

# Home & Garden



PHOTOS BY JOE JOHNSTON jjohnston@thetribunenews.com

One of the five gardens featured on this year's 2019 AAUW Garden Tour in Los Osos belongs to Josie Defreitas and her daughter, Cindy Loughry.

## AAUW GARDEN TOUR

# Garden has lots of 'stories to tell'

BY LESLIE STEVENS  
Special to The Tribune

Prepare to be inspired by the beauty and creativity displayed in the five local home gardens selected for the 33rd annual AAUW Garden Tour on Sunday, April 28.

One of the more memorable stops on the tour belongs to Baywood Park homeowner Josie Defreitas and her daughter, Cindy Loughry.

With the help of Los Osos landscape contractor Earthscapes, the pair undertook a property makeover that not only solved persistent drainage problems, but also provided Defreitas opportunities to recycle cherished items that evoke family memories.

A dry riverbed now protects the property's perimeter from flooding. Two custom wood slabs bridge the rock-lined basin while a colorful mix of manzanita, succulents, yarrow and short grasses dress the banks.

Three distinct patios surround the home providing numerous spots for growing fruits and veggies or just sitting and enjoying the outdoors.

Defreitas' pride and joy is the elaborate wooden henhouse that runs the length of one patio. Her pampered hens even have a curtained shelf where they can retreat for privacy.

A separate alcove at the far end of the shed provides a cozy spot where Defreitas and a guest



A dry riverbed offers flood protection.



Flowers, including Pink Peruvian lilies (below), lend color to the garden.



SEE TOUR, 2C An elaborate wooden henhouse runs the length of a patio.

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# TOUR

can enjoy the warmth of a small electric stove while keeping an eye on the feathered dames next door. The wall clock always reads “5:15” – “Wine time,” Defreitas explained.

The screened shed overlooks a vegetable and herb garden centered by a brick path.

An old wooden outhouse now functions as a garden tool shed, while multiple metal water troughs and barrels sprout rhubarb, potatoes, asparagus and artichokes.

Around the corner is a smaller patio with a stone barbecue built by Defreitas’ grandson with rocks collected from her late husband Jim’s grandparents’ place.

Also on the patio is a favorite rose bush, “Memorial Day,” that bloomed in July 2018, just in time for the first anniversary of her husband’s death in 2017.

Some people write family memoirs, but this retired nurse lets her gardens do the talking.

“I have stories to tell for all of my garden,” she said.

## ADDITIONAL GARDENS ON THE TOUR

In nearby Los Osos resides the artistic team of Kim and Bobbye Thompson and their “teatem”



PHOTOS BY JOE JOHNSTON [jjohnston@thetribunenews.com](mailto:jjohnston@thetribunenews.com)

A colorful mix of manzanita, succulents, yarrow and short grasses dress the banks of the dry riverbed in the garden of Josie Defreitas and Cindy Loughry.



Barrels sprout greens and vegetables.

forest. Teatems, also known as teapot totems, are just a few of the colorful and whimsical items populating this enchanting garden.

Also in Los Osos is Tom and Barbara Stokes’ garden, which features a cactus and succulent garden surrounding a putting green and wraparound

views of Hollister Peak. Refreshments will be served at this site.

Next up is the magical Morro Bay garden of Ralph and Jo Osborn where masses of succulents, fuchsia and roses compete for attention with a wild assortment of stacked glass totems, crafty critters, whirligigs and

## AAUW Garden Tour

The 33rd Annual AAUW Garden Tour runs noon to 5 p.m., April 28.

Tickets cost \$15 and are available at Coalesce Bookstore in Morro Bay, Volumes of Pleasure Bookshope in Los Osos, and Farm Supply in Arroyo Grande, Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo.

Proceeds from the tour benefit educational opportunities for girls.

For more information, call 805-772-1364 or visit [morrobayaauw.org](http://morrobayaauw.org).

more.

In Cayucos, Jim and Kathy Pashone’s multi-level backyard easily accommodates an annual art sale, fundraisers or intimate family gatherings. Numerous artistic touches brighten the space with painted birdhouses, fountains and a sparkling glass-filled fire pit.

*Leslie Stevens lives in San Luis Obispo and has been gardening and writing about the area for nearly 20 years. If you know of a special garden or gardening event worth sharing, please contact her at [lesloscrib50@gmail.com](mailto:lesloscrib50@gmail.com). Please allow a minimum of six weeks from the event.*