Newsletter San Juan Capistrano Garden Club October 2025

We are going to let you in on a DIRTY LITTLE SECRET



It's not your ol' "City Dump" any more!!

Landfill Tour Don't miss out—still some spaces available Bring a Friend -Call 949-545-6650

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 9 a.m.

Prima Deshecha Landfill

32250 Avenida La Plata, SJC

For Directions and additional information:

https://oclandfills.com/landfills/prima-deshecha-landfill

Upcoming Events

October 22 – 9 am NOTE: THIS IS A WEDNESDAY OCWR Tour—Prima Deshecha Landfill

<u>November 17 – 10 am</u>

Meeting and Speaker: Rachael Davidson—Basic Edible Garden Design & Kitchen Herbalism

<u>December 8 – 10 am</u>_Holiday Brunch—Members ONLY **NOTE: THIS IS THE 2ND MONDAY**

<u>January 19 – 10 am</u>

Meeting and Speaker: Shelly Trainor, Master Gardener

February 16 - TBA

March 16 - 10 am

Meeting and Speaker: Issac Novella, OCWR Landfill Site Administrative Manager—Recyclables & Organics

Scholarship Info

Does October 20, 2025, mean anything to you? Maybe not, but for students at Saddleback College, it marks the mid-semester point for the fall session. At \$46 a unit, separate from other costs, a student with a 12-unit course load would be responsible for about \$550. Our \$500 scholarship to two students has a significant impact on their college experience. This alleviates financial stress and may enable students to take a class they wouldn't normally consider due to budget constraints. Most importantly, these scholarships show students that they have support from members of the community—people who care about their academic future. T hank you for being part of the SJCGC in our efforts to support learners at Saddleback.

Mary Crawford

Membership

Technically July is the start of our garden club year but to me the real beginning always seems like September. This is the time we start thinking of pumpkins, fall colors and cooler evenings with pot of soup of the stove. As gardeners we are getting our gardens ready for the winter months. After relaxing during the summer months, we become reinvigorated and are ready to start something new.

Please welcome our newest member, Penelope Behmerwohld. Penny, a mother of five children and a grandmother of nine, is originally from Ohio. She belongs to the SJC Rotary Club and loves to arrange flowers and decorate so we are most happy to have her as a member of our SJC Garden Club.

Lou Heimann - Membership

<u>Didn't Renew Your Membership?</u>

Second thoughts? We hope so! This will be the last newsletter for members who have not renewed their membership. After reading about all the fun and educational events happening, we hope you will stay with us!

Newsletter

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

Send to: chateaulussier@msn.com

Congrats New Board Members!

Congratulations and thank you to the newest and outstanding board members, Pat Lussier, VP of Communications, and Ginny Kerr, VP of Programs. These new team members will make the next few years even more incredible than before!

We appreciate their service as board members.

Board of Directors

Cindy Sorenson VP Ways & Means

Lou Heimann VP Membership

Ginny Kerr VP Programs

Pat Lussier VP Communications

Maureen Gebelein Treasurer

Shelly Trainor Secretary

Linda Lower Advisory Member

Restoring Butterfly Garden/Monarch Waystation

Have you visited the butterfly gardens lately? Please reach out to Lynn Rollison to join this dedicated group.

We are still meeting the 2nd & 4th Mondays at

9am. The garden had a bountiful spring and summer. It's about time to do some cut-

ting back. And we are starting to think about what we can add to give us fall and winter color. Two of our members have donated beautiful benches and a table, and another donated a sun dial. Come out and join us.





Basic Edible Garden Design and Kitchen Herbalism

Speaker: Rachael Davidson

November 17, 2025

Rachael will share about edible plants, emphasizing CA native and adapted plants, and general uses along with design tips for creating a functional and beautiful herb garden! If you have a tiny container garden or acres to plant, this workshop will inspire you with new ideas and plants to explore in your garden, on your plate and your medicine cabinet.

Rachael, currently employed at Tree of Life Nursery, is a mother, gardener, kitchen herbalist, landscape designer and lifelong student who enjoys sharing knowledge. Once upon a time, she had an herbal product business, Gathering Basket Herbals, and sold hand blended teas. Her experience with edible plants and herbal medicine began with discovering a book in her teens, called the "Green Witch Herbal" in a small bookstore in Northern California. She enjoys learning about plants everywhere she goes and loves hearing family and cultural folklore about plant uses from anyone who has stories to share!



Rachael Davidson Heart and Soil Landscape Designs



Each January/February SCMFO** has a baby shower for 40-50 new/expectant military Moms from Camp Pendleton Marine Base. We did such a great job in July with the food drive to replenish their Panty, they have asked us for some help again.

Below is a list of baby items always needed:

Size 3 to 12 month pajamas/sleepers, onesies, darling outfits

Bibs

Socks

Bath towels & wash cloths

Receiving blankets & other soft blankets

Swaddles

Burp Cloths

Small books (cloth or plastic) and baby toys

Hygiene items: Baby shampoo, lotion, baby bath

Pacifiers

Diapers size 4-6 (babies grow fast!)

Wipes

Target and Walmart Cards

Consider neutral colors - some moms know the baby's gender, some don't.

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

Car seats

Strollers

Pack 'n' Plays

Baby carriers

Baby Einstein/Fisher Price Activity Mats

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
Please bring unwrapped items to our Holiday Brunch, December 8



Pictures from the February 2025 Baby Shower





**SCMFO (San Clement Military Family Outreach) Is an all-volunteer run organization that provides emergency services to enlisted Marines E6 and below. These service people are at the lower-end of the pay scale, many from out-of-state, with little local support. If you would like more information about SCMFO, please check out their website: https://militaryfamilyoutreach.org/

September Guest Speaker Kathe Hayden



Neighboring Garden Clubs



UCANR

Urban Ag & Garden Expo Saturday, October 11, 2025 9am-2pm 7601 Irvine Blvd, Irvine

Free—reservation is advisable:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/urban -aggardening-expo-and-pumpkin-upick-tickets-1583513384159

Lots of Free speakers & events



Fullerton Public Library
Main Library - Community Room
www.fullertonlibrary.org



More Neighboring Garden Clubs

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society

Serving North San Diego County



~ PLANT SHOW & SALE ~

Saturday, October 25, 2025 10:30am to 2:00 pm

FREE - Open to the Public

PERFECT FOR THOSE JUST NEW TO THE HOBBY!

PLANTS & POTS FOR SALE — NON-JUDGED SHOW

Grace Presbyterian Church, 1450 E. Vista Way, Vista, CA 9204

www.PalomarCactus.org - info@palomarcactus.org - We're on Facebook

Master Gardener's Expo April 2026

Murray Senior Center, Mission Viejo

Lake Forest Garden Club Saturday before Mother's Day

Southern California Spring
Garden Show—South Coast Plaza
The OC District for CGCI will participate in the South Coast
Plaza Garden Show Thursday-Sunday, April 23- 26, 2026.

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

Aloe and Agave Pests

Succulents like aloes and agaves are common landscape plants throughout much of California and are prized both for their beauty and their drought tolerant features. Unfortunately, there are several arthropod pests that can damage or even kill these hardy plants. Below are three pests you should be aware of if you have either aloes or agaves in your garden..

https://ucanr.edu/blog/pests-urban-landscape/article/aloe-and-agave-pests



Reduce Lights at Night to Save Migrating Birds

Every spring and fall, billions of birds migrate across North America, navigating mostly under the cover of darkness. Artificial lights pose a serious threat, attracting and disorienting the birds, leading to dangerous collisions with buildings. The solution is simple: Flip the switch, and turn off the lights.

By reducing unnecessary lighting, the growing international "Lights Out" movement is making an impact, saving birds while conserving energy and lowering costs.

As fall migration gets underway, here are some ways you can keep the skies darker at night and help birds stay out of harm's way:

- Turn off non-essential lights from 11 PM until 6 AM during critical migration periods.
- Turn off or dim lobby and atrium lights.
- Turn off or dim interior home lighting or draw blinds to prevent light escaping.
- Turn off decorative landscape lighting.
- Turn off lights before leaving the home or office.
- Be sure outside lights are aimed down and well shielded.
- Install motion sensors on outside lights to reduce use.



Only 8% of Americans talked to a farmer last year.

That's a big disconnect—and one we're on a mission to close.

Through our short series, *5 with a Farmer*, we're bringing you closer to the people who grow your food. Meet <u>Molly Taylor</u>, a young farmer breathing new life into <u>PT Ranch</u> in Ione, CA. After planting 6,000 trees, Molly is witnessing Regeneration first-hand and inspiring the next generation of farmers

HOW TO:

Small-Scale Regeneration: Turning Your Lawn into a Food Paradise

> KISS GROUND

REGENERATION AT HOME

Did you know that lawns cover 40+ million acres in the U.S.? (That's more than any food crop!) Most lawns are green deserts—neat, thirsty, and chemically dependent. What if instead, your lawn was alive buzzing with pollinators, nourishing the soil, and providing food for your family?

By practicing small-scale regeneration at home, you can:

- 1. Rebuild soil health
- 2. Increase biodiversity
- 3. Provide fresh, local, nutrient-dense food
- 4. Reduce water use and chemical dependency

Here's how to get started:

- 1. Ditch the monoculture: Replace grass with edible perennials, fruit trees, herbs, and native pollinator plants
- 2. Layer your garden like a forest: Groundcover, shrubs, vines, and canopy trees mimic natural ecosystems
- 3. Compost and mulch: Feed the soil, not just the plants
- 4. Harvest water: Rain barrels, swales, and mulch basins reduce irrigation needs
- 5. Start small: Convert a strip, a corner, or one raised bed—then expand

Use of Graywater in Urban Landscapes in CA

Lots of ideas on how to use your graywater to irrigate your garden https://ucanr.edu/sites/default/files/2015-08/218057.pdf

https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8536.pdf

Gardening with Graywater: A Sustainable Approach to Water Conservation https://ucanr.edu/blog/over-fence-alameda-county/article/gardening-graywater-sustainable-approach-water-conservation

I attended a Master Gardener's presentation on Budget Gardening. Here a few take-aways:

- Buy Nothing Project https://buynothingproject.org
- Plant Shares on FB South Orange County Gardeners Sharing Group
- Little Plant-Share "Library" https://www.freegardenstands.com





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

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 More Gardening Resources

"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.

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 borrow a limited number of seed varieties per month.

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

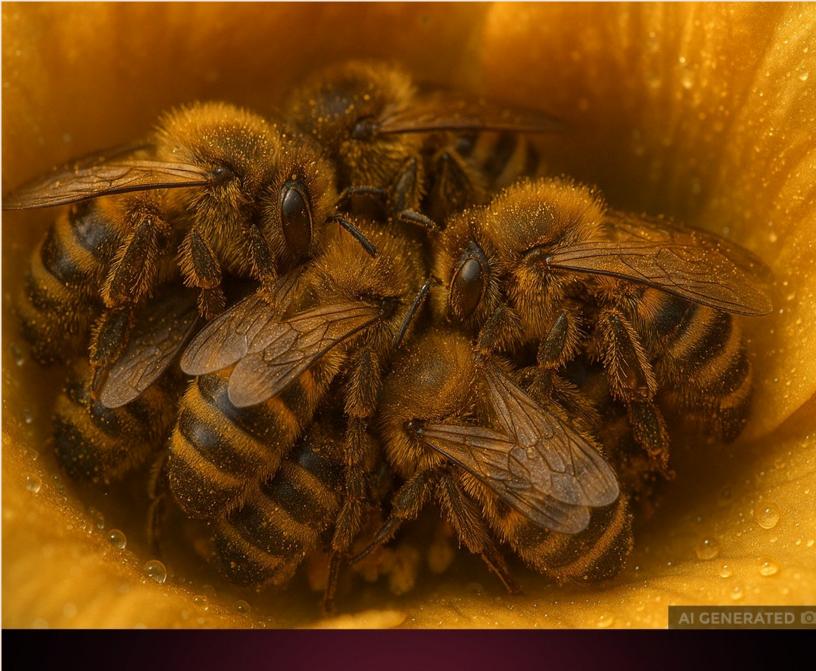
BEE WISE

Hybridization of plants has resulted in the decrease of pollen in some species. Rule of Thumb—"shop with the butterflies and bees". If they are enjoying the plant, it is probably because there is plenty of pollen. If the butterflies and bees are avoiding the plant, no matter how colorful, it is probably because there is little or no pollen.

Think leaf piles are messy? Nature calls them insect hotels. They shelter pollinators, enrich the soil, and reduce weeds. Before you rake, remember:

Nature doesn't waste—why should we?





Bees rest for about 5 to 8 hours each day, often curling up inside flowers. At times, they even nap together in small clusters, linking their feet as they drift into sleep.