



The Garden Trellis



Newsletter for the SAN CLEMENTE GARDEN CLUB
Member of California Garden Clubs, Inc., Orange County District
Member of National Garden Clubs, Pacific Region

April 2024

Vol. LV No. 7

"SEEDS FOR GROWTH" President's Message

San Clemente Garden Club

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Organized 1951

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Deadline for Articles

15th of each month



This is such a wonderful time of year. Springtime inspires me to get outside and clean up my garden. I am especially excited to start my tomatoes. Homegrown tomatoes have so much more flavor than store-bought tomatoes. I am also going to plant some of the herbs that our speaker in March, Florence LeFranc, suggested. It seems like the turmeric and ginger would grow great under a pine tree I have in my front yard. I am thinking I will plant Feverfew. Who knew that this small, daisy-like flower could be used for a variety of health conditions? Recently I went to Santa Barbara on a camping trip with my husband. When we were doing Zoom meetings, we had a speaker Cory Welles from Lotusland. I was able to take a tour of Lotusland while we were there. This botanic garden was incredible. I highly recommend this tour if you are ever in Santa Barbara. The docents made the tour more interesting and provided us with a variety of information we would not have learned on our own. You will not be disappointed.

GardenFest 2024 Plant Sale/Flea Market

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 8 am - 2 pm

Setup - Friday, April 12, 2024, 8 am - 1 pm

San Clemente Garden Tour

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 10 am - 4 pm

Tour proceeds support scholarships, school gardens, civic beautification and conservation organizations.

April 3, 2024

Francene Kaplan

Composting: It's a Pile of Fun!



Attendees of this month's meeting will learn the value of composting by Francene Kaplan, the "Priestess of Rot." Dr. Kaplan has been trained and certified as a Master Composter and has been "recycling nature's way" for over four decades. You will find out there are lots of "Dos," a few "Don'ts," and many "Maybes" regarding composting. While there is a general method, each family is different

and contributes uniquely to the compost pile. Any household can compost its green and brown waste to eventually yield organic matter that enriches soil. The basic setup will be presented along with suggestions for those that are experienced in composting, and all are welcome to contribute to the discussion. In this talk Francene will help you navigate a path to make your compost bin a thriving ecosystem.

GardenFest 2024 Donna Vidrine

Together we will celebrate a successful and fun GardenFest 2024, **April 13**. Doors open at 8 am. Invite a neighbor and/or bring a friend.

Donations of plants and Flea Market items can be brought to the Community Center on Friday, April 12 (8 am to 1 pm). If you need someone to pick up your items, please call or text to schedule a pickup the week of GardenFest, starting April 8.

The Funky Garden Contest is open to everyone and judged by the community patrons attending our event. Bring your creative and fun entries on Friday, April 12, or no later than 8 am on GardenFest day, Saturday, April 13.

Thank you to all our Volunteers! Continue to let me know your preferences as to times for working (7:30 am to 11 am or 11 am to 2:30 pm) and preferred duties. Drivers are needed to pick up individual items for the Plant Sale and Flea Market. If you are available for any of these tasks, please text **949-202-7210** or email **rookqs@cox.net**.

Installation Luncheon Donations

Deborah Spang

Last fall, SCGC members came through with an assortment of donations ranging from gift cards and baskets to jewelry, beverages, and everything in-between. When the call went out requesting donations for the 2023 Holiday Luncheon, they were incorporated into the amazing Opportunity Prizes that were won at the luncheon. We would once again like to reach out to our SCGC members. This is a good opportunity to re-gift something that just doesn't work for you. Please contact **Paula Laskelle** (contact information in the Membership Yearbook) to let her know you have a potential donation. Get reservations at \$42 each online at **sanclementegardenclub.com**, or buy your ticket at our March meeting. Be sure and act soon!

BYOC -- Bring Your Own Cup

The Eco Warriors

Remember to bring your own reusable beverage container to our meetings and give our Earth a break!

Be sure to pick up a playing card to be entered into the Eco Warriors raffle for a fun prize. Use our reusable dishes, utensils, and napkins too. Let's not trash the Earth while enjoying our treats.

Succulent Clippings Needed

Suzi Klickstein

This is a request for **succulent clippings** to be used at the children's activity at the upcoming Garden Fest. We are using jelly jars for planting, so we need small succulent cuttings, with no more than a two or three inch stem. If you are able to contribute, please bring your clippings to the April 3 meeting and give them to either **Suzi Klickstein** or **Barbara McLaughlin**. Thank you for your help.

Garden Tour, 2024 Rosa Kinoshita

With all the rain this year, it's time to enjoy our wonderful Garden Tour on May 18, 2024. It's a great way to see the beautiful gardens in bloom. Our Garden Tour is the biggest fundraiser for scholarships, school gardens, community gardens, garden therapy, and the many donations our club makes. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and family to this great event!

SCGC Garden Tour docent reminders

KK Ciruli

Hello, Garden Tour docents! Complete docent information and instructions will be coming to you closer to the date of the tour, May 18, but I wanted to remind you of a couple of important pieces of information in advance.

Our **Docent Pre-Tour** is scheduled for **May 7 at 10 am**. We will visit each garden on the tour, learn about some of the key features of each garden, and have a chance to meet the homeowner. We will meet at the first house and go from there – carpooling is encouraged! Allowing 30 minutes for each garden and travel time, we should be able to wrap up around 12:30 pm.

As you know, the discounted price for docents tickets is \$20. You can buy your ticket at the April 3 or May 1 regular monthly Garden Club meetings, using check, cash or credit card. Just make sure you have purchased your ticket by May 7. Pre-tour purchase is required to participate.

Thanks, everyone and see you soon!

Bragger's Corner

Can you guess what this might be?
(Answer in next issue)



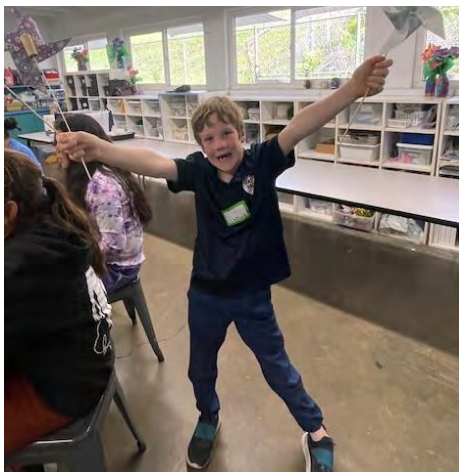
Civic Beautification Kieu Doan

We had a productive day at **Park Semper Fi on Wednesday, March 13**. **Amanda Quintanilla, Bette Langford, DeAnne Hanley, Evelyn Castellana, Kieu Doan, Robin Nelson, and Weej Baggley** came and worked in our beautiful community garden. We pulled lots of weeds by the entrance and by the flagpole, where the weeds pretty much choked off the California Brittlebushes and the Firestick bushes. We trimmed back the Honey Cape Honeysuckle, Coyote, Lemonade Berry, and Lantana bushes. We were glad the soil was still nice and soft from all the rain. It made our job a little easier. We also enjoyed the camaraderie of our hardworking and dedicated fellow gardeners while getting some fresh air and sunshine. On Monday, March 11, and Tuesday, March 12, we also got some extra help from **Sandy Cushman** who deadheaded the blooms of the beautiful Marguerite Daisy bushes after her morning walk. Come join us at **8:30 am on Wednesday, April 10**, at Park Semper Fi and **Wednesday, April 17**, at Casa Romantica. Our community gardens need you!

Garden Therapy Suzi Klickstein

On the second Monday in March, **Kieu Doan, Barbara McLaughlin, Dolly Latteier and Suzi Klickstein** met at the local Boys & Girls Club. As a tip of the hat to the windy month of March, the volunteers assisted the enthusiastic students in making pinwheels. Using origami paper, a used wine cork, two beads, a wooden skewer, and a pin, each student crafted three colorful pinwheels. The functioning pinwheels required dexterity and a little finesse which the students performed beautifully. Everyone enjoyed their time and they look forward to next month's Garden Therapy activity.

If you would like to join us, the Boys & Girls Club requires a background check. You can contact Suzi Klickstein at **949-922-3734** or **Suziklick@gmail.com**, and she will mail you the required forms.





Sunflowers & Seashells

Deborah and Ron Spang

Let's say goodbye to rainy, chilly days and hello to warm sunny days filled with sunflowers and seashells.

Join us for a delicious lunch in a beautiful brand-new outdoor venue (not the large indoor dining room) at San Juan Hills Golf Club.

Of course we will have fabulous opportunity prizes for you to win.

This is a great chance to connect with fellow members and catch up with old friends.

It's time to thank our outgoing board for all their hard work and devotion and welcome our new board members.

If you haven't gotten your tickets, now is the time. Tickets are available on our website, sanclementegardenclub.com, or at our monthly meetings.

Sunflowers & Seashells

June 5, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

San Juan Hills Golf Club

32120 San Juan Creek Road

San Juan Capistrano



Arbor Day 2024 Patricia Holloway

Trees Please! Our Garden Club will join with the City of San Clemente to celebrate Arbor Day 2024. This year's tree planting ceremony will be held on **Saturday, April 27**, at **Jim Johnson Memorial Park** next to Shorecliffs Middle School. The city wants to plant some California native trees to provide additional shade at the park. We will be joined by Sunrise Rotary, San Clemente Rotary, and Citizens' Climate Education, who will also provide donations and volunteers for the event. City landscape crews will purchase the trees and do the major digging (thank goodness!). Our trusty volunteers will backfill the holes with soil, add fertilizer and water, so bring your gloves, hats and shovels if you want to get your hands dirty. We also need one or two people to set up a table with membership and school garden information. Please contact me if you'd like to help at pat13holloway@gmail.com or 949-378-7890.

Saturday, April 27, 9 am to 12 pm

Jim Johnson Memorial Park

450 W. Avenida Vista Hermosa, SC

(Use entrance off Avenida Vista Hermosa just west of freeway)



Our dear friend Betsy Dunn was a big supporter of Arbor Day.

April 8 Solar Eclipse



Eco Warriors Weej Baggaley

We had a nice turnout on a chilly morning, February 26. Thanks to our devoted volunteers the San Clemente beaches now have 21 fewer cigarette butts (so who still smokes?), and a lot less Styrofoam. Nothing beats fresh air and helping Mother Earth, so come join us the **final Monday of every month, 8:30 am at the pier.**



Plumeria Seed Pods Susan Pierce

Many times one takes on the task of cleaning out the house or garage with the intention to follow through later. That is just the case with me. Last year I noticed something strange growing on two of my flowering plumeria plants. After photographing the unusual growth and searching for what it could possibly be, I found that there were blossoms that had been pollinated probably by a hummingbird. These were plumeria seed pods growing. I continued watching them for a few months. In August I wrapped the pods to prevent the seeds from flying away when the pods opened. Once the pods were showing signs they are ready to disperse the seeds, I set them aside in the garage, and saved the seeds when the pods cracked open. I intended to plant them right away, but that didn't happen.

Much to my surprise, I saw three pods on one plant last week and remembered I hadn't planted the seeds I found last year. Doing a bit of online research, I learned that the seeds should remain viable for one to two years, so now I need to get busy and plant a few. Who knows? Maybe one or more will actually germinate into a tiny seedling just in time for the next garden club meeting. It takes about Three to five years before a seedling could bloom and branch.



Arbor Day 2024 (con't) Patricia Holloway

In 2023, I compiled a history of trees in San Clemente for the Historical Society's "Time Capsule" to be opened in 2073, 50-years from now. I accepted this fun challenge, and included photos I've taken over the years of unique and beautiful trees in town. Each month I will share a few stories from the time of our city's founding in the 1920's through Arbor Day 2023.

1927 Frank Ulrich: "In 1927, I was hired by Ole Hanson to landscape the town. I had a helper, and we did everything – trees, shrubs, and flowers. Sprinklers hadn't been invented yet, so we watered it all with a hose."

1927 Ole Hanson's passion for gardens played a significant role in the selection of the official tree of the City of San Clemente. He planted a large Coral Tree at the entrance to Casa Romantica, imported from Africa at his request. After propagating the tree throughout the city, its colorful boughs are now an important part of local landscapes.



Coral Trees have bright red tubular flowers when in bloom. Photo taken May 27, 2013

Note: The beautiful Coral Tree (Erithryna caffra) in this photo was removed in 2018 by Rod's Tree Service and, fortunately, was replaced the next day with a new one. When a mature tree like this must be taken out due to disease or decay, it's very important to plant a new tree in its place. It will take several decades for the new tree to reach a similar size.

What is April named for?

The English word April comes from the Latin *Aprilis*, the name given to the month by the ancient Romans. Some Roman authors thought that *Aprilis* was related to the Latin verb "aperire" meaning "to open," because April "opened" the buds of leaves and flowers.

Support our 2023 - 2024 Club Sponsors



San Clemente Garden Club 2023-2024 SPONSORS & DONORS



Rose Sponsors \$500

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Daisy Sponsors \$250

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"Gardeners make the world a better place"

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We love the San Clemente Garden Club!

Glen's Landscape & Lighting
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949.492.6492 glenslandscape.com

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32413 San Juan Creek Rd., SJC
949.240.2107 plantdepot.com

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23782 Bridger Rd., Lake Forest
949.837.3040 greenthumb.com

Rod's Tree Service (\$300)
P.O. Box 3897, San Clemente
949.492.0657 rodstreesservices@yahoo.com

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114 W. Paseo de Cristobal, San Clemente
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Serrano Creek Soil Amendments
25200 Trabuco Rd., Lake Forest
949.768.1008 serranocreeksoils.com

***The Marine Monument at Park Semper Fi**
Heritage San Clemente Foundation
P.O. Box 456, SC 92674, marinemonument.com

Shore Gardens Nursery
201 South Ola Vista, San Clemente
949.492.3526 shoregardensnursery.com

Asterisk (*) indicates San Clemente Garden Club Member

Donors

Farmers & Merchants Bank, SC • Costco, SJC • Trader Joe's, SC
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Armstrong Garden Center, LN • Bemus Landscape, SC • Laguna Nursery, LB

We are very Grateful to our Sponsors & Donors!
PLEASE BRING THEM YOUR BUSINESS

Orange County District, State, and National News/Events

Orange County District
Meeting, June 10, 2024
11 am Sherman Gardens
California Garden Clubs
Convention, May 18-22, 2024
Sacramento, CA

Pacific Region
Convention, Anchorage, AK
August 20-23, 2024

National Garden Clubs
Convention, Westminster, CO
June 2-5, 2024

Defining Organic Gardening

Virginia Churchill

An article by P. Allen Smith (<https://pallensmith.com/gardendesigner/>)

Like the word natural, the word organic gets tossed around a lot. But what does it mean to be organic in the garden?

A starting definition is gardening without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. But organic gardening really means a holistic emphasis on a healthy ecosystem.

Organic gardens cultivate an ecosystem that sustains the life of plants, soil microbes, and helpful insects. Instead of delving into a never-ending cycle of shocking the system with fertilizer and then pesticides, organic gardeners understand that healthy plants are strong and much more disease-resistant. The focus reaches beyond just making plants grow in the short term; rather it realizes that a vigorous garden is a side effect of a healthy ecosystem.

The soil is the base of a healthy garden and dealing with soil properly can prevent many issues. So, organic gardeners make sure the foundation of the garden is correct. They add organic fertilizer and compost to the soil to ensure it's able to retain water and provide adequate nutrients to plants. In summary, organic garden soil contains the right trace elements, low-release organic fertilizers, proper pH, is aerated and contains plenty of compost.

Now, pest control is something all gardeners encounter. Yet, organic gardeners use techniques to keep pest damage below a certain threshold. Rather than inciting a mass killing of all non-plant life by drenching the garden with chemicals, they find a simple solution for the pest at hand. For example, cabbage worms can be plucked off leaves and killed, and aphids can be sprayed off the plants with a hose. These methods require attentiveness and ensure that small issues don't turn into big issues.

Natural pesticides, found in a garden center or made at home, can be applied to plants too. They tend to break down much more quickly than synthetic mixes, so gardeners must be conscientious about reapplication.

Other good gardening practices include planting native or pest and disease-resistant varieties, providing plants adequate spacing and matching the plant to the right site, one suited for its light and moisture needs. Basic good gardening practices will reduce chances of disease as plants are set up from the start for success.

With good gardening practices, going organic isn't difficult or complicated. It calls for attentiveness, simple solutions as problems arise and an appreciation for a healthy ecosystem. Keep these principles in mind and watch your organic garden flourish!

FREE ADMISSION



San Clemente Garden Club

in partnership with

The City of San Clemente Parks & Recreation

SAVE THE DATE!!
Garden Tour May 18

Garden Fest

Saturday - April 13, 2024

8 am - 2 pm

San Clemente Community Center

HUGE PLANT SALE

GARDEN FLEA MARKET

Master Gardener Tool Sharpening

Exhibits • Demonstrations

City Water Conservation Info.

Local Art • Funky Container Contest

Kids Gardening Activities

sanclementegardenclub.com

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
San Clemente Garden Club

Sunflowers and Seashells
Spring Social & Installation Luncheon

JUNE 5, 2024

11:30 A.M. SOCIAL - 12:00 P.M. LUNCHEON

SAN JUAN HILLS GOLF CLUB
32120 SAN JUAN CREEK ROAD
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA 92675

RSVP no later than May 24th - No Exceptions

Pay on-line at sanclementegardenclub.com or at the monthly general meeting.

If paying by mail, mail this form and your check, made payable to San Clemente Garden Club, to:
Mike Gould, 1212 Avenida Buena Suerte, San Clemente, CA 92672-2348

NAME: _____

Entree Selections - Check One | Cost Per Person \$42

_____ **Cobb Salad | gluten free**

Chopped lettuce, grilled chicken, bacon, egg, tomato, avocado, and blue cheese crumbles, served with garlic ranch & vinaigrette dressing on the side. Served with rolls & herb butter and dessert.

_____ **Roast Beef Sandwich |**

Deli roll filled with roast beef, sweet & spicy bacon, aged cheddar, spinach, tomato, cucumber & garlic aioli. Served with house potato chips, rolls & herb butter and dessert.

_____ **Vegetarian Salad | gluten free**

Chopped salad with various toppings, served with garlic ranch & vinaigrette dressing on the side. Served with rolls & herb butter and dessert.

Bar & Beverage | No-Host Cash Bar

All entrees include coffee, tea and unlimited soft drinks.





CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

ARBOR DAY

TREE PLANTING



SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024
9 AM - 12PM

JIM JOHNSON MEMORIAL PARK

450 W. AVENIDA VISTA HERMOSA, SAN CLEMENTE, 92672

PLEASE JOIN THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE IN PLANTING 15-20 TREES THAT ARE INDIGENOUS TO THIS REGION AT JIM JOHNSON SPORTS PARK.

ALL NECESSARY TOOLS, GLOVES, AND WATER WILL BE PROVIDED. COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR URBAN FOREST!





San Clemente Garden Club Membership Form 2024-2025

Dues: \$25 _____ Family \$40 _____

(Members joining on or after February 1, 2024 pay half)

Make checks payable : San Clemente Garden Club

Send Application and Payment to: San Clemente Garden Club
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 3891
San Clemente, CA 92674

If you prefer to pay online, use our website at sanclementegardenclub.com

(Please note that your yearbook/name badge/nursery discount card can only be picked up at our general meetings, starting September 2023.)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Phone Number (preferably cell#) _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____

For Family Memberships:

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Phone Number (preferably cell#) _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____

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<http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/newsletter>



P.O. Box 3891
San Clemente, CA 92674-3891

San Clemente Garden Club Activities
April 2024

April 3	Board Meeting	10 am
April 3	Meeting and Program	1 pm
	Nominating Committee Report	
April 8	Garden Therapy-Easter craft	12:45 pm
April 10	Civic Beautification	
	Park Semper Fi	8:30 am
April 12	GardenFest Set-Up	9 am - 2 pm
April 13	GardenFest	8 am - 2 pm
April 17	Civic Beautification	
	Casa Romantica Gardens	8:30 am
April 27	Arbor Day Festivities	8 am - 2 pm