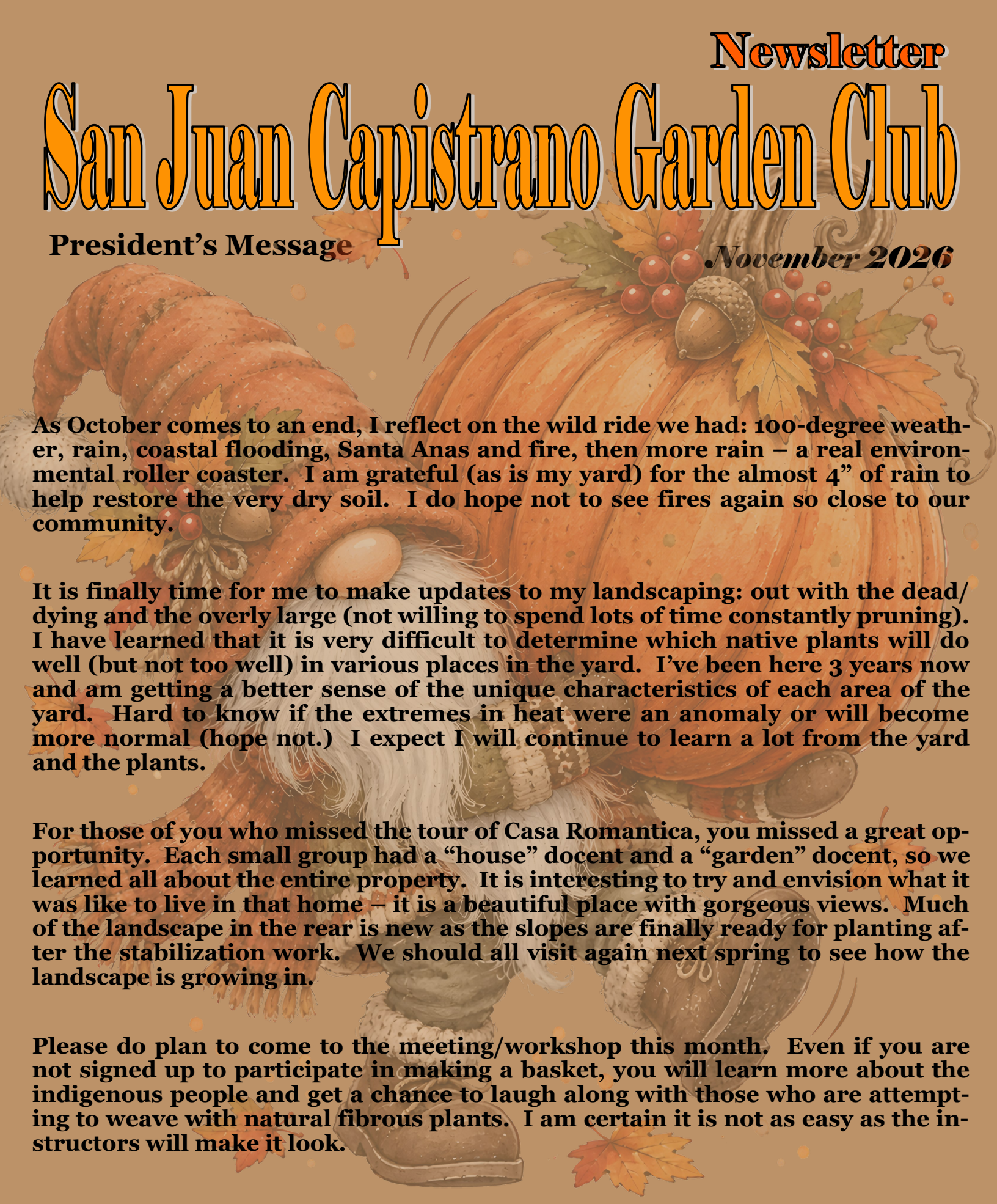
Newsletter

San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

President's Message

November 2026



As October comes to an end, I reflect on the wild ride we had: 100-degree weather, rain, coastal flooding, Santa Anas and fire, then more rain – a real environmental roller coaster. I am grateful (as is my yard) for the almost 4" of rain to help restore the very dry soil. I do hope not to see fires again so close to our community.

It is finally time for me to make updates to my landscaping: out with the dead/dying and the overly large (not willing to spend lots of time constantly pruning). I have learned that it is very difficult to determine which native plants will do well (but not too well) in various places in the yard. I've been here 3 years now and am getting a better sense of the unique characteristics of each area of the yard. Hard to know if the extremes in heat were an anomaly or will become more normal (hope not.) I expect I will continue to learn a lot from the yard and the plants.

For those of you who missed the tour of Casa Romantica, you missed a great opportunity. Each small group had a "house" docent and a "garden" docent, so we learned all about the entire property. It is interesting to try and envision what it was like to live in that home – it is a beautiful place with gorgeous views. Much of the landscape in the rear is new as the slopes are finally ready for planting after the stabilization work. We should all visit again next spring to see how the landscape is growing in.

Please do plan to come to the meeting/workshop this month. Even if you are not signed up to participate in making a basket, you will learn more about the indigenous people and get a chance to laugh along with those who are attempting to weave with natural fibrous plants. I am certain it is not as easy as the instructors will make it look.

Upcoming Events

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

January 18—10 am

Meeting and Speaker: Amelia Herndon-Steen

Santa Margarita Water District—*Gardens With Style*

February—10 am

Meeting and Speaker: OC Master Gardener—*The Beauty of Citrus*

March 15—Time TBA

Field Trip: Cal Pacific Orchid Farm, Encinitas



Nifty Reminder

When you turn your clocks back, take a minute to adjust your outdoor irrigation timer too.

Cooler temperatures and shorter days mean landscapes need less water, and lawns need 70 percent less water.

Use this weekly watering guideto help adjust your timer:

- **Lawns: 13–22 minutes (Spray)**
- **Plants: 8–14 minutes (Spray)**
- **Drip irrigation: 22–35 minutes**

Thanks to Donna Pennington

Membership News



Our club calendar year is now in full swing with our first meeting and first field trip behind us. and the November Craft meeting is fast approaching in a couple weeks. **These activities do not just happen -** they are planned by committees of our members. Our club has a list of many different committees that you all can sign up for and it is a great way to meet other members in a small group planning our FUNdraisers , social events, Garden Stoll or attend the OC District meeting, work on civic projects or garden education projects. If you have not tried it, now is the time.

The club's 2026-2027 Committee Signup form will be available starting at the November meeting. Each member is expected to be in one or more committees for these event to continue. If you have any questions, contact me or one of the board members.

WE NEED YOU.

Lou Heimann
Membership Chairman



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.

<u>November 16, 10am</u>

<u>PLEASE</u>

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.



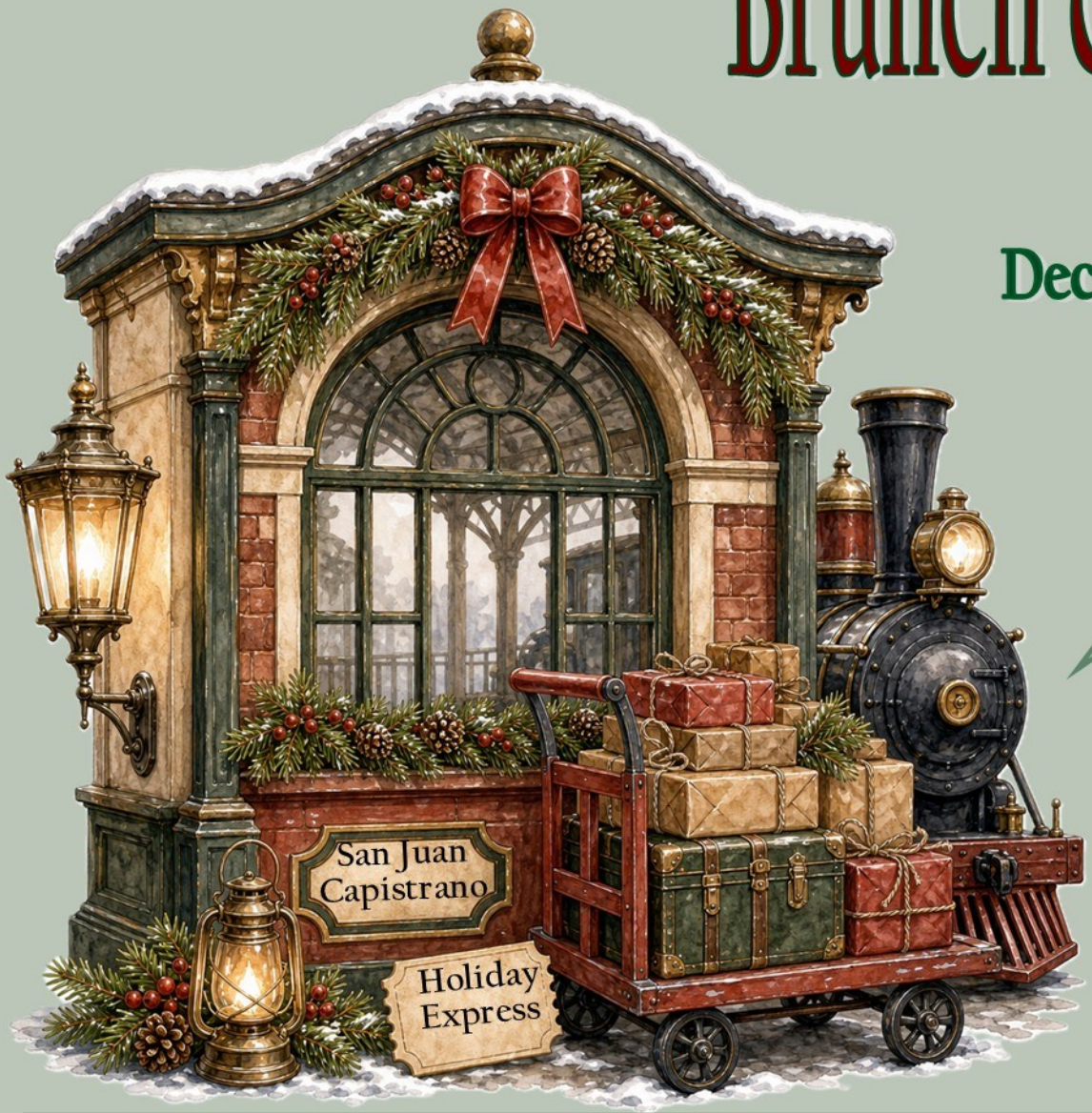
San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

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



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

Great Prizes!

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 moms 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

Stem Senders

Our October craft activity and visit was a delight. Wearing Halloween costumes, we visited Atria residents, who welcomed us with enthusiasm and appreciation. We also spent time with many new residents. Thank you to all those who participated. Looking forward to November and decorating our pumpkins. See you then.

Kathy







Thanks to Kathy Rowley & Kathy Dixon for all these great pics

More Stem Senders













October Field Trip





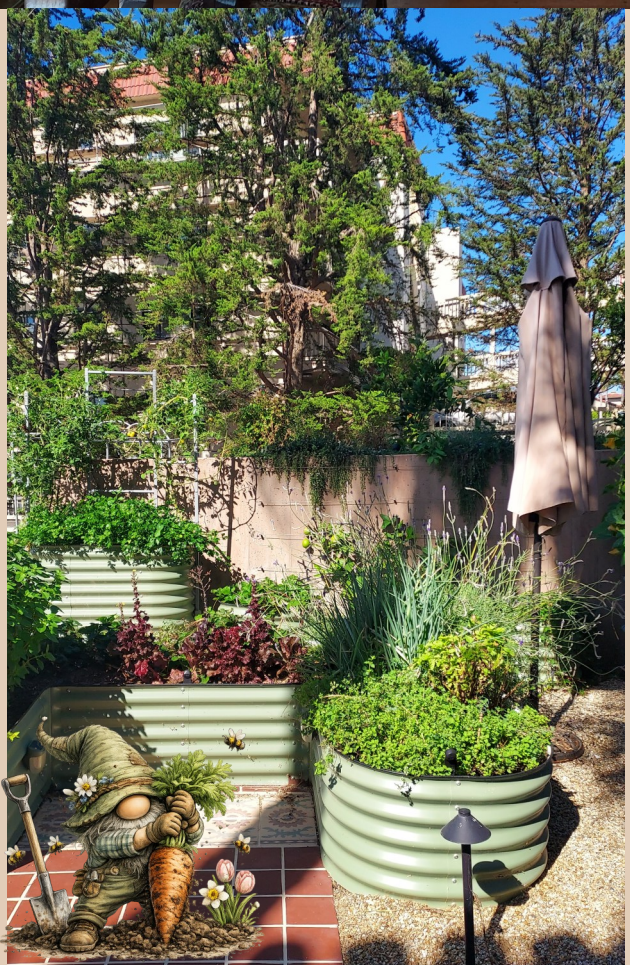


A picture-perfect day at Casa Romantica

Thanks to Donna Pennington & Pat Lussier for these great pics







Edible Garden



More October Field Trip



Ceilings







Much of the tile in the entry and walk-ways is original to the house—including the Catalina tiles in the bathroom with a walk-in shower (above right) Very progressive for the time.





Docent Linda

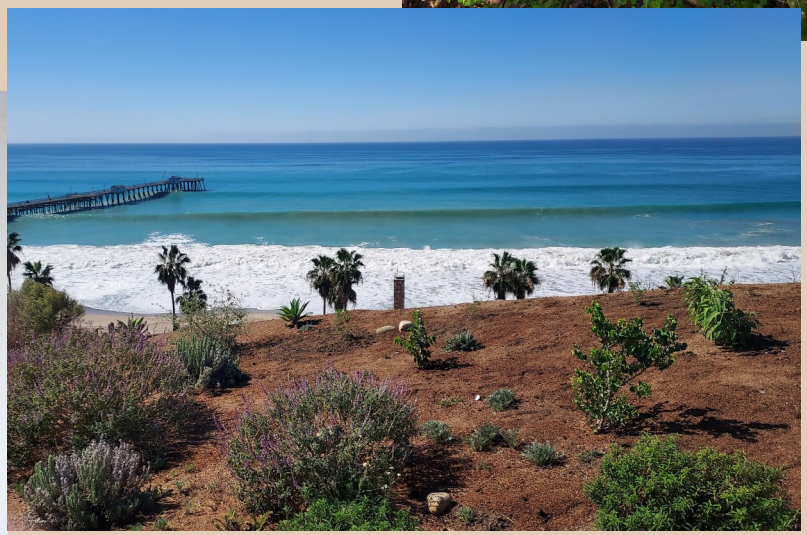




And Even More October Field Trip













Gardening Happenings

San Clemente Garden Club
is thinking of incorporating San Juan Capistrano gardens in their annual Garden Tour on
Saturday, May 15, 2026
If you are interested in participating
contact: Mary Mohr: go4mohr@cox.net





Make it Merry: Wreath Making Workshop Create your own natural holiday wreath made from local toyon berries, eucalyptus leaves and bird-friendly seeds. Size of wreath will vary due to greenery from 8" to 12". Meet under the Grape Arbor, located near the restrooms, for the workshop. Location: Los Rios Park, 31790 Paseo Adelanto Hosted By: Goin Native Days Dates Times Fee 9:00-10:30 AM $20

Sign up in Advance at SJC Community Services

949-493-5911

Sanjuancapistrano.gov/recreation

This is one in a series of workshops sponsored by Goin Native and the City. Shelly & I went to the Herb Basket Workshop last week.



Gardening Fun, Questions & Help



Did You Know?

Master Gardener, Kris Bonner, co-ordinates monthly garden talks at the Norman Murray Center in Mission Viejo.

To get on the email list, contact Kris: kbonner52@gmail.com

For local fall Gardening Events

check out this link:

orange county california fall garden events https://share.google/9Ac4q93NgCNDwQxpY

Thanks to Donna Pennington

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

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 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

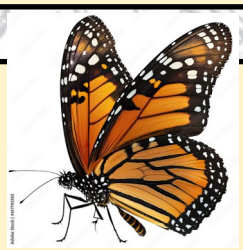
https://www.cnps.org/
All about CA native plants

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 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

