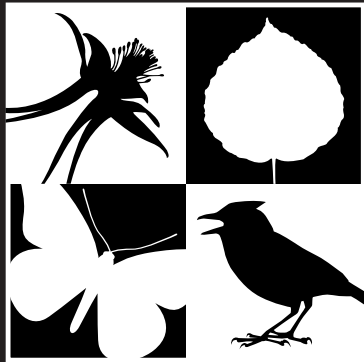


LAKE OF THE SKY



GARDEN CLUB

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
LAKE OF THE SKY GARDEN CLUB

April 2002, Volume Twelve, Number Two

Post Office Box 1827, Tahoe City, CA 96145-1827

ALL THE DIRT

OFFICERS

President: Lois Perryman 530 525-5280

Post Office Box 711 916 974-7671

Homewood, CA 96141

VP Programs: Collene Stout 530 581-1041

Secretary: Susan Hoefler 530 581-0823

Treasurer: Linda Briggs 530 550-8511

13493 Skiview Loop, Truckee, CA 96161

Correspondence Secretary:

Kathy Swigard 530 583-5296

Field Trips: Barbra Briggs 530 583-3011

Garden Tour 2002:

Linda Jones 530 583-2459

Historian: Joanne Skowronski 530 546-5236

Hospitality: Barbara Kudrna 530 581-0800

Phyllis Stephenson 530 581-1325

Master Gardener Coordinator:

Diane Morrison 530 545-2325

Newsletter: Patty Robbins 530 587-4647

14499 Hansel Ave., Truckee, CA 96161

newsletter@lake-of-the-sky.org

Publicity: Cathy Erickson 916 415-0321

For inclement weather changes, call:

Barbra Briggs 530 583-3011

APRIL MEETING

Monday, April 29th

Our second meeting of 2002 will be at the Fairway Center in Tahoe City on April 29th at 3:30 p.m. Last month, our speaker Ed Pandolfino was unable to attend, so we are very fortunate to have Ed speak at our April meeting. Ed is a member of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society. He will be speaking on Backyard Birding: attracting birds to your yard or garden and identifying them once they get there. He will include slides of birds of our area as well as information on feeders and food; gardening for birds and wildlife; and available resources for attracting birds. Put the date on your calendar!

Email May newsletter information to Patty Robbins by May 10, 2002 at newsletter@lake-of-the-sky.org

Letter from the President


Dear Friends, We are beginning Spring with a bang! I hope you will read this newsletter in detail. There are many items that will be of interest to you. First, is news of our April Meeting on April 29. It was unfortunate that our scheduled speaker for March, Ed Pandolfina, had to cancel after our newsletter was published. He was called for jury duty. The good news is that he has agreed to come in April! So we still have the opportunity to hear about Backyard Birding. Christie Gescheider, new owner of Moana Nursery in Reno graciously agreed to substitute at the last minute and brought us up to date on Moana nursery .

Other items of interest include payment of dues, by-law changes, nominations for officers, special events coming up, special opportunity for our May meeting. (sign-ups for this will be taken at our April meeting-see separate article). And, the

Continued on page two

Letter from the President continued

list goes on. To top it off Ray and I are going on a two-week trip. We will leave April 8 and return April 22. Our answering machine will be on in Sacramento, 916 974-7671 and our e-mail is raynlois@infostations.com if you need to leave a message. We will hit the ground running and be back at Lake Tahoe on the 25th of April.

Au revoir, - Lois 

Recommend Changes to By-Laws

The Lake of the Sky executive board recommends these changes to the by-laws. These changes will also be published in the April newsletter. They will be voted on by the membership at the April 29, 2002, meeting.

1. Adding a new elected officer Vice President (Membership)

Change Article IV A to read:

The elective officers of our club shall be President, Vice President (Program), Vice President (Membership), Secretary, and Treasurer.

Add to Article V B 1:


Vice President (Program)

Add Article B 2:

Vice President (Membership)- Shall be custodian of all membership materials; membership rosters, membership information sheets, membership applications, copies of by-laws (or current rosters), and name tags. The Vice President (Membership) shall have name tags printed as needed; coordinate with the Treasurer on membership dues; coordinate with the newsletter publisher on new member information, and current distribution list; and shall act as greeter at club functions.

2. New wording for Dissolution Clause

Change Part B, Result of Dissolution, to read:

Result of dissolution shall be that all funds and property, real or otherwise, left in the treasury after all bills have been paid, shall be forwarded to the general fund of the California Garden Clubs, Inc., or to a project designated by fifty-one per cent (51 %) of the members at that time. 

May Meeting at Thunderbird Lodge

Our May meeting will be held on **May 20th** at the Thunderbird Lodge. **Please note:**

This will be a morning meeting beginning at 10:30. All those planning to attend must sign up in advance since there will be an inside tour of the Lodge in addition to Toni Fauver's tour of the gardens. The special **tour fee is \$10**, which is 50% of normal, in recognition of our Club's donation of time, plants and funding for garden restoration. Due to minimal parking onsite, we will meet at the Raley's parking lot at 10:00 in order to carpool. As many of you know, the Lodge is a historical site and was originally the estate of George Whittell who purchased 27 acres of shoreline in the 1930's. George was an eccentric individual, about whom there are wonderful anecdotes, and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for the non-development of that portion of the eastern shore of Lake Tahoe. At least twenty of our members have volunteered many hours outdoors during the past two summers in an effort to bring the gardens back to their former splendor, as they were completely untended during the 30 years after George's death in 1969. A visit to the Thunderbird Lodge is a not-to-be-missed event! (Further details at the April meeting).



Election Year

The year 2002 is an election for the garden club. Wayne Scholl will be the chairperson of the nominating committee. If you have names to nominate, your own or some one else's, please call Wayne. A slate of officers will be presented at the May meeting and will be voted on in June. This is your opportunity to affect the future our garden club.

Free Wildflowers

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering Tahoe homeowners free wildflower seeds for your property this Spring. Wildflowers are a great alternative to planting turf grass as they require less water and do not require fertilizers. For information call the TRCD Program Coordinator at 530 573-2576.

Upcoming Events

Golden Foothills District Garden Tour

The Tour is May 4, in Roseville—tickets are \$7.00 each and will be available at our April 29 meeting at the Fairway Community Center.

Sacramento Floral Extravaganza

This new outdoor, spring event features exhibits and booths offering fresh cut flowers, demonstration gardens, garden sculpture, garden book publishers, art inspired by the garden, garden décor, garden furniture, fountains and more—all in Crocker Park, across from the Crocker Museum between 2nd and 3rd Streets. The Sacramento Floral Extravaganza coincides with Petals and Palettes: Floral Design at the Crocker, a special exhibit of floral designs inspired by the Crocker Art Museum's collection, May 10-12, inside the Museum and is free with Museum admission.

Tickets to the Sacramento Floral Extravaganza are \$5.00 available in advance and at the door. For information call 916 487-2907 or 916 428-7555.

Special Event May 15th

Lake of the Sky Garden Club is hosting the Golden Foothills District meeting at the Fairway Center in Tahoe City. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am, but we will need to set up the room at 9:00 and could use your help. Thanks to all of you who signed up to bring breakfast breads, muffins, etc. Let's have a good group of members there to welcome our colleagues from the other side of the mountain. See you there! 

*"The little things that run the world,
...bees, butterflies, bats, and humming-
birds go unnoticed and unprotected
until it is sometimes too late."*

Lake of the Sky Name Tags

If you need a name tag, please contact Patty Robbins at 530 587-4647 (Robbins Design) or email at newsletter@lake-of-the-sky.org with your request.

www.lake-of-the-sky.org

March 25th Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 by President Lois Perryman. Guests and new members were introduced followed by the flag salute. Our speaker was Christie Gescheider, new owner of Moana Nursery in Reno. She gave us numerous suggestions for April gardening, as well as 20% discount coupons which are good for 60 days at her nursery. Small plants were also sold, with 50% of the proceeds going to our Club. Christie is also looking for gardeners interested in experimenting with grasses.

A motion made by Sherry McConnell to approve the minutes of the November meeting was seconded by Phyllis Bassett. Linda Carrigan gave the Treasurer's report, which was followed by the list of Requests for Funds to be voted on. Ray Perryman moved to approve the selected grantees, seconded by Louise Ginsberg. After some discussion, Marie Sluchak made a motion to reduce Truckee Elementary School's request to \$500 (Villager Nursery gives them generous discounts, plus their request was the highest). This was seconded by Kathy Swigard. Barbra Briggs recommended that a "non-partisan" committee check out our grantees' projects prior to next year's funding. The approved requests are: Herb garden at Truckee Senior Center (\$350); Truckee River Restoration Project (\$500); Truckee Elementary Jr. Gardeners Program (\$500); Kings Beach Library (\$300); North Lake Tahoe Historical Society (\$500); Thunderbird Lodge (\$500); Rideout Elementary (\$500). All requests relate to landscaping (plants and/or irrigation).

Garden Tour

Linda Jones, Chairman, gave an update on our garden tour to be held on July 27th in Ponderosa Palisades and Ponderosa Ranchos, Truckee. A hostess chairman is being sought by Linda. A stunning program cover design by Barbara Menk was shown; contents are being done by Sue Briggs. Our member price of \$12 per ticket ends June 30th. **Note:** No tickets will be sold on the day of the tour.

New Business

Changes in the By-laws, recommended by the Executive Board, were presented by Lois. The two changes, which are published elsewhere in this newsletter, would add a Vice President of Membership and a rewording of the Dissolution Clause.

Kathy Swigard suggested amended wording to that proposed for the Dissolution Clause: "... [designated by] 51% of paid membership at that time." A motion was made by Kathy to that effect and seconded by Marie Sluchak.

Upcoming Events

Ed Pandolfino, Sierra Foothills Audubon Society, will be our speaker on April 29th.

On May 15th our Club is hosting the Golden Foothills district meeting at 10:00 with Toni Fauver speaking on wildflowers. Help is needed with baking, set-up and general hosting.

The regular May meeting will be held at the Thunderbird Lodge on May 20th.

Sign-ups were taken and another opportunity will be available at the April meeting. (Please see separate article in this newsletter).

Announcements

Jan Steinmann talked to us about Earth Day at Northstar on April 20th. (Please call Jan at 530 546-4429 for more information).

Lois presented Barbra Briggs with her Penny Pines Certificate, honoring her with a plantation at the site of last year's Emigrant Gap fire.

Ray Perryman spoke about Roseville's garden tour on May 4th featuring roses (2002 is "Year of the Rose"). Tickets are available at \$7 each; our Club must sell a total of ten.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05.

Respectfully submitted by
Susan Hoefler, Secretary 🐿

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance is \$8,645.81. Moana Nursery in Reno donated \$100 submitted by our March guest speaker Christie Gescheider, nursery owner.

Time to renew your membership. Please complete and mail the enclosed form.

2002 Garden Tour

The Garden Tour will be on Saturday, July 27th in the Truckee area (Ponderosa Palisades and Ponderosa Ranchos areas.) Please mark your calendars and plan on being a part of the tour. We have nine confirmed gardens. Four have water features and one has a lovely vegetable garden. Posters and ticket jackets have been printed and the garden descriptions are complete and being printed. When the tickets have been assembled we will offer them for sale to club members. Here is a list of some of the jobs and the number of people required to accomplish a successful garden tour:

Hosts and Hostesses: two for the morning and two for the afternoon times nine gardens equals 36. **Food prep and food servers** (for one site only) set and and serve in morning: five for the morning plus five for serving and clean up in the afternoon. **Sign and flag placement** and pick-up the day of tour: two. I will have sign-up sheets at the meetings or you can call me at 530 583-2459 or Fran White at 530 587-3245 to offer help with the refreshments. It should be lots of fun.

Linda B. Jones Tour Chairperson 🐿

If Clorox is good, then must Ultra

Clorox be better? Not true for your plants. If you use Clorox to disinfect your clay pots, do no change to Ultra Clorox. The compound added to the Ultra Clorox is the chemical compound for lye, the residual of which is not good for plants. When repotting your plants into clay pots, soak the pots in water for several minutes before planting. This will prevent the pot from absorbing the all moisture from the new potting soil.

Kiwi DeVoy,
District Director in
The Bay Ocean Soundings

Golden Gardens, Vol. 69, No. 5,
March-April 2001 🐿

www.lake-of-the-sky.org



About Butterflies

Butterflies belong to a group of insects called *Lepidoptera* from the Latin words “*epido*” = scale + “*ptera*” = wing. They are the only insects with scales.

Their wings are made of thin layers of chitin (the same hardened protein that makes up their outside skeleton) and are clear and thin under the scales.

Color and patterns come from millions of shingle-like, overlapping scales. Metallic, iridescent colors come from faceted scales that refract (reflect) light and so change with the amount of light available. Solid colors are from scales that have color chemicals pigments in them.

Some larvae consume tremendous amounts of plant material, seemingly devouring plants overnight. A common example is the tomato hornworm which rapidly strips tomato plants of their leaves. Learn to recognize larval and egg forms. That large green and black caterpillar eating your dill may one day turn into the gorgeous butterfly you were hoping to attract!

During the time from hatching to pupating (forming the pupa or chrysalis), the caterpillar may increase its body size more than 30,000 times.

Butterfly feet or “tarsi” possess a sense similar to taste. They “smell” with their antennae.

Adult butterflies do not go to the bathroom.

Butterflies sip nectar through a long straw-like tube called a proboscis.

Butterflies and moths are amazingly particular in their food choices. The larval stage of the butterfly may require food quite different from that of the adult. For example, monarch caterpillars only eat milkweeds (*Asclepias sp.*). Black swallowtails feed on parsley or dill. Caterpillars are fussy eaters, so you will have to include the specific types of leafy green vines, shrubs, and trees that they will like.

Golden Gardens, Vol. 69, No. 5,
March-April 2001 🦋

Wildflowers in the Garden

Wildflowers are species of flowers that will flourish with little attention from the gardener and will self-sow without becoming too invasive. Many wildflowers prefer poor soil and neglect, making them ideal for tough to maintain areas of your property. A bonus of a wildflower garden is the wildlife it attracts, including butterflies, hummingbirds and beneficial insects. California has many plants to try. A few to consider are:

Sticky Monkey flower, *Mimulus aurantiacus*, is a member of the Snapdragon Family. The leaves are indeed sticky. At the end of the style, two flaps (the stigmas) will slowly but visibly, move and close together when touched by a blade of grass, a pollen-laden insect, or a hummingbird, thus providing a protective chamber for the seed to begin its growth. The flowers look a bit like a monkey, with two big ears. Its long blooming season (March-August) make the Monkey flower a reliable source of nectar for hummingbirds. There are 77 species of Monkey flower; most are perennial.

Bluedicks, *Dichelostemma capitatum*, start to flower in early spring. Their slender flowering stalks are often curved as they grow, bearing head-like clusters of pale blue flowers surrounded by deep purple floral bracts at the top. Bluedicks have an edible bulb, which can be eaten raw, boiled, or roasted. The bulbs were known as Indian potatoes.

In California there are eighty-two native species of lupine, over half of which are perennials. The most common is the **Dove Lupine**, or *Lupinus bicolor*, which is a beautiful blue. There are white lupines, and the colorful Harlequin Lupine blooms in yellow and red. Lupines are easily recognizable with their palmate leaves and whorls of flowers. The flowers are pealike. Indeed, Lupines are in the pea family. Late in the season, you will see pods that look distinctly like pea pods. Like all legumes, they improve the soil by building nitrogen. The plants contain high levels of alkaloids and are quite toxic. (Some claim that garden peas can also be toxic in very large amounts.) Lupines begin blooming

in March and continue throughout the spring. The Dove lupine is particularly stunning when planted with the ultimate California wildflower, the **California Poppy**.

Golden Gardens, Vol. 69, No. 5,
March-April 2001 🦋

Dianthus

Dianthus spp., and cvs.
(*die-ANN-thus*)

- A genus of more than 300 species of mostly evergreen, low-growing perennials, biennials, and annuals. Most are native to the mountains and meadows of Europe and Asia. Most are hardy in Zones 4 to 9.
- Flowers are long-blooming and often have a spicy clovelike scent. Flowers may be single, double, or semi-double and may be all one color, flecked, picoteed, or laced.
- The leaves of all *Dianthus* members are linear to lance-shaped and are often blue-gray or gray-green with a waxy bloom.
- All species and cultivars like full sun and average, well-drained, unmulched soil.
- The main pests are mice and voles, which often nibble on the roots and crowns.
- Propagate most perennials by cuttings, division, or layering. Propagate annuals and biennials from seed. Most rock garden picks are available only as seed.



www.lake-of-the-sky.org