

San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

President's Message

March 2026



Wow! I measured just under 5” of rain in my yard in February. For my native and drought tolerant plants that will help them prepare for the summer. Not sure what March will bring as February ended with very warm days. So hard to predict if irrigation will be needed this month. I am still pruning the plants that do most of their growing before spring ends. Those that are getting ready to grow this spring and summer can be divided if needed or pruned – careful not to remove flower buds or desired growth directions. Soil is likely too cold to start seeds in planting areas but starting seeds in containers kept in protected areas can yield transplants ready late March or early April.

Our February speaker, Gary Matsuoka, shared his in-depth knowledge and personal experience with different growing mediums for plants. I am still pondering how to use what I heard with the information I have from other sources and my own experience. I love to learn and will likely experiment with some of the concepts I learned from Gary’s talk.

This is the Spring-forward season. I’m not a fan of the time change, but love the Spring season with longer days and lots of green plants and flowers. Our Garden Stroll on May 11 will happen as planned since we have enough gardens. It will be the perfect chance to enjoy this season of growth.

Shelly

Upcoming Events

March 16 – 10 am

Meeting and Speaker: Issac Novella

OCWR Landfill Site Administrative Manager—*Recyclables & Organics*

Seed Sale—Lynn Rollison

Food Collection for SCMFO



April 20—TBA

Field Trip: Moulton Museum, Laguna Hills

Lunch Nearby

May 11—10:30 am—1 pm

Garden Stroll

June 15—10 am

Meeting and Speaker: Andrew Stroscher, *Carnivorous Plants*

July 20—10 am

Trash to Treasures



Membership

I would like to introduce you to our newest member who has lived in SJC for over 40 years and was not aware that San Juan had a garden club. I happened to mention our upcoming garden stroll at another organization and Vicki was very interested in joining the club. We are planning to have some new material soon for our members to distribute to neighbors, church friends, the town hall, newcomers and locations to make more people aware of our club.

Our new member, Vicki Bishop and her husband, John, have lived in SJC 46+ years. She graduated from UCI and worked in the medical device industry and recently retired. Her hobbies include bicycling trips to Europe, skiing in the Rockies, SLC, Sierras and reading historical novels. They have one son and 3 step grandchildren.

Welcome to the club.

Lou Heimann, Membership Chairman

JUST HOW *TRASH-S.A.VY* ARE YOU???



BROWN BINS
BLUE BINS

GREEN BINS
BLACK BINS

Join us at our March General Meeting to find out just how much you do (or don't) know about an important (but kinda confusing) part of our lives.

Great time to ask an expert about those TRASHY questions you might have.



At our March Meeting

\$5/pkg Please bring small bills or checks

SEED SALE

Narrow Leaf Milkweed



Locally sourced

*Proceeds go to SJC Garden Club to
support educational programs*



Sweet Peas

California Poppies

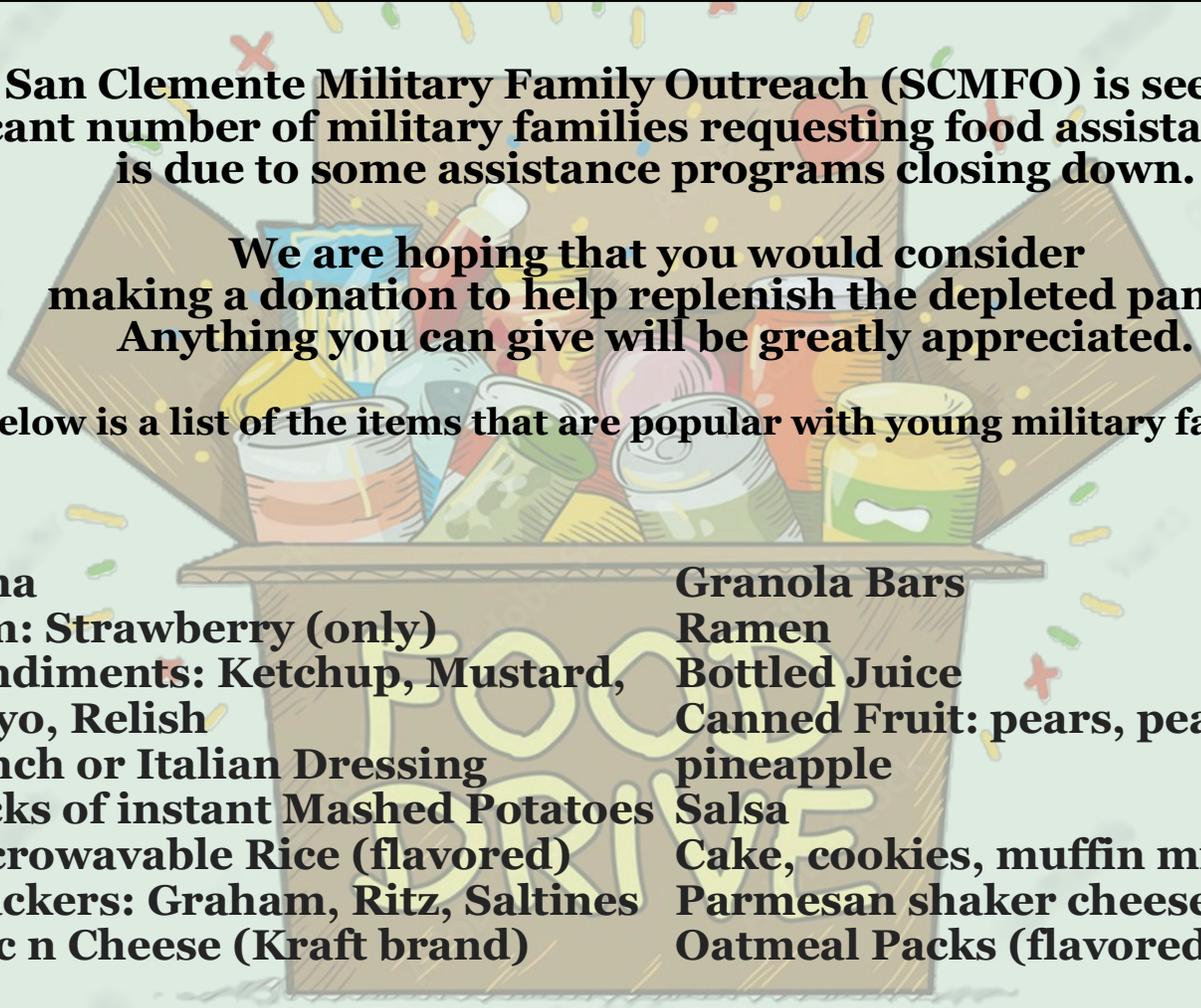


Food Donations—March Meeting

The San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO) is seeing 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:



Tuna	Granola Bars
Jam: Strawberry (only)	Ramen
Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, Relish	Bottled Juice
Ranch or Italian Dressing	Canned Fruit: pears, peaches, pineapple
Packs of instant Mashed Potatoes	Salsa
Microwavable Rice (flavored)	Cake, cookies, muffin mixes
Crackers: Graham, Ritz, Saltines	Parmesan shaker cheese
Mac n Cheese (Kraft brand)	Oatmeal Packs (flavored)

An Opportunity

Enjoy a small-group monthly meeting with Garden Club friends.

Be in-the-know of Club plans and activities.

The Board needs to appoint a person to the Secretary position. Please let anyone on the Board know if you would love to join this small, friendly group.

Details:

Meet generally the second Monday morning of the month in someone's home for an hour or two, sometimes followed by a lunch outing. Take notes to record the significant items at each meeting: votes, decisions, expenditures. Work with Ways & Means VP to write thank you letters for donations. Send cards to members, as appropriate. The term is through June 30, 2027.

Garden Stroll



Exciting news - our SJC Garden Stroll is a go!

Mark your calendar for Monday, May 11.

There are four gardens, each one is unique and shows the personality of their owner.

Next step, we need 8-10 members to sign up as docents for the homes. The stroll is open to members and their guests. The signup sheet for both the docents and attending members will be at the March meeting. Docents and homeowners will be able to view the gardens on the day of the Stroll.

Thank you to the members who have volunteered their gardens and those who will be our docents. Come and enjoy!

Lou and Shelly, Co-Chairs.

August FUNdraiser 2026

What do you like best about our August FUNdraiser Dinner?



- Fun time with friends?
- Lovely outdoor evening ?
- Great food?
- Good music?
- Opportunities to win raffle prizes?
- Dancing?
- All of the above????*



PLEASE sign up to make this event happen.

We need a committee and a chair (or co-chairs) by April 1 or we cannot hold this event. Sign up at the March meeting or contact Cindy Sorensen or Lou Heimann. Your help is needed! **Don't let this fun event die!**



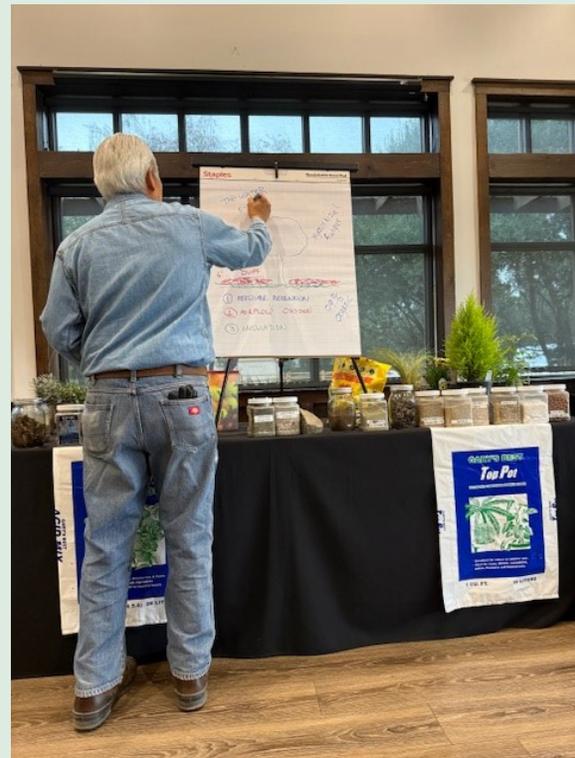
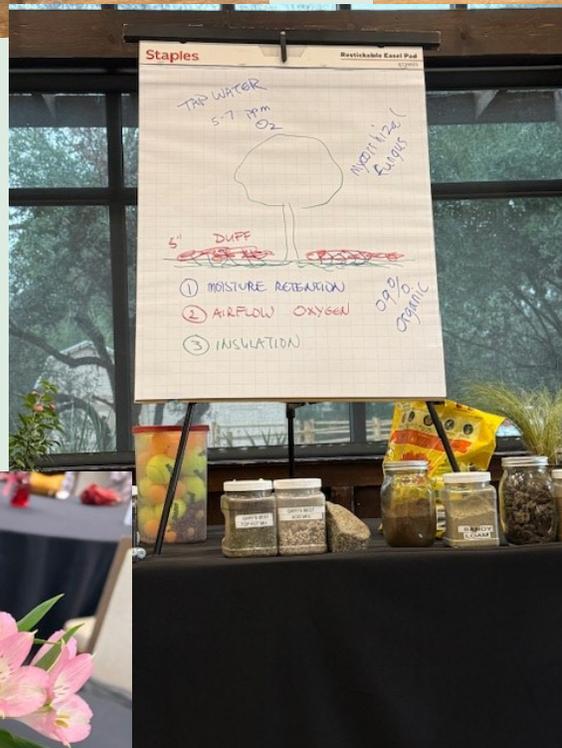
2025

At Risk



2024

February Speaker



Thanks to Robyn for the great centerpieces.

Thanks to Kathy Rowley for all these great pics

Gardening Happenings

OC District Garden Club Meeting
Monday, March 30, 2026
Sherman Gardens

Master Gardener's Expo
April 11, 2026
Murray Senior Center, Mission Viejo

San Clemente Garden Club
Garden Tour
May 16, 2026

Lake Forest Garden Club
Plant Sale & Boutique
Saturday before Mother's Day

Southern California Spring
South Coast Plaza Garden Show
The OC District for CGCI will be participating
in the Crate & Barrel/Macy's Home Store Wing
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

More Gardening Happenings

FREE ADMISSION

SAVE THE DATE!!
Garden Tour May 16



San Clemente Garden Club
in partnership with
The City of San Clemente Parks & Recreation

Garden Fest

Saturday - April 11, 2026

8 am - 2 pm

San Clemente Community Center

**HUGE PLANT SALE
AND FLEA MARKET**

Master Gardener Tool Sharpening
Exhibits • Demonstrations
City Water Conservation Info.
Local Art • Funky Container Contest
Kids Gardening Activities

www.SanClementeGardenClub.com



Proceeds benefit horticultural scholarships,
junior gardeners, and civic beautification.

2026 Annual
Native Garden Tour
Saturday, April 18th
Free Event

CALIFORNIA IN MY GARDEN

<https://chapters.cnps.org/oc/home/gardening/garden-tour-native-plants-orange-county-california/>

Restoring Butterfly Garden/Monarch Waystation



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

We meet the 2nd & 4th Mondays at 9am.

The garden had a bountiful spring and summer. Winter rains have brought lots of weeds. *Anyone can pull*

weeds! We are starting to think about what we can add to give us fall and winter color for next year.

Two of our members have donated beautiful benches and a table, and another donated a sun dial.

Come out and join us.

Lynn Rollison



Master Gardener Forum



On the first and third Sunday of every month (10am-2pm), a UC Master Gardener volunteer appears at Casa Romantica to answer garden-related questions for attendees. Have a specific gardening question? Have a pest problem? Curious about what will grow well in your area? Do you have questions about watering or fertilizing or how to clean and sharpen your tools? A UC Master Gardener, trained

in the University of California's Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) program, will pass along research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management and sustainable landscape practices. Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente. casaromantica.org.



When Life Gives You Citrus (and PESTS)

Citrus season is here! And some citrus pests may be too. Perhaps you've encountered a few ant problems with your citrus trees, but did you know there are other pests you should be on the lookout for such as psyllids, leafminers, cottony cushion scale, and mealybugs? Read more for tips on how to identify these pests, their damage, and links to resources on how to manage them.

<https://ucanr.edu/blog/pests-urban-landscape/article/when-life-gives-you-citrus-and-pests>



Did You Know?

**30% of native bees are sleeping inside your dead plant stems right now
Mason bees and leafcutter bees overwinter in hollow flower stalks.**

One snip of your pruning shears - an entire generation gone, they survived the whole winter just to die in your yard waste bag.

Cutting stems before 50F destroys nurseries you can't even see.

Leave 15 inches of dead stalk- new growth will hide it

That messy garden bed is a maternity ward - your spring cleaning can be a mass extinction event



**Most “bee-friendly” seeds purchased from big stores are coated
in neonicotinoids.**

**The coating that “helps germination” is a pesticide.
Bees visit the flowers, collect the pollen, take it home, and the colony dies.
The very seeds marketed to “save” bees are, unfortunately, killing them.**

READ THE LABEL!

**If it says “treated” - the flowers will be poisonous.
Buy from organic, untreated seed companies only.**

Build a Bird Friendly Garden



Birdwatching and gardening are hobbies that often (and should!) go hand-in-hand. Besides bringing beauty, movement, and melody to our gardens, birds play an important role by providing natural pest control and dispersing seeds. But have you ever wondered why birds seem to flock to some gardens while flying right past others?

The secret to attracting more winged visitors to your garden is to serve up an all-you-can-eat buffet of seed, fruit, and nectar-bearing plants that will keep them well-nourished throughout the year. In addition to giving birds the essential foods they crave, it's also important to create a habitat that provides water, shelter, and nesting places.

https://www.gardendesign.com/landscape-design/bird-garden.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bird-garden-2-26-26



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.



Goin Native Presents:



Save the Date

October 3, 2026

San Juan Capistrano

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



When we give the land what it needs, massive transformations take root.

Molly knew that the damage to her land wasn't irreversible. Using regenerative practices, she absorbed hundreds of gallons of oil on her farm, restoring her soil and bringing new life to the land.

Watch her [5 with a Farmer](#) episode (and more) below!

https://kisstheground.com/storytelling-program/5-with-a-farmer-gallery/?utm_campaign=8068687-Regen%20Resources&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqzt-8Q8dRU8vAmxB90714uFXtioxdC9I1kQL9VwGDwSWMVgZzXmCLRdwmGgfXCk-w5TMyL2sHVPX_2Mu5ouRPIIWU44fJvxQ&hsmi=100223529809&utm_content=403631563&utm_source=hs_email#oakdalemn

KISS
- the -
GROUND

FOR REGENERATION®

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

Ginny Kerr—VP Programs

Pat Lussier—VP Communication

Maureen Gebelein—Treasurer

Kathy Dixon—Open

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

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

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

