

# August 2024 Newsletter

San Juan Capistrano  
Garden Club



## 2023/2025 Board of Directors

Co-Presidents  
Mary Crawford and  
Kathy Dixon

Program Chair  
Lynn Rollison

Membership Chairman  
Lou Heimann

Treasurer  
Maureen Gebelein

Secretary  
Open



## *Join Us*

### Mardi Gras

Monday, August 18, 2024  
6PM

#### Where:

San Juan Hills Golf Club, 32120  
San Juan Creek Rd,  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

#### In this newsletter:

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Senders

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Treasures &  
Coming Soon

Gold Spotted Oak  
Borer

Bees



## Upcoming Events

August 18: Mardi Gras.

September 16: What's Bug'n My Garden?

October 21: Lighthouse Community Garden

November 18: Craft Project

For more Event info: go to our website and click *EVENTS*.

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## Co-President's Message

July is the beginning of our "new year" with San Juan Capistrano Garden Club. We are looking forward to sharing many of our traditions with each other while also introducing new ideas. Please let a board member know of any great ideas you may have!

In the next week, you will be receiving an email regarding signing up for committees for the next year. (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) We are asking each of you to choose the committee that most appeals to you and sign up for it! This is the best way to meet other members and bring new ideas and energies to our club.

The Board of Directors has been working with members on new programs and systems for our club. If you remember, we voted in the by-law changes to add two advisory (non-voting) members to the board. We are looking for members who are able to commit to 11 board meetings (the second Monday of the month at 10 am) that lasts approximately one hour. Are you interested in getting your "feet wet" with greater participation with the club? Do you have a couple of really good ideas for the club that you would like to see implemented? Honestly, you may just want to test us out to see if it is true when we say we all work together as a team and support each other. Whatever your motivation, please contact Mary Crawford so we can chat about this!

This month we will have a wonderful gathering at our Mardi Gras! We're looking forward to putting on our celebratory clothes – but for sure wearing comfortable shoes in which to dance the night away!

Lastly, as you clean up your garden in the next month, please be sure to save the seeds before throwing away the plants! We can use your sweet pea seeds not only in our community beautification, but perhaps work with our elementary school gardens to sow the seeds. And as always, your seeds are welcome at our monthly meetings to share with others!

Happy gardening! Stay cool!

Mary and Kathy

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## Saddleback College Scholarships

Linda Cessna, a recipient of one our Saddleback College scholarships, has sent us a lovely thank you that you will find in the newsletter. We join her in thanking our members to help educate and lift a learner!

*Linda Cessna*

*June 22, 2024*

*Dear San Juan Capistrano Garden Club  
Roy Morrissey Scholarship Donor,*

*Thank you for your scholarship award. This will help very much toward being able to continue taking classes at Saddleback College.*

*I am in the Sustainable Horticulture Landscape Design program at Saddleback. My goal is to design and implement garden projects for community gardens and individuals and to help people find wellness through access to gardens. I hope to eventually complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture through Oregon State University.*

*Your scholarship award is very much appreciated.*

*Sincerely,  
Linda Cessna*

# August Fundraising Event

Janet Sperber and Sharon Dunn

We are bringing a fun and festive Mardi Gras to you on Monday, August 19th where you will enjoy dinner, dancing and a chance to win one or more of our terrific opportunity drawings under the awning on the new Sunset Patio at the golf club. Win gift cards to Bloom, Tavern at the Mission, Ellies, Sun Dried Tomato, L'Hirondelle or Tannins to name just a few of our donations from local business owners.

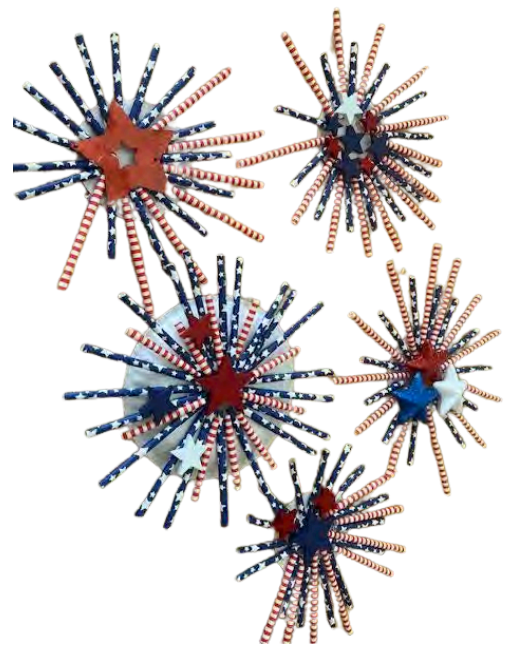
You could be playing golf at SJCGC or tapping your feet at the Coach House to live music with your concert tickets. We have never had so many generous donations for you to pick and choose from. Our hard-working committee has secured the best that our area has to offer, and we want to see you there enjoying all that the evening has to offer. Our deadline to purchase tickets is August 1st, so it's time to send your payment and secure your spot. Like the Nike logo says, "Just Do It" and join us for a memorable Mardi Gras in beautiful San Juan Capistrano. Come with cash in hand to purchase your opportunity drawing tickets. We want to see you there!

*Address for event at bottom of this page.*



# Sweet Stem Senders

Delivering 4th of July Spirit to residents at Atria. We enjoyed visiting with the residents as much as they did having us there!



# Trash to Treasures was a Success!

It was another fun Trash to Treasures this month! Members participated in bringing items to sell and bidding on wanted additions for their home. Anything not purchased were taken directly as donations to thrift stores.

Thank you to Lynn Rollison and her team for organizing donations and keeping the auction moving along. A thank you is also extended to Maureen Gebelein and her team for tracking, collecting, and counting the money. We made enough money to fund one of our scholarships at Saddleback Community College! Thank you

Check out Maureen’s table setting using her acquired elephant tea pot as a container for her sweet peas in the beautiful tablescape she created. Her statuette featuring a rooster can be found nestled in her garden.

Please forward your own pictures of your “new treasures” to Editor Jenell to be featured in the September newsletter.



## Coming Soon

To Your Garden Club—September 16



### Mary’s Garden





## An Opportunity for Our Club

For many years, we have supported the Penny Pines program of the California Garden Club (GGCI) with our donation going to restoration in Cleveland National Forest. Over the past year, there have been a few glitches having our donation checks cashed in a timely manner. The California Garden Club has reached out to clubs to assure them that there has been communication between the Forest Service and CGCI to rectify this situation.

At the same time, we have been made aware of the devastation of our local oak trees due an infestation of the Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB). We are attaching an article regarding this problem. Please take a few minutes to read this article and introduce yourself to this area of need. The Board of Directors believe that this is a cause that is important, timely, and is our local area. We will be presenting to membership the idea of using our Penny Pines monies to address this beetle infestation and the death of our local oaks



SIZE



Oaks, the majestic trees found throughout Southern California coasts and hillsides, are known to be durable, strong and enduring. Oak is used for furniture, barrels for wine and liqueurs, and professional drums. It was the wood of choice to build the strongest and fastest pirate ships! Some oaks are estimated to be 1,500 years: those in our area are anywhere from 150 – 400 years old.

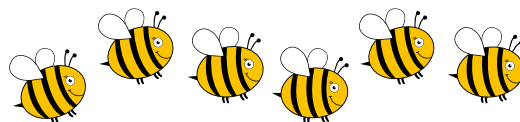
Oaks have been credited to be the backbone on the earth: their strong roots deeply penetrate the earth and anchors them firmly into place. Their tall trucks branch into a canopy of leaves, providing shelter, shade, and protection to those beneath it.

For centuries, acorn has been a source of protein for nearby inhabitants. Additionally, oak trees provide food and shelter for thousands of insects, birds and animals. Historically, our Southern California hillsides had been covered with the majestic stature of the oaks. Clearing of the trees has occurred in order to create greater areas for cattle and the needs of urbanization. Fires are another cause of losing oaks. As a result of these threats, in California, our oaks have a protected status. An oak tree cannot be removed from private property unless permitted. These permits are issued by cities and counties.

We honor the importance of the oak to our culture in California and its role in the environment, yet the threat continues. Our precious oaks are being taken down by a bullet shaped beetle that is about .75 inches long. The Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) can be found in the Coast Live Oak, the Canyon Live Oak, and the California Black Oak. The GSOB traveled from Arizona to San Diego and has made its way north to Orange County by being transported in firewood. “Buy It Where You Burn It” is the important mantra for citizens to heed!

Earthrootsfieldschools.org is the steward of 39-acre property in Big Oak Canyon in Silverado Canyon and is facing the same challenge as the Cleveland National Forest to control this infestation of GSOB. Because the mortality rate of infected oak grove in this area is 60 – 90 %, this nonprofit organization needs to extend their emergency fund immediately and leverage volunteers to take action. Voluntary opportunities can be found on earthrootsfieldschools.org.

Our readers are encouraged to find out more about the GSOB and our oaks at <https://www.fs.usda.gov>



## Don't Forget the Bees

As we know, bees find water from many places; garden pots, saucers, flowers, leaves, other sources, and carry it back to their hives. Bees find water by scent so the slimier the pots or saucers are the more they flock to it. Water found in pools is detrimental to bees.

