

San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

President's Message

August 2026

First, many thanks to Pat Kenner, Pat Martin and the committee for a very fun and well-run Trash 2 Treasures in July. This event is always a member-favorite and regularly generates funds for us to support our giving objectives.

It is important that we get both good attendance and sell many raffle tickets at our fundraiser this month – again so we can support our community giving. I hope to see many of you, your friends, and family there to enjoy the great food, good music, and raffles for fabulous items. The committee has been working hard to put together a fun evening and great prizes for all of us.

I have to admit that this is one of my least favorite times for gardening. Neither I nor my plants like the heat and atypical humidity. Watering is a challenge – too much leads to fungus or death for plants, particularly natives. Too little can stress and kill. The lizards in my yard do love the warmth, but it drives the ants to look for coolness and sources of water in our yard and house. My edibles are at the end of their productive lives and the native plants and succulents just hanging in until the weather changes.

It is nice to enjoy warm evenings outside whether in the yard, dining on a patio or at an outdoor event or concert. Guess it's a good time to slow down and enjoy life.

Upcoming Events

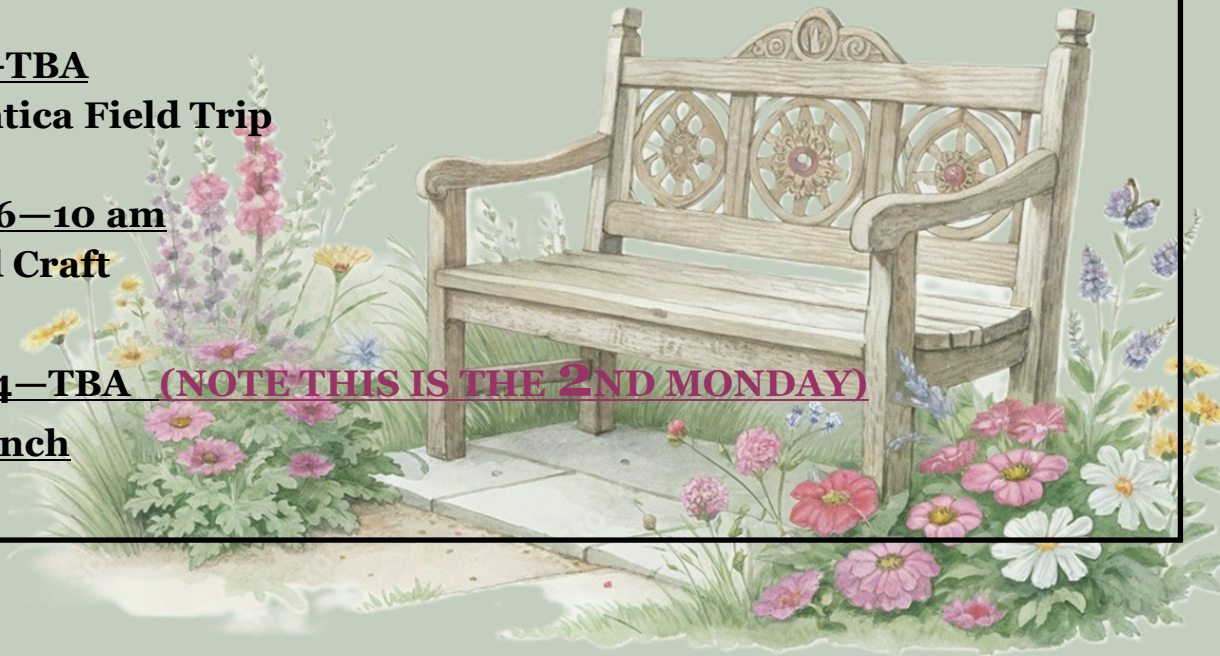
August 17, 5:30 pm
August FUNdraiser

September 21—10 am
Meeting and Speaker: Chris Lobo—*Local Wines*

October 19—TBA
Casa Romantica Field Trip

November 16—10 am
Meeting and Craft

December 14—TBA **(NOTE THIS IS THE 2ND MONDAY)**
Holiday Brunch



Trash 2 Treasure

We hope you all enjoyed our annual July Trash 2 Treasure auction.

Thank you to everyone who donated items, and special thanks to Pat Lussier for donating two new pieces of garden art. Our Club made \$648 toward our community-giving goal.

Thanks again to Co-chairs: Pat Martin and Pat Kenner, committee members: Chris Losordo, Karen Fowler, Kathy Dixon, Robyn Thiffault and Pat Webster.

See pictures on the next page

Trash 2 Treasure



Thanks to Kathy Rowley
for all these great pics



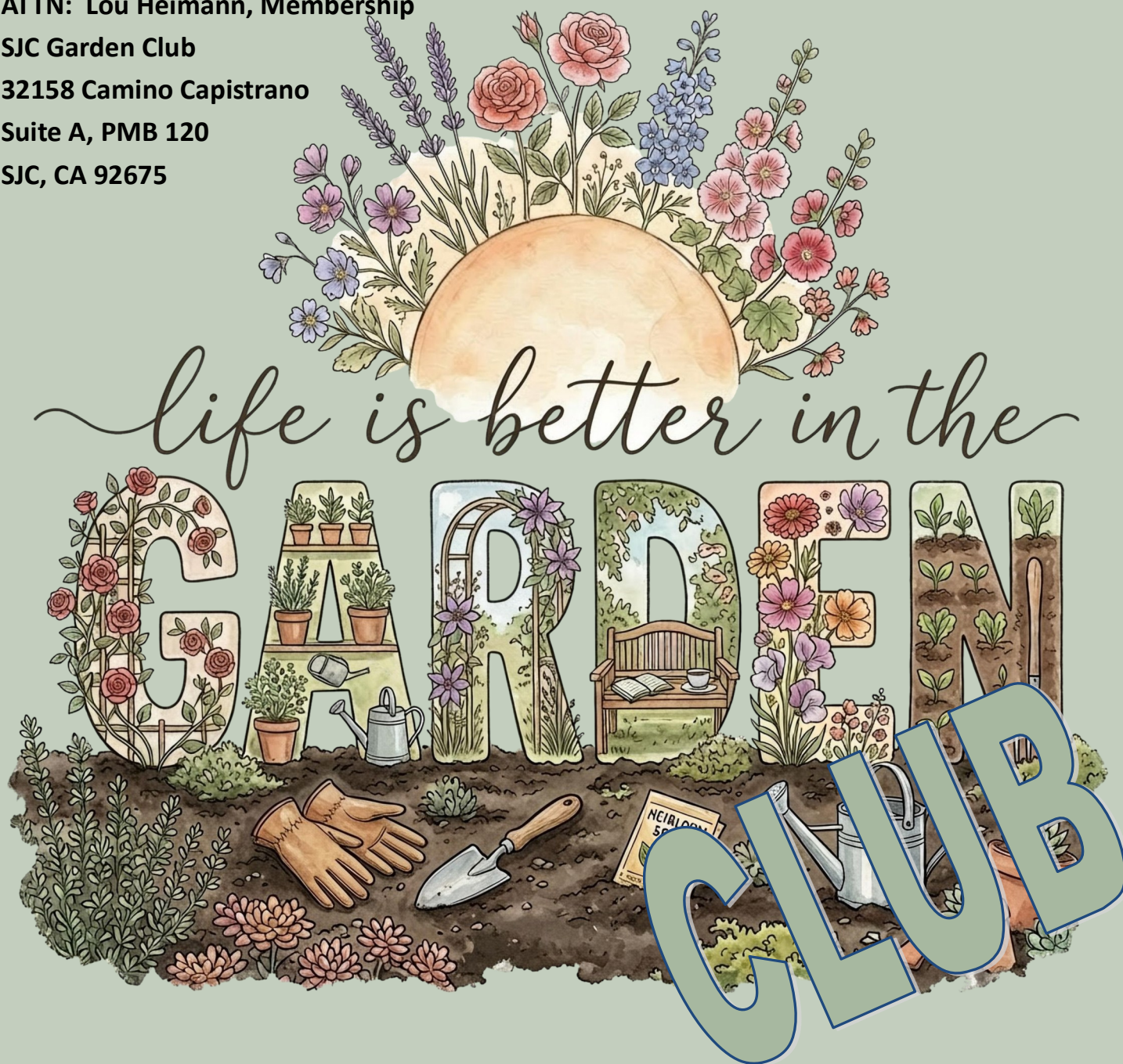
Membership News

Garden Club DUES, PAST DUE

Wasn't the 'Trash 2 Treasures' a fun event and the Garden Scroll a lovely morning viewing all the beautiful gardens of our members? We don't want to remove your name from the mailing list so that you will miss all the information for the upcoming events: the field trip to Casa Romantica, the November craft (this year the best yet) and the Holiday Brunch with fun activities being planned. Please send in your check for the '26-27 dues ASAP (if you have not paid you are very late). If you have any doubt, please send me an email.

Make your check payable to "SJC Garden Club", mark DUES on the information line and mail your check to

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



San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

August FUNdraiser

August 17, 2026, 5:30 pm

Bring Your Friends!
Dinner & Dancing
Opportunity Baskets
Lots of Surprises



Wear Your Red, White & Blue
San Juan Hills Golf Course

No-host Bar

\$65/person

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO GARDEN CLUB AUGUST FUNDRAISER

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

5 Vines Winery

Art by Terri Hall

Mary Crawford

Curtis Michael Hair Salon

DeNault's Ace Hardware

Marilyn DeVitre

Kathy Dixon

Edward's Theatre

Moyra Eulitz

Friends of the Library

Maureen Gebelein

Good Times Travel

Holly's Nail Salon

L'Hirondelle Restaurant

Pat Lussier

Christine McCowan

Mission San Juan Capistrano

Mollies San Juan

Mother Earth Florist

Neuralglow Facial

Ricardo's Place Mexican Restaurant

Mark & Karen Rottmann

Salon Connection—Julie Stockwin

Seaside Growers Nursery

Maryann Shanks

Donna Sheaffer

Janet Sperber

Tavern at the Mission

The BrewHouse

The Tea House on Los Rios

The Toll Roads

Shelly Trainor

Trevor's at the Tracks

Ubuntu Neighborhood Restaurant

San Juan Elementary School

This year, to help to fulfill our Community Giving Goals, our club provided \$1000 to San Juan Elementary School to help to revitalize their student garden. Here is an update from the school on how their refurbishment is going:

We replaced a lot of the fence posts and then did a fresh paint around 2 gardens, our Native and Butterfly Gardens.

For our fruit and vegetable garden we replaced the garden beds that were rotting and starting to deteriorate. We bought galvanized garden beds for a fresh start to a new school year.

Once I get back, I can put together a full report with pictures and videos for you. Our principal is very pleased with all the new updates. Our garden team also bought new plants for all 3 gardens that have really brought new life to of them.



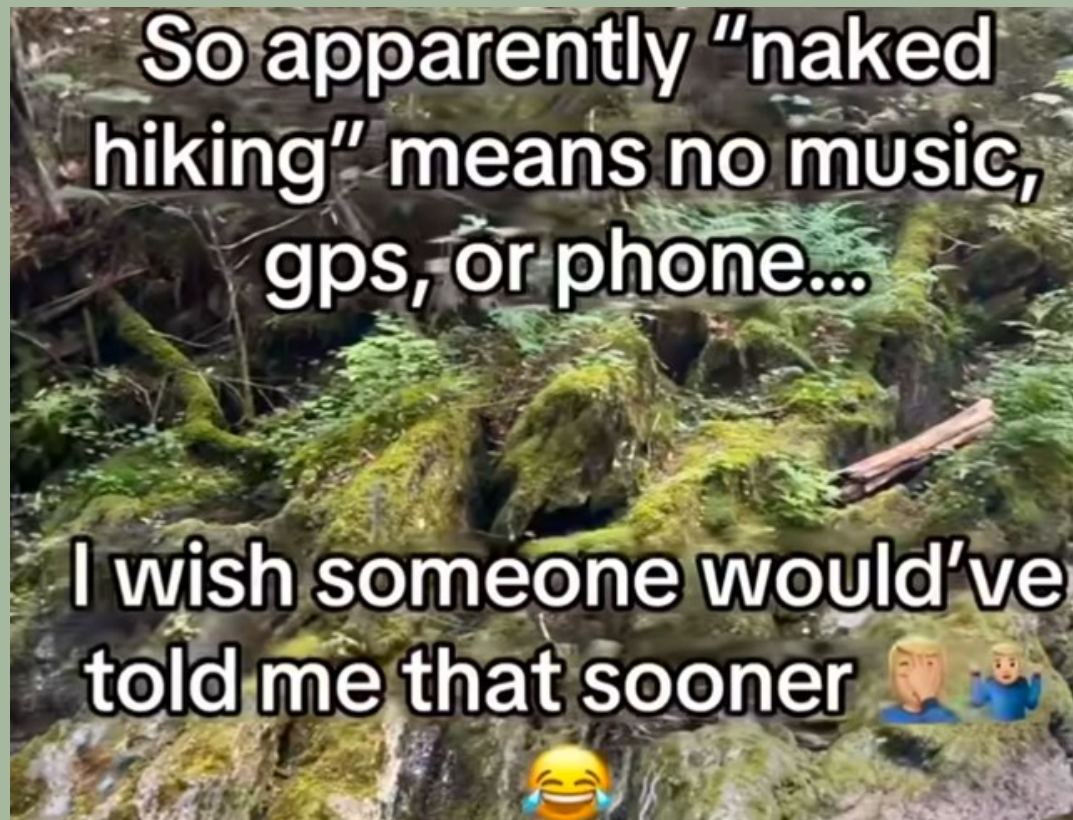
Sometimes, we just need to look

Mary Crawford is at San Juan Capistrano metrolink station.
San Juan Capistrano, CA

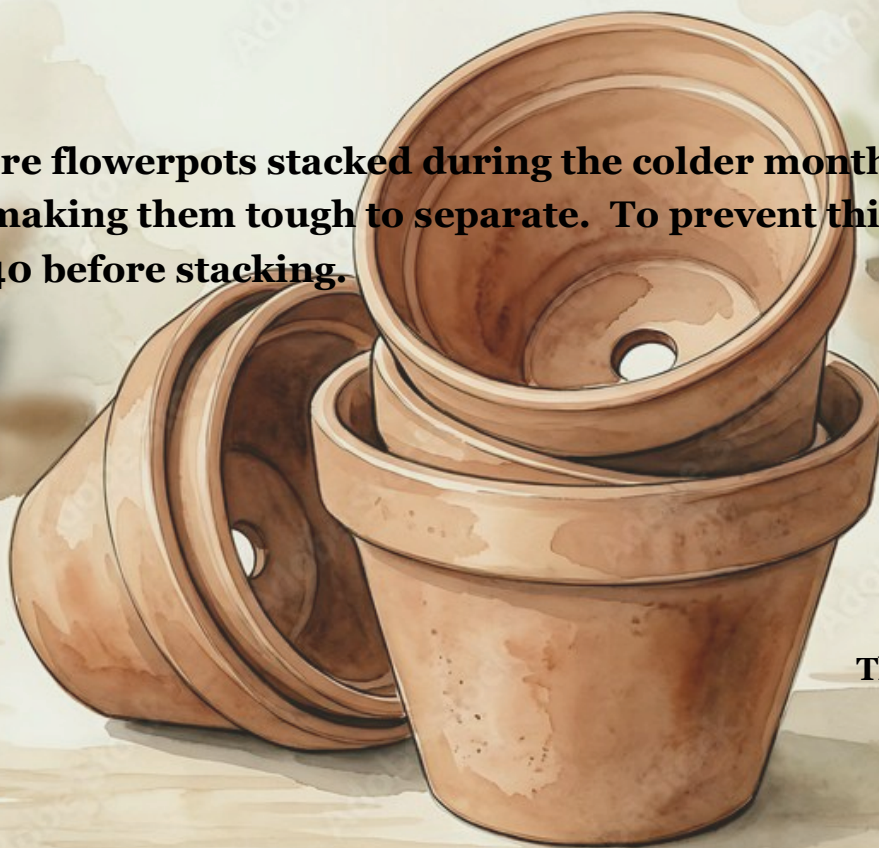
We're always talking about kids and their connection to nature. While waiting for a train, a child created art with nearby leaves. ❤️ ❤️ I guess we are right!



Garden Interests



Do you store flowerpots stacked during the colder months? They can stick together, making them tough to separate. To prevent this, spray the pots with WD-40 before stacking.



Thanks to Pat Kenner for this super tip!

Watch Out for Ticks

- July 22, 2026 **By** Yulie Velez

Blood-sucking ticks can spread bacteria and other germs when they bite, causing diseases like Lyme disease in people and pets. Fortunately, a few simple precautions can go a long way in reducing your exposure to ticks.

Preventing Tick Bites

Ticks are efficient hitchhikers—they can easily latch on to your body, clothes, or pets. Protect yourself from ticks and the diseases they transmit.

- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts outdoors.
- Use an EPA-registered repellent with 20-30% DEET or apply permethrin to clothing.
- Check yourself after being outside in areas that are prone to ticks.
- Shower within 2 hours of exposure to ticks and place clothing in a hot dryer for an hour to kill any ticks that may be on them.
- Check your pets daily for ticks, especially after they have been outdoors in overgrown and brushy areas.

If you find a tick, remove it immediately with tweezers.

Tick-Safe Landscaping

Many of the reported Lyme disease cases in California are contracted around the home in semirural environments. Landscaping and maintaining your yard can help make your backyard less desirable for ticks. To create a tick-safe yard:

- Keep your lawn mowed and decorative plants trimmed and well maintained.
- Remove leaf and grass litter from your yard.
- Create a tick barrier at the edge of your property by putting down a 3-foot gravel or wood chip border between your lawn and any unmaintained or overgrown natural areas that you live next to (such as chaparral or woodland areas).

Move yard furniture and swing sets away from the edges of the yard to more open and sunny areas.

- For more information, see the UC IPM [*Pest Notes: Lyme Disease in California*](#) or visit the California Department of Public Health's website [Safe and effective tick repellents](#)



More Garden Interests

Keep Ticks Off You



Repel



- Use **bug repellents** with at least **20% DEET** on all exposed skin.
- Follow directions and reapply as needed.
- Parents should apply this product to their children, avoiding hands, eyes, and mouth.

- Avoid logs and areas with high grass or fallen leaves
- Walk in the center of trails

- Wear long sleeves and pants when possible.
- Treat clothes and shoes with **permethrin** that kills ticks. This remains protective through several washings. Pre-treated clothing is available and may be protective longer.



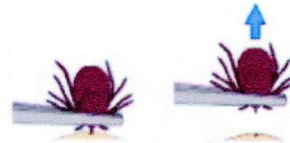
Remove

If you find a tick crawling on you, brush it off.

If you find a tick attached to your skin, remove it quickly.

- Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick.
- After removing the tick, clean the bite area and wash your hands with soap and water.

- Ways to dispose of a live tick:
 - Flush it down the toilet, or
 - Submerge it in alcohol, or
 - Place it in a sealed bag/container
- Never crush a tick with your fingers

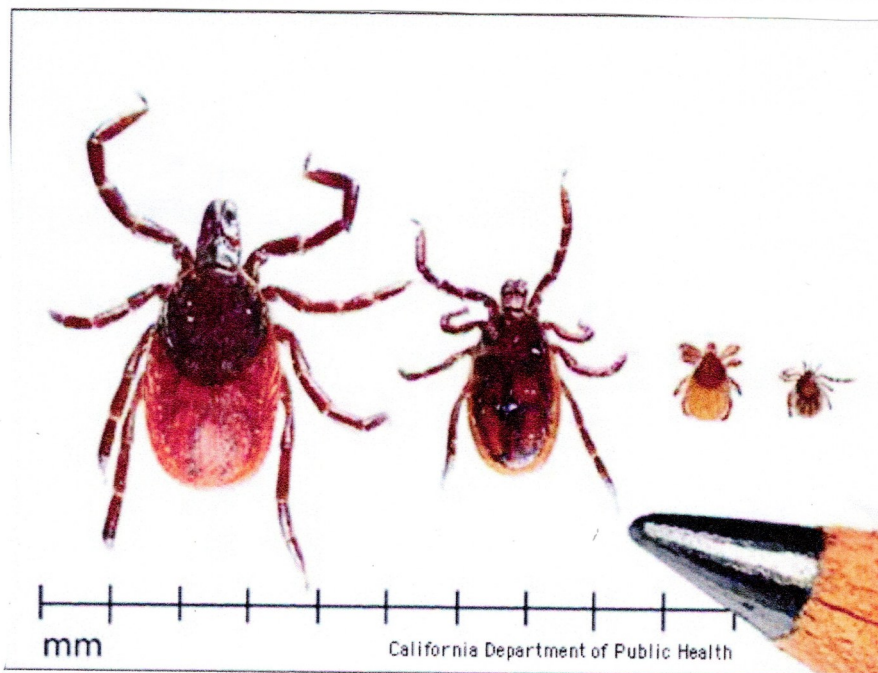


Shower



- Bathe and shower within two hours or as soon as possible after leaving an area with ticks to wash off ticks and to find them more easily.
- Do a full body check using a mirror to view all parts of your body. Ticks are usually found:
 - Under arms
 - Inside the belly button
 - Between the legs
 - In and around the ears
 - Behind the knees
 - On the scalp
- Parents should check their children for ticks.

- Tumble unwashed clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill remaining ticks.
- Examine gear and pets. Ticks can hitchhike into homes.



Life stages of the western blacklegged tick, *Ixodes pacificus*.
California Department of Public Health

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



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](#)" 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/>

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

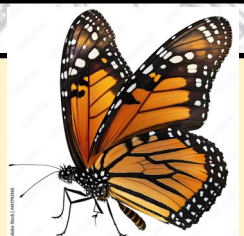
<https://calscape.org/>

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 in the garden 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

