>

John Taylor <[jtaylor@sanjuancapistrano.org](mailto:jtaylor@sanjuancapistrano.org)>

Sergio Farias <[sfarias@sanjuancapistrano.org](mailto:sfarias@sanjuancapistrano.org)>

Troy Bourne <[tbourne@sanjuancapistrano.org](mailto:tbourne@sanjuancapistrano.org)>

City Staff

Ben Siegel <[bsiegel@sanjuancapistrano.org](mailto:bsiegel@sanjuancapistrano.org)> - City Manager

Matisse Reischl <[MReischl@sanjuancapistrano.org](mailto:MReischl@sanjuancapistrano.org)> - Asst City Manager

Christy Jakl - [Cjakl@sanjuancapistrano.org](mailto:Cjakl@sanjuancapistrano.org) - City Clerk

Other People of Influence

Dan Almquist <[dan@almquist.com](mailto:dan@almquist.com)>

Jim Taylor <[jim@jimtayler.com](mailto:jim@jimtayler.com)> - President , Fiesta Assoc

Tom Ostensen - President Historic Society

## Butterfly Garden/Monarch Waystation

**Sadly, there has not been enough support for the Butterfly Garden and work there will be discontinued.**



# Gardening Happenings



**MOTHER'S DAY** means the 2026  
**LFGC ANNUAL PLANT SALE &  
GARDEN BOUTIQUE** is COMING!

**ON: Saturday, May 9th** (the day before Mother's Day)

**TIME: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**AT: Lake Forest Beach and Tennis Club PARKING LOT**

22921 Ridge Route, Lake Forest

**MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND**

*Come over, browse and buy*



FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS • POTTED PLANTS  
PLANTED BASKETS • SUCCULENT ARRANGEMENTS • CRAFTS

PLUS

FABULOUS FINDS

*Enter our raffle to win some fantastic prizes!*

Proceeds from our sales help:

Horticulture Scholarships • The Tree People  
Elementary School Butterfly Kits • Civic Beautification



*And while you visit, do stop  
to chat with our Membership  
Chair about how you can  
become a member of LFGC*

*The Perfect Gift for  
Mother's Day & Friends!*



San Clemente Garden Club

## 2026 Garden Tour

**Saturday, May 16**

**10AM-4PM**

**Enjoy beautiful  
private gardens!**

- Advance tickets \$40  
4 or more \$35
- Ticket price  
on Tour Day \$50
- A self driving tour

**ORDER ONLINE:  
sanclementegardenclub.com**

Proceeds benefit scholarships, school gardens,  
civic beautification, and conservation organizations.



*Coin Native Presents:*



**Save the Date**

**October 3, 2026**

*San Juan Capistrano*

*goinnative.net*  
*Talks, tours, live music, food & fun!*

<https://www.smwd.com/222/Water-Festival>

Santa Margarita Water District  
Water Festival



# Gardening Questions?



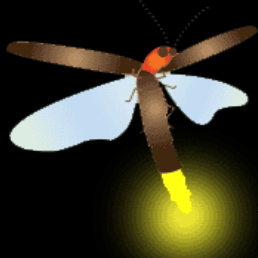
Have gardening questions?

**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](mailto:ucceocmghotline@ucanr.edu)**



# HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK



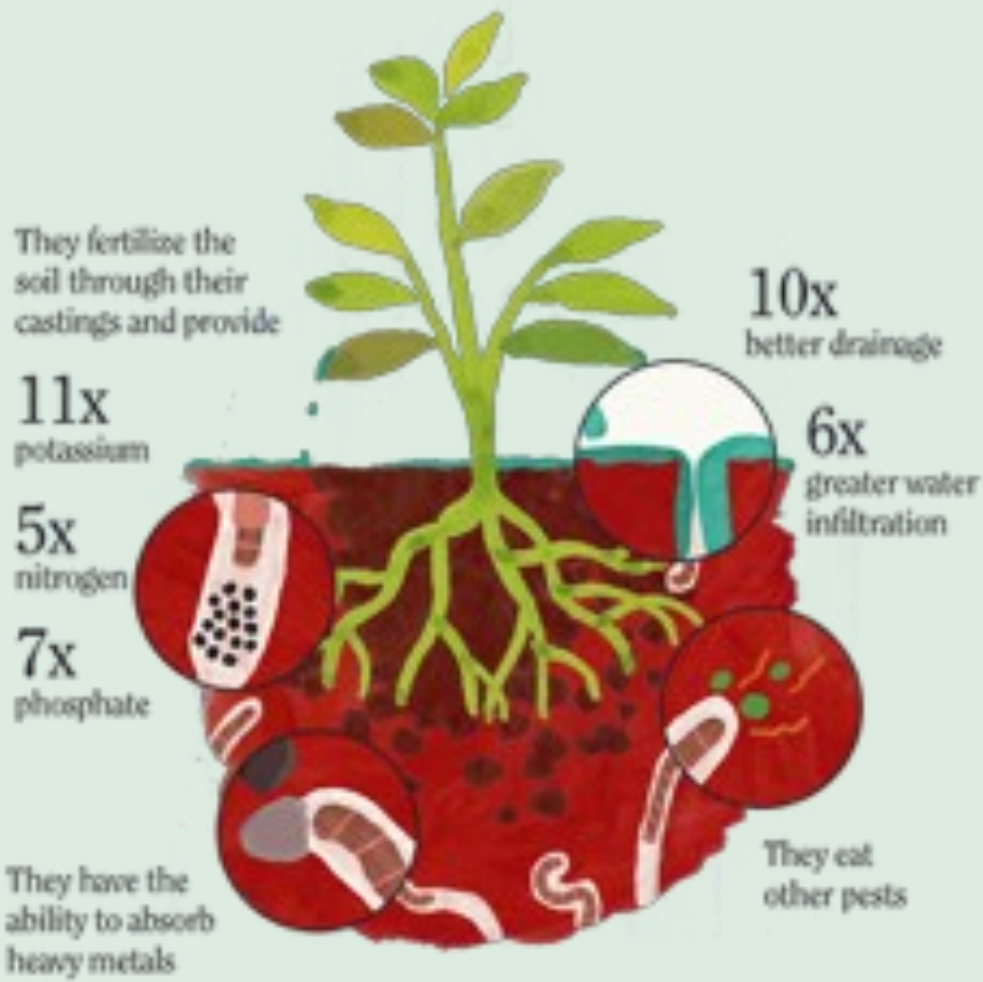
Mosquito season is here.

For many people, that means turning to sprays or fogging that can harm more than just mosquitoes.

The Mosquito Bucket Challenge offers a simple, low-cost alternative you can use at home

[https://homegrownnationalpark.org/mosquito-bucket-challenge/?utm\\_source=Start+a+new+HABITAT&utm\\_campaign=b09a87dfd8-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2023\\_11\\_06\\_03\\_46\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_-f7088a1207-1421129464&mc\\_cid=b09a87dfd8&mc\\_eid=261694463c](https://homegrownnationalpark.org/mosquito-bucket-challenge/?utm_source=Start+a+new+HABITAT&utm_campaign=b09a87dfd8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_11_06_03_46_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-f7088a1207-1421129464&mc_cid=b09a87dfd8&mc_eid=261694463c)

# How do earthworms help the soil?



For those who might be interested in what Mike Evans (formerly of Tree of Life Nursery) has been up to—here is a link to a great YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lEvm5atYlOI>





# LEARNING LIBRARY



## Growing Wildlife Habitats

There is such a push to teach kids about biodiversity and interdependence through studying rainforests that are thousands of miles away, but it's much more powerful and effective to first explore these same concepts up close in our own backyards, says Waco, TX, educator Mary Nied Phillips.

In an effort to increase biodiversity on their urban school grounds, Mary's primary students turned a grassy courtyard into a thriving wildscape.

[https://garden.org/learn/articles/view/876/  
Growing-Wildlife-Habitats/?  
utm\\_source=nl&utm\\_medium=mail&utm\\_campaign=  
gn=nl\\_2026-04-18](https://garden.org/learn/articles/view/876/Growing-Wildlife-Habitats/?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=nl_2026-04-18)

## Remember

**We live on a planet where trees warn each other of danger through underground networks.**

**Where octopuses dream.**

**Where elephants return to the bones of their dead and stand over them in silence.**

**Where bees communicate through dance, showing each other where to fly**

**Where flowers bloom...**

**Where crows remember human faces, especially those who were cruel to them, and pass that memory on to their young.**

**Where ants build entire cities.**

**Where cats purr at the frequency that can help heal bones.**

**Where forests, after fires, grow flowers first.**

# 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**

**Sharon Dunn—Advisory Member**

**Janet Sperber—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](mailto:chateaulussier@msn.com)

# Garden Radio Show



*“In The Garden”  
Radio Show*

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

Every Thursday Morning  
8:30 - 9:30am

*Airs on KUCL (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](#)" and "[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/>**

***SJC Garden Club is a proud member of the SJC Chamber of Commerce***

**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](http://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](http://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

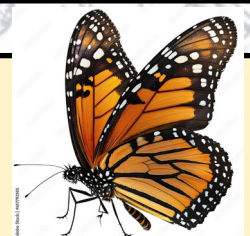
<https://calscape.org/>

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>

