



Newsletter

San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

September 2025

September Guest Speaker

One of our most popular speakers, Kathe Hayden, returns!

Kathe has over 40 years experience in floral design and teaching her craft. She has served on the California State Floral Association and managed the California State Certified Florist program.

She will share with you creative ideas to make centerpieces for all occasions that will WOW your guests. And she will help you think *out-of-the-box* when it comes to adorning your table with flowers.



Upcoming Events

September 15 – 10 am

Meeting and Speaker: Kathe Hayden, Flower Arranging

October 22 – 9 am **NOTE: THIS IS A WEDNESDAY**

OCWR Tour—Prima Deshecha Landfill

November 17 – 10 am

Meeting and Speaker: Rachel Davidson—Tree of Life Nursery

December 8 – Time TBA—Holiday Event—Members ONLY

NOTE: THIS IS THE 2ND MONDAY

January 19 – 10 am

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

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



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

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

Prima Deshecha Landfill

32250 Avenida La Plata, SJC

MAX 24 PARTICIPANTS

For Directions and additional information:

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

Orange County's landfills are not simply the places where our trash goes. They are incredible feats of environmental engineering, and they even provide natural habitats. OC Waste & Recycling staff members, including biologists and engineers, are proud to welcome you on a tour. See how we operate landfills, composting facilities and what we do as stewards of the environment.

Sign-ups at September meeting or chateaulussier@msn.com
(see next page for REALLY important information)

PLEASE READ

October 22 PRIMA DESHECHA

Tour Information (approx. 1.5 hrs)

What you will see on the tour:

- Multi-media presentation about Orange County's waste management system
- Composting facility
- Waste disposal area
- Environmental controls
- Habitat restoration areas
- How landfill gas is creating green energy
- Falcons working to keep seagulls out of the trash (seasonal)

- OCWR is providing 2 tour vans—MAX 24 passengers.
- First priority to SJC GC members—No children
- Participants MUST be able to board and leave tour van several times.
- Please consider carpooling. Bring a hat & water.
- Be on time—we will not wait for you.
- Wear closed-toed shoes. This is mandatory.
- All guests will be required to wear safety vests and hard hats, OCWR provided. NO EXCEPTIONS
- Every tour participant must bring a signed release form on the day of the tour. These will be provided to participants.

LOOK at What We Did!!



This is a full food pantry at
San Clemente Military Family Outreach
Thanks to everyone who helped!!

Exciting News!

Mike Evans is morphing his Tree of Life retail nursery into a state wide nonprofit. His team is trying to keep headquarters in SJC—presently looking for land/hoping to settle locally by end of year.

California Native Horticulture Foundation
calnativehort.org .

Look for membership info on the site.

Membership

Welcome back everyone.

The majority of you have paid your dues for the year.

If not, an email was sent a week ago to remind you to mail your check by the September meeting so you will not stop receiving any issues of our informative club newsletter. This is a good time of year to add more members to our club as we have lost a few members due to moving out of the area. We are an active club with interesting speakers, field trips and fun social events. The current Board is planning some changes in the calendar schedule for the coming year so invite friends and neighbors to one of our meetings or field trips. Always check the newsletter for the upcoming activities for the month.

One reminder, some of have reported that you did not receive your 2024-27 membership card. With this card you can receive discounts at local nurseries. The card is placed behind your name tag, so at the next meeting, please turn it over and remove it. The cards are not mailed to members. Thank you. Lou Heimann

Board of Directors

Cindy Sorenson

VP Fundraising

Lou Heimann

VP Membership

Maureen Gebelein

Treasurer

Shelly Trainor

Secretary

Linda Lower

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

Restoring Butterfly Garden/Monarch Waystation

Butterfly Garden and Monarch Waystation Update

Our wonderful garden club has taken on the task of refurbishing an old Butterfly Garden on the grounds of Rancho Capistrano in coordination with the Peace Farm. Our dirt-under-the nails gardeners have already cleared, trimmed and mulched four garden beds.

Come on out, we gather from 9:00-11:00 on the 2nd & 4th Mondays (summer hours).

Enter Rancho Capistrano from Camino Capistrano—follow signs to the Peace Farm—drive around the raised-bed farm, down to the end of the dirt road and park beside the garden...we can't wait to see ya!

Lynn Rollison



Leave the Leaves

We spend hours bagging leaves like they're garbage, but those same leaves are nature's fertilizer factory. All the nutrients a tree pulled from the soil during the growing season get stored in its leaves. When they fall and decompose, that nutrition cycles right back where it belongs.

By removing them, we're robbing the soil of its food supply only to turn around and replace it with store-bought fertilizer packaged in plastic. It's like throwing away a home-cooked meal just to order takeout.

Want to work with nature instead of against it? 🍂

- ✿ Shred leaves with your mower and let them feed your meadow or lawn.
- ✿ Rake them around garden beds for insulation and weed control.
- ✿ Use them to build leaf mold or add them to your compost pile.
- ✿ Leave them alone and create an overwintering habitat for bees, butterflies and bugs.

What may look like a mess is actually one of the smartest systems nature designed. All we have to do is let it work.

August Fundraiser



Thanks to Kathy Rowley for
all these great pics



Orange County Fire Watch Gears Up for Southern California's Fire Season



Orange County Fire Watch volunteers participate in a mock deployment in Ridge Park, Crystal Cove.

Wildfires are among the most destructive events that can occur in urban wildlands and pose a serious threat to nearby communities. In preparation for Southern California's peak fire season, Orange County Fire Watch volunteers recently conducted a mock deployment to practice their response protocols.

During Red Flag Warning events, volunteers and partner agency staff are deployed to high-risk areas. Practicing these exercises during mock deployments simulates real wildfire conditions, ensuring volunteers are prepared to act swiftly and effectively...

https://www.irconservancy.org/orange-county-fire-watch-gears-up-for-southern-californias-fire-season/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Read%20More&utm_campaign=9-11%20Volunteer%20Newsletter



The early bird gets the worm ...and the pesticide.

Avellino farms

Spraying herbicides in bloom season kills more than plants.

It kills every insect that depends on those blooms.

Throw out the Roundup!

The U.S. has lost over 3 billion birds since 1970. One reason? The insects they eat are disappearing from pesticide use. Stop spraying and watch the birds return.

Lawns are like the beige carpeting of the outdoors. Bland, high-maintenance, and utterly useless for anything except looking “acceptable” to the HOA.

Meanwhile, native plants are basically nature’s VIP section. They’ve been here longer than your house, they know how to survive without constant babysitting, and they throw the best parties. Bees, butterflies, birds, the occasional frog!! Everyone’s invited.

When you swap out that thirsty patch of grass for natives, you’re not just cutting your water bill, you’re creating wildfire buffers, restoring soil health, and giving pollinators the all-you-can-eat buffet they deserve. You’re putting out a welcome mat for biodiversity and telling invasive species “Sorry, this club’s guest list is full.” And the best part? Once those deep-rooted natives settle in, you can spend less time mowing and more time just existing in a thriving, self-sustaining ecosystem you helped create.

Rewilding isn’t about letting things go, it’s about giving the land a chance to remember what it’s been doing for thousands of years... before humans decided every front yard needed to look like a golf course. *Paul Avellino*

Pests in Urban Landscape

How to Manage Pests Without Pesticides

Want to control pests but don't want to use pesticides? Good news—there are many alternative options, and most are more effective than pesticides and last longer! In general, there are three main methods to controlling pests nonchemically: cultural control, physical control, and biological control....

<https://igis-ucag.pantheonsite.io/blog/pests-urban-landscape/article/how-manage-pests-without-pesticides>



For nearly 17 years, The Ecology Center has modeled a way of living that deepens our relationship to the land, to ourselves, and to one another. We have shared that vision through partnerships, education, community building, and bringing people closer to the source of their food.

Now, in partnership with the City of San Juan Capistrano and St. Margaret's Episcopal School, we are honored to begin the La Novia project. This is a new opportunity to keep agriculture alive in San Juan. Together, we will bring this land back to life with cover crops, trees, and perennials, all designed through an ecological lens, and for our children.

The Ecology Center will be taking over the land at the corner of La Novia and San Juan Creek Rd.

Neighboring Garden Clubs



2025
Fall Plant Sale

Fall is the time for planting!

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

Saturday, Oct. 11th
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



DESIGNING WITH FOLIAGE OVER FLOWERS

Harness the power of foliage in your garden By [Rebecca Sweet](#), Garden Designer & Writer

https://www.gardendesign.com/landscape-design/foliage-garden.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Foliage-Over-Flowers-8-28-25

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

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.

Random Garden Musings

I am relatively new at this gardening stuff (you can either curse or thank fellow member, Sue Taylor, for inviting me to a garden club meeting shortly after we moved to our lovely cul-de-sac home 6+ years ago).

I am currently sitting here in awe watching the many bumblebees in my garden. This is an exponential increase—last year I was aware of only one. This year my garden has been blessed with several of these wonderful creatures. They are so darn cheerful.....going about their seemingly carefree lives. Are you experiencing more bumblebees in your garden?

Fun factoid: one of their “tribe” names is Bombini!!!! (how cute is that?) Another fun factoid: contrary to popular urban myth – bumblebees can sting! They just usually don’t - being much more interesting foraging.

Just like honeybees, they are vital to plant pollination (especially food crops) and, just like honeybees, they are tottering on extinction due to habitat destruction and excessively high pesticide use. **STOP SPRAYING, PEOPLE!**

I am not sure what exactly I am doing right this year. They seem to favor the bright yellow flowers of the Popcorn Cassia and the purple flowers of the Sea Lavender and the Moss Rose. I think I should add some Cone Flowers.

Burning question – why are they fuzzy?

On another topic: I am also dismayed by the apparent retail shortage of native milkweed. Not sure what that is all about.....maybe you have some thoughts that could be shared in a future ramble. Get in touch: chateaulussier@msn.com



art | Anna Seed

Midwives of the Soul

Did you know?

When bees grow old, they don't return to the hive. Instead, they spend their final night resting on a flower under the stars. If they see another sunrise, they'll gather one last bit of pollen as a final gift to their colony before quietly slipping away. So when you see a little bee resting on a flower at dusk... pause and thank her. She's more precious than gold.

Gardening Tips & Tricks

Over 320 species rely solely on oaks, with another 229 rarely found elsewhere—making a mature oak not just a tree, but essential, exclusive habitat for thousands of lifeforms.



AI GENERATED

A single forest tree can sustain an entire ecosystem. A mature oak alone can provide shelter and resources for up to 2,300 species of insects, birds, fungi, and lichens.