

San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

President's Message

October 2026



Happy Fall. I love this time of the year: fall colors; fall flavors (pumpkin, cinnamon, ginger, maple, apple ...); fall décor particularly pumpkins, mums and marigolds; and fall weather (yay for sweaters!). It is also one of the best times of year to plant perennials, particularly SoCal natives, as not only is weather typically cooler, but also ideally it precedes winter rain.

I hope you all enjoyed the presentation by Chris Lobo as much as I did. He does make great wines and knowing more of the history of the tribes and wine-making in our area was fascinating. I also loved his description of the meanings behind the labels on his wines.

This should be a lovely time to visit Casa Romantica, our fall field trip on October 19. Many of their gardens have reopened after the landslide in 2023. There is a beautiful temporary exhibition depicting the relationship between wildlife art and the written word in addition to the permanent art collection and historical exhibitions. The lovely home that is the centerpiece of the visit is 99 years old this year. Be sure to plan to join the group for a no-host lunch afterwards.

Hopefully the extreme heat and humidity will not return so I can get out in my garden and do some pruning to remove the negative effects of the summer weather without stressing the plants further. I will need to replace some native plants that didn't do well this summer. Also, I am continuing my winter cover crop planting in seeds for the first time. My yard will always be a work in progress and a learning experience.



Upcoming Events

October 19—10 am

Casa Romantica Field Trip and no-host lunch

November 16—10 am

Meeting and Craft: Traditional Basket Weaving

December 14—10 am

(NOTE THIS IS THE 2ND MONDAY)

Holiday Express—Brunch & Bingo

SCMFO—donate baby items



October Field Trip

Our field trip to Casa Romantica is Monday, October 19, 10 am.

415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente

****There is a very small parking lot at Casa and street parking can be “iffy” carpooling is recommended!!**

****Admission is \$8 – cash, checks or credit card will be accepted at the door.**

If you are paying with cash—please be kind and bring small bills.

****No-host lunch will be at: BeachFire Grill,
204 Avenida Del Mar, San Clemente**



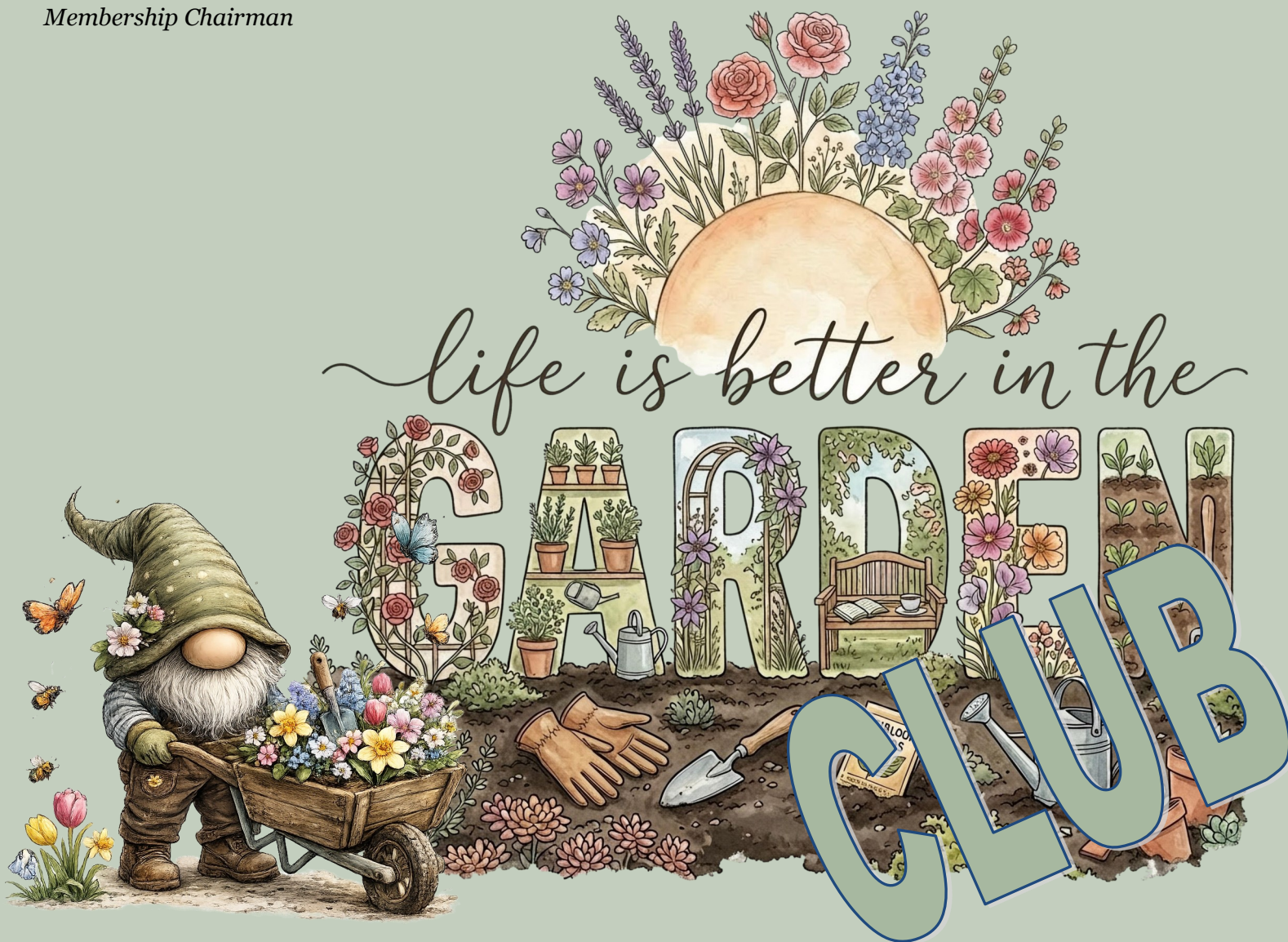
Membership News

It was great to see such a good turnout at our September general meeting. We had four guests plus a 5-week-old baby who enjoyed the meeting. There are still a few members who have not paid their 26-27 garden club dues. Your name will be dropped from the mailing list unless you reach out to me before the next meeting. You will be missed.



The Board has waived the rule of Members Only for this year's December Holiday Brunch. This is a great opportunity to introduce your friends, family and neighbors to the fun and philanthropic part of our club. Be sure to get your reservation mailed soon or bring it to the October or November meeting. Cost is \$52 pp, check the flier in the newsletter for details.

*Lou Heimann
Membership Chairman*



October Field Trip

COME SEE THE MAGICAL RESTORATION

Heavy rains pummeled South Orange County on April 27, 2023, resulting in the landslide that damaged a significant amount of Casa Romantica's grounds. Nearly a half acre was lost including Ocean Terrance and the Native Bowl gardens.

Additional damage was done by 18 months of stabilization work. Garden Manager, Kim Neil, and team are working to restore and renew the gardens including an edible teaching garden and butterfly garden.



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November Craft

Our November meeting will be atypical of past craft meetings. Domingo Belardes and Marcella Ortiz-Belardes from the Blas Aguilar Adobe Foundation will give us a presentation on local Indigenous Acjachemen culture and instruct us in traditional reed and plant-fiber basket-weaving.

The first 35 people to sign up and pay \$5 in advance will be able to try basket-weaving as instructed by Domingo and Marcella with supplies they will provide. The craft portion of the meeting is optional, but will provide participants a personal perspective on local culture.

This is a unique opportunity to tie horticulture into the 250th celebration of San Juan Capistrano by learning more about the indigenous cultures while optionally getting a chance to put your crafting skills to use (no judgment on whether you finish your basket, what it looks like if you do, or if you choose just to watch others try basket-making). A bit of laughter along with some learning is expected!

Many thanks to Pat Lussier for identifying and pursuing this fun and informative activity for us.

November 16,
10am

PLEASE

**Email me if you
would like to sign
up: chateaulussier@msn.com**

\$5/basket

Limited 35 people

**Don't miss this
opportunity to
learn about this
traditional
culture.**



THE ART OF BASKET WEAVING

LEARNING AN ANCIENT TECHNIQUE

Basket weaving is a traditional Acjachemen skill passed down through generations. Acjachemen weavers gathered and carefully prepared local plants such as juncus reeds and deergrass to create baskets for everyday life. Baskets were used to gather, carry, store, and prepare foods and other materials. The knowledge of which plants to gather, when and where to gather them, and how to prepare and weave them reflects a deep understanding of and relationship with the land. Through basket weaving, Acjachemen people continue to carry forward the knowledge, traditions, and connections of their ancestors.

This basket weaving activity introduces the basics of basket weaving using reed. The session provides an opportunity to learn a traditional technique that has been used for centuries by Indigenous communities. While traditional materials include juncus, deer grass, and yucca fiber, this class will use reed, making it accessible and fun for beginners.



Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum
Juaneño Acjachemen Cultural Center

San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

Member Only Sign-ups NOW

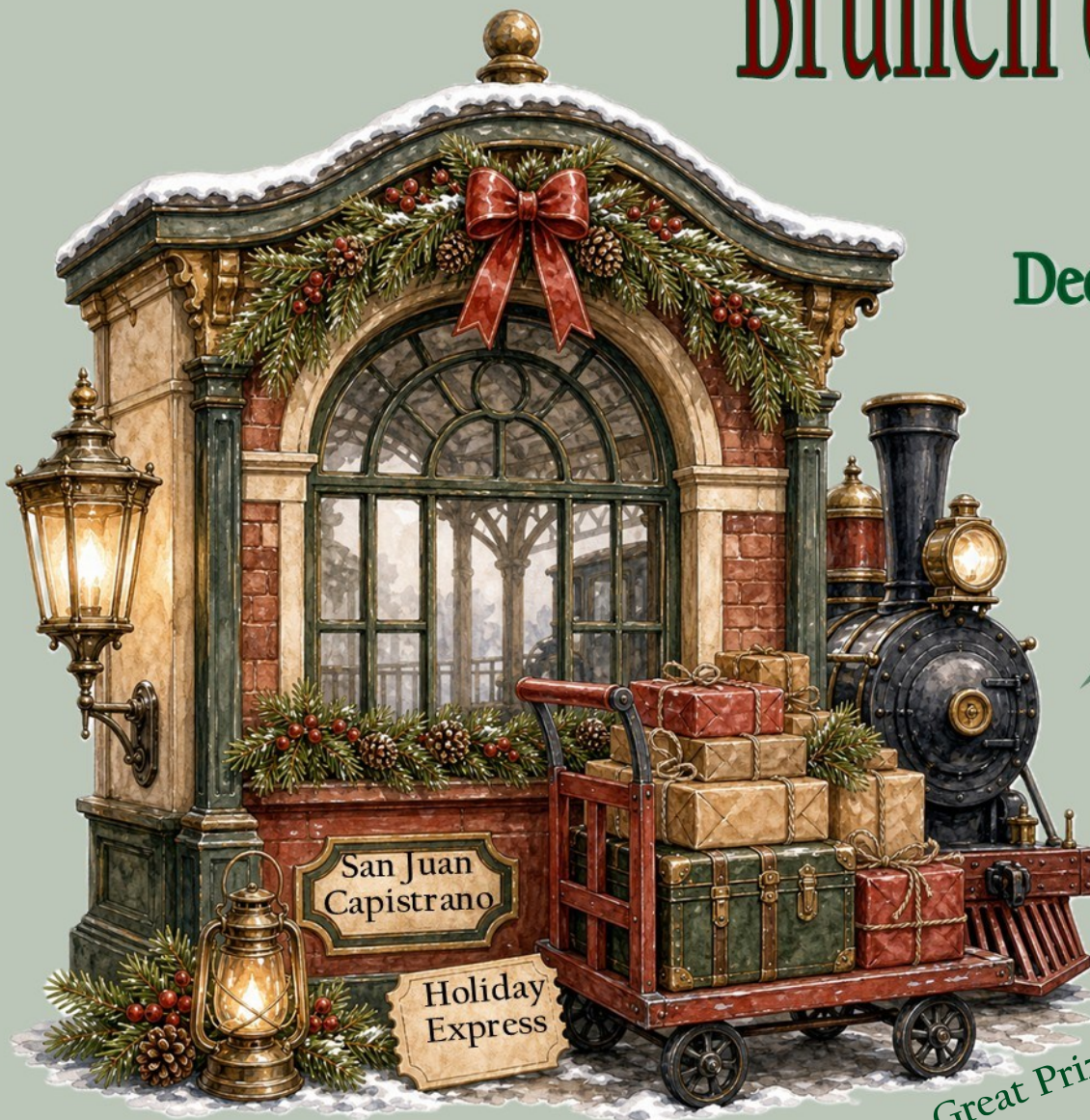
NEW: Bring a FRIEND

Guest sign-ups will be accepted starting 11/7

ALL ABOARD

For the Holiday Express Brunch & Bingo

Monday
December 14, 2026
10 a.m.



Sign-up today
Don't be left at the
Station

Great Prizes!

\$52 per person for brunch + \$5 donation for each Bingo card
Deadline: Monday, November 30

Bring \$5 donation to the event for centerpiece opportunity drawing
Remember Your SCMFO Baby Items Donation



Each January/February, SCMFO** has a baby shower to 40-50 new/expectant military Moms from Camp Pendleton Marine Base. Our club has provided significant (and greatly appreciated) support to this organization—food items as well as baby/toddler items.

If you would like to support SCMFO during this holiday season please bring unwrapped items to our Holiday Brunch on December 14.

Below is a list of baby items that are always needed:

Pajamas/sleepers/onsies/darling outfits – size 3-12 months

Bibs Socks

Bath Towels & wash cloths

Receiving blankets & other soft blankets

Swaddles Burp cloths Pacifiers

Small books (cloth or plastic) Baby toys

Hygiene items: baby shampoo/lotion/bath soap

Diapers size 4-6 Wipes

Target or Walmart gift cards

Consider neutral colors—some mom don't know baby's gender



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

Car seats Strollers

Pack 'n' Play Baby carriers

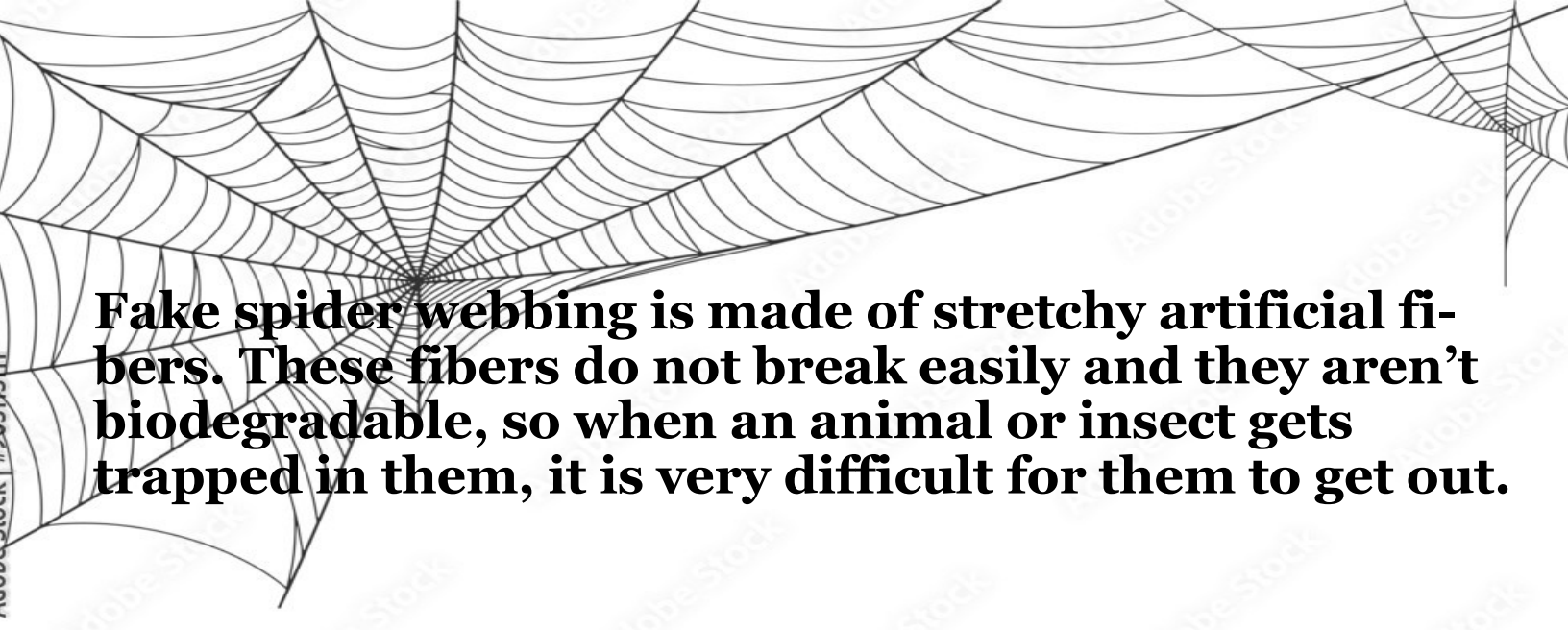
Baby Einstein/Fisher Price Activity Mats

YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

****SCMFO—San Clemente Military Family Outreach**

Danger of 'Fake Spider Webs

Halloween Spider Cobweb Décor Can Trap Birds, Bees, other Insects, and Hummingbirds



Fake spider webbing is made of stretchy artificial fibers. These fibers do not break easily and they aren't biodegradable, so when an animal or insect gets trapped in them, it is very difficult for them to get out.

Nuisance Flies in the Home

In California, flies are often a nuisance during summer and fall. Several species of flies commonly enter homes, and while most are merely nuisance pests, others can transmit diseases. These nuisance flies vary in their habitat preference and breeding cycle. In this article, we discuss a few common flies you might find around the home, in the kitchen, bathroom, and even around houseplants.

Some common nuisance flies and their habitats

Filth-breeding flies like house flies and blow flies develop in compost, animal waste, dead animals, and garbage. These flies are commonly contaminated with bacteria, including those associated with food poisoning and can spread disease when landing on food.

Fruit flies, also called vinegar flies, lay their eggs in overripe, rotting fruit. As adults, these small flies are commonly seen flying around open areas where ripe fruit is stored.

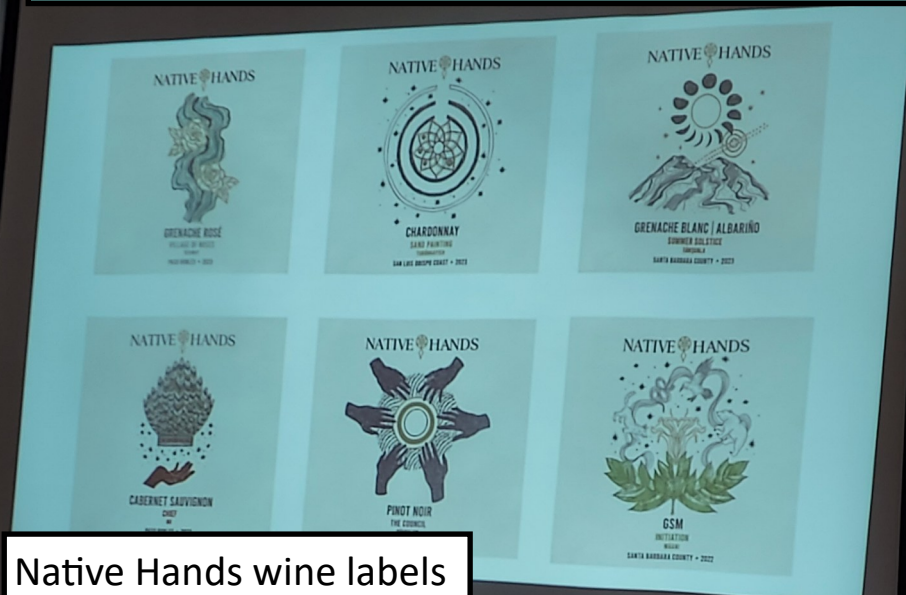
Drain flies, also called moth flies and sewer flies, live in sink and sewer drains in their larval stage. The adult female flies lay eggs on the slimy organic matter that builds up inside drains where the larvae then feed.

Fungus gnats develop in soil as larvae. They can be found indoors breeding in potting media used for houseplants or hovering near windows.

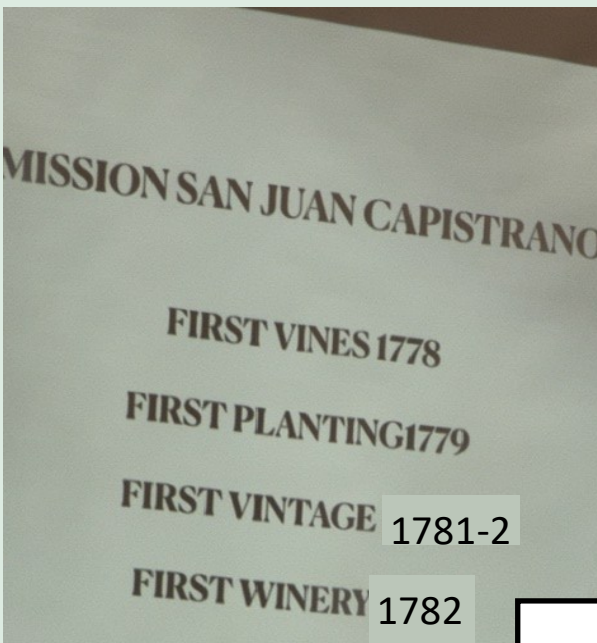
READ THE ARTICLE:

<https://ucanr.edu/blog/pests-urban-landscape/article/nuisance-flies-home>

September Speaker

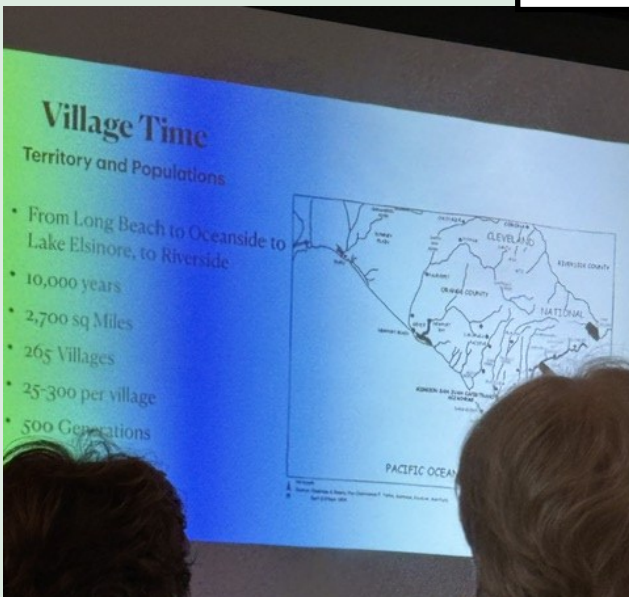


Native Hands wine labels



For the resources mentioned by Chris:

Native Hands website, <https://www.nativehandswine.com/references>



More September Speaker



Thanks to Kathy Rowley &
Donna Pennington for all
these great pics



Why Plant Pollinators?



Most of our food — vegetables, fruits, nuts, even coffee and chocolate — comes from plants that need pollinators to set fruit and seed.

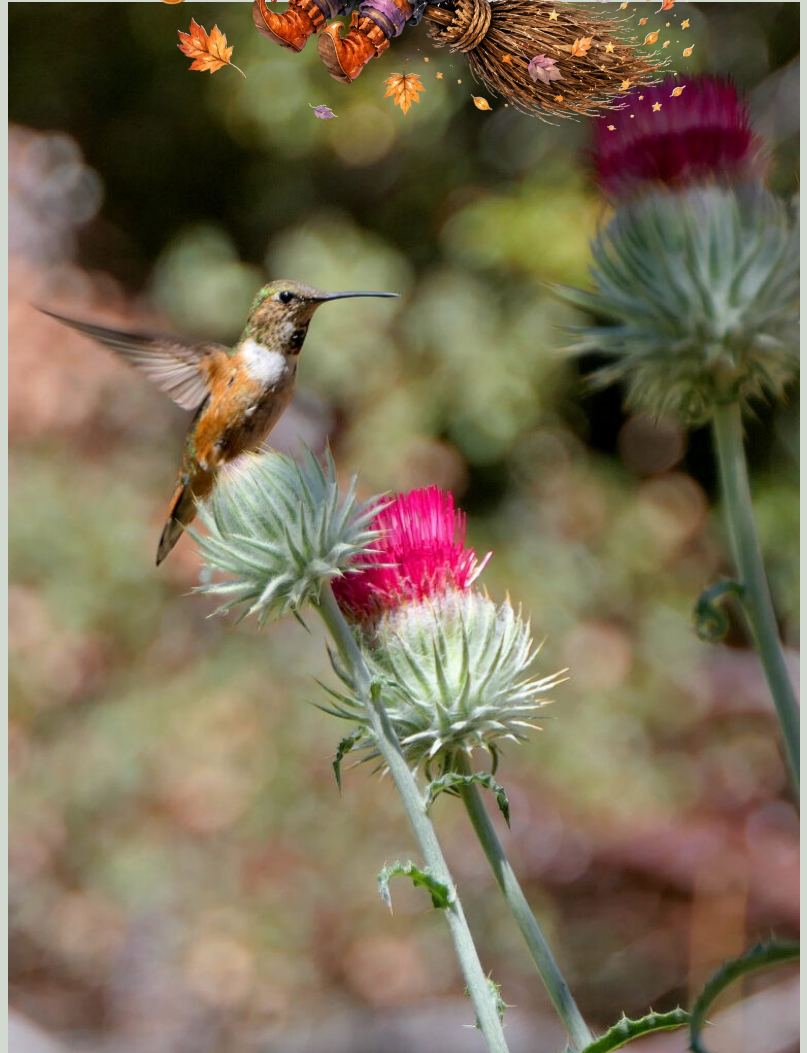
1 in 5
pollinator species in North America are at an elevated risk of extinction
• [Cornelisse et al., 2025](#)



Wildlife depends on pollinators for survival

-22%
western butterfly abundance,
2000–2020
[Edwards et al., Science 2024](#)

Check out Calscape's Pollinator Hub
<https://calscape.org/pollinator-hub/>



What To Do About Yellowjackets



<https://ucanr.edu/blog/pests-urban-landscape/article/what-do-about-yellowjackets>

Are yellowjackets ruining your outdoor picnic or gathering? Yellowjackets, sometimes called “meat bees”, prey on other insects and scavenge on human food and garbage. They are more likely to sting if disturbed while foraging. Avoid unpleasant encounters with yellowjacket wasps by following the tips below.

Stay calm to avoid stings.

- If a wasp lands on you, don’t swat it or run. Wait for it to leave or gently brush it away. Don’t disturb nests. Wasps flying from a hole in the ground or a building indicate a probable nest.

Remove attractive food sources.

- Keep food, including pet food, covered or indoors.
- Outdoors, cover soda cans so wasps don’t crawl in.
- Keep garbage in sealed cans and empty regularly.

Pick up and dispose of ripe fruit.

Use traps to reduce yellowjacket numbers.

- Yellow lure traps hung along the perimeter of a property can reduce foraging of some species around patios or picnic areas.
- Homemade traps using meat bait hung on a string just above soapy water may also be used.

Place traps away from areas where people gather, such as picnic tables.

What should you do about a nest?

Ask your Mosquito and Vector Control District if they treat nests or locate a licensed pest control company. Nests might be far away and hard to find.

If you choose to treat nests yourself, wear protective clothing on your body, hands, and head. Use an insecticide that shoots a long stream into the nest entrance and is labeled for treating yellowjacket nests.

For more information and pest management tips, visit the [Pest Notes: Yellowjackets and Other Social Wasps](#). Although yellowjackets can be a nuisance, some species do prey on plant-feeding insects and nuisance flies and are considered beneficial predators.

Gardening Happenings



People who leave little piles of seeds for birds, put sticks in deep water so insects can climb out, and carefully return overturned beetles to their feet – I hope life is equally gentle with you.

Earthy Herbs
@plantarchy

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



enc
TUCKER
Wildlife Sanctuary

CALIFORNIA NATIVE
Horticultural Foundation

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.

More Garden Happenings

2026 Fall Plant Sale

*Fall is the time
for planting!*

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

Saturday, Oct. 10th

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

And More Garden Happenings



In Mafra, Portugal next to the Palace
Another interesting flower A Coxcomb



<https://www.noguchi.org/artworks/public-works/view/california-scenario/>

Secret Garden Huntington Beach

A serene place to enjoy nature. Created in 1992, the garden was built to showcase drought tolerant plants. The Huntington Beach Tree Society has spent many hours restoring and reviving the once forgotten Secret Garden.



<https://www.surfcityusa.com/listing/secret-garden/2137/>

The Farm + Food Lab

is a unique and interactive outdoor classroom for visitors of all ages, filled with themed gardens and interesting plants. Visit the numerous spaces containing plants for delicious food, tea, medicine, sweets, herbs, construction, and other uniquely themed beds.



<https://cityofirvine.gov/great-park/farm-food-lab>

Noguchi Garden also known as California Scenario: Six principal elements comprise California Scenario: Forest Walk, Land Use, Desert Land, Water Source, Water Use and Energy Fountain. The centerpiece of the garden is The Spirit of the Lima Bean, a sculpture of dramatic portions, composed of 15 rust-colored granite rocks cut precisely to fit together. This sculpture was created in recognition of Henry T. Segerstrom's friendship with the artist, Isamu Noguchi, and the Segerstrom family's contribution to the agricultural heritage of Southern California.



Thanks to Donna Pennington for all these great suggestions

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](https://chapters.cnps.org/oc/2018/10/29/summer-and-fall-blooming-favorites/)" and "[Plants for Fall Color](https://chapters.cnps.org/oc/2018/10/28/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

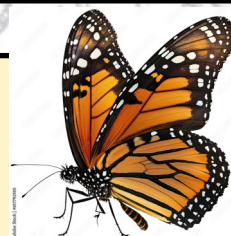
<https://calscape.org/>

**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 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

