

THE DIRT

Long Beach Community Garden Association



HEALTHY & FRESH

FROZEN ORANGE JUICE ANYONE?

THE BEST OF GARDENING

Brrrr. Some really frosty mornings and frozen pipes of late. Just wait, we will soon be complaining about the heat!

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I usually use this space for some fun and light heartedness, unfortunately this month it will sadly not be the same. We have had a series of break ins and thefts at the garden over the past few weeks.

We have had two recorded break ins where thieves have cut the chain link fence to gain entry into the garden. Once in, they proceeded to break in to our storage containers. Although relatively unimportant items were taken, it still creates uninvited stress and anger to our members. These incidents have been reported to the police. Their thoughts are people are scoping out the garden during the day, then breaking in at night. If you see something or someone suspicious around the garden, please report it immediately to the park rangers.

Next, how would you, the membership, feel about surveillance cameras in the garden? I would love to hear you comments.

Lastly, this is an incident that is a bit more troubling. Some gardeners have been spotted going into the orchard and other members plots and removing fruit and vegetables. Please, please be advised, that if anyone is caught doing this you will not only be expelled from the garden but you will be reported to the Long Beach Police. It is a crime!

I can be reached at the following email:

garden@pagemartin.net



FEBRUARY 2013 ISSUE

Upcoming Dates

February 2nd, 2013



Work Party

The monthly work party will be held from 7:30 - 9:30 am on Saturday February 2, 2013.

February Board Meeting

The monthly Garden Board Meeting will be held after the Work Party, on February 2nd. The meeting starts at 10:00am at the barn in the garden. All are invited to attend!

Upcoming

February 7 & 24, 2013

Plot Inspection Walks



March 1, 2013

Just a friendly reminder that tomatoes, eggplant and peppers can be planted in your gardens starting March 1.

Bulletin Board

Friendly Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that only Work Party attendees are allowed in the garden during a work party. This is so we can track your community service hours accurately and fairly.

Food Bank

Time to harvest and get ready for Spring planting. Many hands needed at the work party.

Joanne's Hints - The Lazy Days of Winter

Yes, we are fortunate to be able to grow vegetables year round. The Winter season affords us a chance to get some rest from the intensive work needed during the Spring and Summer season, when we grow warm season vegetables. Cold nights and some cold days have been intense this month and hopefully that will end soon.



Just think, in exactly seven weeks, we all will be allowed to plant tomatoes, peppers and egg plant. That would be March 1st. Since March 17th is the USUAL last frost date, planting before March 17th is much too risky unless you want to take the chance of frost killing your plants. If you still want to plant early, then protect your young plants from frost by using some sort of cover.



Some ROW COVER protects down to 28 degrees. But the winter weight. Walls of Water provide absolute protection. Nothing will freeze in them. You will have to order both of these products.

Next Month - Getting Ready For Tomatoes

Board Meeting Agenda

This is the agenda for the upcoming February 2, 2013 Board Meeting. All are welcome to attend! It will be held at 10:00 am at the large barn in the garden.

- Call Meeting To Order
- Approval of Nov. Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- Report of President
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of 1st Vice President
- Report of 2nd Vice President
- Old Business
 - Website Update
 - ADA Gardens
 - Plot Fencing Recommendations
- New Business
 - Cleaning Plots (outside Work Parties)
 - Critter Control
 - Membership Renewals
 - Annual Board Election

Call To Membership

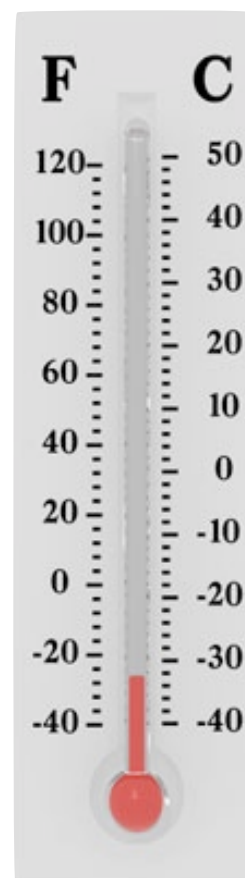
Believe it or not we are only five months away from our annual elections. Over the past few years we have had abysmal turnout to the Annual Meetings / Elections.

This year we are looking to handle this required process a little differently. It's your garden and if you want to see change, you need to speak up.

We will be looking for at least two, non-board members to head up the Nominating Committee.

This will not be a time consuming project. If you are interested in taking part of this required Bylaw process, please drop me a note at:

Garden@Pagemartin.net



Garden Walks - Gardens Noticed

Gardens To Be Proud Of!



Garden B-13
Nigel Hill



Garden H-15
Frank Kozlowski



Garden K-6
Jane Larsen

Information To Have

Board Of Directors

We are continuing to introduce you to the current LBCGA Board . All are garden members, just like you, who contribute extra time to ensure that we have a successful and thriving non-for-profit organization.

The Board of Directors consist of the the officers, namely President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and ten Directors.

Officers and Directors are elected to serve terms of one year or until their successors take office. A Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates for elective office at the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations can also be made from the floor for any member in good standing as defined in the LBCGA Bylaws.

Board members are required to attend monthly Board meetings as well has take on special assignments such as food bank, common area maintenance, materials printing and many more.

Your 2012 Long Beach Community Garden Association Officers and Board Members are as follows:

Page Martin - President

Joan Criswell - First V.P.
(Head of Membership Committee)

Sher Meyers - Second V.P.

Carol Meyer - Secretary

Mary Rasmussen - Treasurer

Chuck Davis
(Borders Committee)

Frank Dayak
(Critter Control)

Kevin Holman
(Flower & Landscape)

Michel Roide
(Mailing)

Joanne Rice
(Gazebo, Disease control)

Gary Sarka
(Water Systems)

Ernie Trait
(Orchard)

Nancy Bernstein
(Maintenance)

Vicki Storberg
(Commodities Manager)

Lonnie Brundage
(Food Bank)

Each month we will features one or two directors on the back page of the newsletter. Please feel free to contact me if you have a question for any of them. We have also posted their direct phone numbers on the website.

WWW.LBCG.Org



ON THE WEB

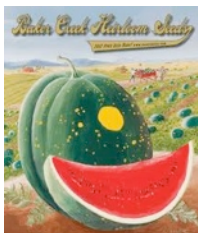


Burpee's Seeds

A wide variety of vegetables and flowers. Available either by mail order or online.

Catalog Available.

<http://www.burpee.com>



Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

This is it! The best catalog out there. Nothing but heirloom seeds for both veggies and flowers. The catalog is stunning!

Catalog Available.

<http://www.rareseeds.com>



Park Seed Co.

More than just seeds. Great resource for hard to find tools and gardening information

Catalog Available.

<http://parkseed.com>



Gardeners Supply Company

They have it all. This is a must for any serious gardener!

Catalog Available.

<http://www.gardeners.com>

"My garden is my
most beautiful
masterpiece."

Claude Monet
Impressionist Painter



LONG BEACH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Reminders

Hang Tags / Speed

Display Your Tags

Please have your garden hang tags displayed at all times when in the garden. Some members have been ticketed by the Park Police because the officers didn't see a hang tag.

Speed Limit in Garden

Please be very conscious of your speed when driving in the gardens. A child of a member was almost hit by someone going way too fast. Posted speed is 5 MPH. Thanks for caring!

Work Parties

Insurance Restriction

Due to recent changes in our insurance policy, we can no longer have any children under age 16 partake in garden work parties. This does not affect working in your own gardens.

Work Party Hours

Your neighbors come to work parties and work very hard. In the past some members show up with a whole team of people and divide the number of people into the time that they have left to accrue for the year. (We have actually had a group of people show up and felt they only needed to work 10 minutes then they could leave!) Some of your fellow gardeners have approached me as this being a tad unfair.

So, this may not be popular with some gardeners, but from now on, if you come to a work party, please plan on staying the entire two hours. (No matter how many assistants you bring)

The garden needs your help, your fellow gardeners need your help! We estimate as to how many people show up each month and we base the amount of work that needs to be completed on those estimates. It really is unfair to your fellow gardeners when some people show up and then leave right after they arrive. After all, the members that stay end up picking up the chores that were unfinished by the early departures, this after they have already worked their tails off.

Local Growers and Nurseries

We are very fortunate to have a wide array of excellent growers and nurseries located in and around Long Beach. Some places only take cash. Here are a few:

Armstrong Garden Supply

Armstrong Garden Supply carries a wide variety of seeds and plants for your garden.

3842 East 10th Street
Long Beach, CA 90804
(562) 433-7413

Cost: Moderate

Lowe's

A standby of home and gardens. Good assortment. Great return policy if plant dies.

Closest to garden:

2840 North Bellflower
Long Beach, CA 90815
(562) 496-8120

Cost: Expensive

H & H

An old time Lakewood nursery and great friends of the garden. Wonderful selection of fruits, vegetables and flowers. Great customer service!

6220 Lakewood Blvd.
Lakewood, CA 90712
(562) 804-2513

Cost: Moderate

Garcia Brothers Growers / United Plant Growers

This is a find! Wonderful selection of veggies. Buy by the plant or the flat! FYI: THEY ONLY ACCEPT CASH

Corner of Caspian & Wardlow
Long Beach, CA

Cost: Cheap

Home Depot

Pretty generic selection of vegetables. Great return policy if a plant dies. Closest to garden is at

2450 Cherry Ave
Signal Hill, CA 90755
(562) 595-9200

Cost: Expensive

Bonita Nursery

Pretty generic selection of vegetables.

3510 Santa Fe Ave
Long Beach, CA 90810
(562) 426-6777

Cost: Moderate

Centrose Nursery

Been in business since 1954. A bit of a drive but worth it. Good selection and great customer service.

525 East Rosecrans
Gardena, CA 90248
(310) 324-2004

Cost: Moderate

Certified Growers

Great vegetables!

10524 Firestone Blvd
Cypress, CA 90650
(562) 864-9448

Cost: Moderate

Lakewood Nursery

Selection can be spotty early in seasons.

4114 Lincoln Ave.
Cypress, CA 90614
(562) 596-8514

Cost: Moderate

We'll keep searching out new places to find plants. We'll update this list in the Spring!

Ask A Master!

If you have questions on planting, harvesting, bugs, slugs even bad rugs! (sorry, got carried away), please drop us your question and we'll match it to the proper Garden Master.

Our Masters are always willing to help, both new and old gardeners alike, if you have questions, problems or just need that bit of reassurance that you are doing it right.

We've all been there! Give it a try!

GardenMasters@Pagemartin.net

Meet Your Garden Board

Joanne Rice - Gazebo / Disease Control



Joanne Rice is one of our longest seated Board members, having served on the LBCGA for 27 years and she is a wealth of knowledge. Twenty nine years ago, while recovering from cancer which was a very low point in her life, her husband, Jack, came home and said he had gotten a community garden plot. Joanne said that she retorted, “something else for me to do!!” She refused to go to the garden at first but Jack forced her to go (he has a psychology degree)! She wonders if he regrets it because that was the last he saw of her. Every minute she could spare was spent in the garden and that

holds true to this very day. She says, “The Community Gardens healed me”.

As a Board member, she is responsible for disease and pest control. Joanne says, “I watch vigilantly for any disease or insect that might possibly hurt what we are growing in a particular season and keep close contact with plant pathologists and epidemiologists at UC Riverside for the latest organic cures for potential problems.” She is the one that provides all of the information at the gazebo is available for any consults that garden members might need regarding their gardens and plants. She encourages you to contact her as needed by email at PathaJ@aol.com. She also oversees the members who are assigned to keep the gazebo and surrounding area clean and weeded.

Her best advice for new gardeners is to have fun gardening! It is impossible to walk up to a gardener who is working with plants and not see a smile on his or her face. She also says that you should not get hung up; just keep your garden planted, weeded and harvested.

It is that easy! (Sure after you have been doing it that long, Joanne!)

Joanne’s favorite tool is the Easy Digger (aka, Ho Chi Minh or Asian Plow). It is the only tool she uses as it digs beds, opens rows, weeds, plants seedlings and basically slices through the soil like butter. You do have to purchase them on-line as local stores don’t carry them.

Joanne has many other interests because she is a health care profession (RN) having worked as a head nurse at Long Beach Community Hospital and Campus Nurse at City College, to name a few positions in her nursing career. She is an organist, which she recently took up again, and also has a passion for doing oil painting but that generally went by the wayside for LBCGA.

Joanne is a Great Grandmother and not only loves her family dearly but adores her husband after all these years. She says, “Life is good, especially in my garden!”

