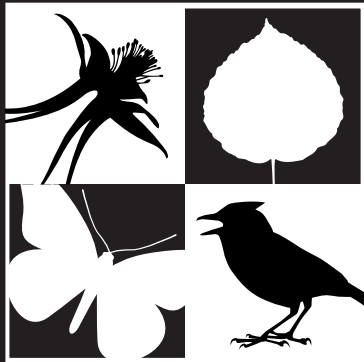


LAKE OF THE SKY



GARDEN CLUB

Member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. | Pacific Region
California Garden Clubs, Inc. | Golden Foothills District

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
LAKE OF THE SKY GARDEN CLUB

August 2005, Volume Fifteen, Number Eight

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

ALL THE DIRT

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August 29, 2005 Member's Garden Tour and Meeting

The Meeting in August will be on Monday, August 29th. We will do a variation on the Member's Tour. We will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the Watson Cabin, 560 North Lake Blvd., Tahoe City. Garden Club money and volunteers helped to install the gardens around the cabin. There is parking across the street behind the pharmacy. We will then carpool to Incline Village to visit the lakefront garden of Dolly Lemelson. The address is 593 Lakeshore Blvd., Incline Village. We will need to park carefully along Lakeshore Blvd. Dolly has a lovely perennial garden with a water feature. There is also an expanse of white sandy beach on Lake Tahoe. We are welcome there from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Should be awesome. See you there.

We will do the plant exchange at the meeting in September.

Email September 2005 newsletter information to Patty Robbins by September 2, 2005 at newsletter@lake-of-the-sky.org

President's Message

This morning seemed cool to me. The evening temperatures having been sinking into the 40's this week. It is a relief from the summer heat but at the same time it is a reminder of the winter that is soon to come. Now is the time to get all your planting done. I am going to try, in the next few weeks, to get all my plants in the ground, both at home and at the job sites. We will be planting close to 600 perennials. That is a lot of work but there are many hands to do the digging. The plants will do well to have a couple of weeks to get their roots knitted into the soil before the snow begins to fly again and the temperatures start heading to the freezing zone.

Happy planting.

I would like to thank everyone for their help on a very successful Garden Tour. Donna Caravelli did an excellent job of putting the Tour together, keeping everyone and everything organized. Thanks also to Emily Hatch

Continued on page two

President's Message continued

for setting up the hosting at each of the gardens. Becky Saltenberger and Shirley Altick seemed to effortlessly put on a delightful spread of food. My thanks to all who volunteered their time and energy.

We have already begun scouting for next year's Tour in Truckee. Lorrie Moore has ably taken on the task as Garden Tour Chairperson for 2006. Mark your calendars for July 29th.

My best to all.

*-Christa Cullen,
President* 🐿

July 30, 2005 West Shore Garden Tour Update

Thank you one and All. I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for all your help. A special thanks to Emily and her hostesses. Everyone did a great job. A big thanks to Shirley Altick and Becky Saltenberger for the wonderful job they did in taking care of the food. The Lonergans were just wonderful in providing the tent, tables and kitchen. All we had to do was show up! Barbara, Jay, and Darlene really worked hard to sell tickets, and from what I have heard it was a big success. Oh yes, thanks to Kathy and Steve Swigard for taking all the pictures. Last but not least, I need to thank my cousins and husband who were roped into helping. The very last thank you goes to all of you who wore those beautiful creative hats! It was so hard to choose the best hat, that we decided to have multiple categories...now there will be more than one prize! I thought they were all great and we had so many positive comments about them! I hope you will wear them at the next meeting so everyone can see them. Great job everyone.

-Donna Caravelli

Garden Tour/Tickets Financial Update

Income from tickets: \$7,935.00. Expenses: \$2,842.45. Net to date: \$5,092.55. Number of tickets sold: 432, including members.

*-Phyllis Stephenson,
Treasurer* 🐿

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Stonescaping: A Dance of Belonging

Every garden—no matter what the size—needs to be in something. The soil and plants need to somehow be contained. Otherwise, they become part of the natural surroundings, which isn't so bad, but it doesn't quite equal our ideal of the true garden experience.

So the containment, or the hardscaping, is the backbone, the structure of a garden. Through the years I've used railroad ties, brick, cedar posts even 2x4s to enclose designated garden areas. My favorite material, though, is stone.

One of the stonescaping books in our Garden Center is "In the Company of Stone" by Dan Snow. He calls the preparation of making stone walls "a choreography of earth and stone-moving." Such a lovely way to put it, and it comes closest to describing how I feel about stones in gardens. They just belong, and it is indeed a dance.

Stone is integral to the earth; and whether it's river stone, field stone, flagstone or any other kind of rocky substance, this earthy hard stuff settles into a garden and immediately becomes part of the landscape.

In another book we carry, "The Art and Craft of Stonescaping," the author David Reed goes into detail about how to lay pathways, set up planters as tree wells, how to install steps, create entryways and build courtyards.

He also says, "Sometimes, plants and stones look so congenial together, it's hard to decide which showed up first." And this is what is so pleasant about working with stone. It's material that assimilates quickly, and its presence offers a quiet reassurance.

It's also amazing how accommodating stone can be. Stone can be stacked in straight walls or arranged to curve. It can be laid singularly on the ground to outline bedding areas or embedded in concrete for both high and low retaining walls. Groups of stone can be placed for decorative purposes or assembled to replicate rivers and ponds.

Another book we have, "Garden Stone" by Barbara Pleasant, has many good ideas for merging plants and stone to make the arrangements look natural.

I love working with stone. There is something about the density and heft of these pieces of solid earth that is comforting. And I feel just as the author Snow says: "I may work by myself, but I'm not alone. I'm in the company of stone."

*-Cindy Bellinger,
Editor Santa Fe Greenhouse* 🐿

Sunflowers

*Walls of gold encircle
Pasturelands and plains,
Rimming hills and meadows,
Edging country lanes.*

*Skirting cloistered forests,
Girdling fen and down,
Bordering the roadsides,
Shutting in the town.*

*Concentrated splendor
Of the year they hold,
Fortresses enclosing
Summer's garnered gold.*

-Elizabeth E. Barnes

Lake of the Sky Garden Club Calendar

Monday, August 29, Member's Tour.

We always want to promote carpooling whenever possible and this is the perfect time to bring a friend or neighbor along. The Tour will begin at **3:30 p.m.** and will end at **6:30 p.m.**

Monday, September 26, Lecture. Fairway Center, Tahoe City, 3:30 p.m. Linda from May Arboretum will be our guest speaker.

Monday, October 31, Lecture. Fairway Center, Tahoe City, 3:30 p.m. We will discuss preparing our gardens for winter, including how and when to mulch and fertilize.

November TBD, Lecture. Fairway Center, Tahoe City, 3:30 p.m. We will discuss house plants, including orchids.

December TBD, Holiday Party. The end of the year holiday party will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

CGCI Calendar

September 15-17

CGCI Fall Board Meeting.

Palm Garden Hotel, Thousand Oaks.

Host: Channel Islands District. Co-Chairman: Ruth Fry, Jean Reiley.

September 28-October 3

NGC Fall Board Meeting. St. Louis, MO

2006

January 27-29. CGCI Winter Board

Meeting. San Diego, Red Lyon Hanalei

Hotel. Host: Palomar District. Chairman: Barbara Stevens.

NEEDED: People to start thinking about becoming President, Vice-President for Programs and Membership, Secretary, and Treasurer next year, starting June 2006.

It is not too early to start thinking about positions that you want to get involved with in the Garden Club. There are lots of ways to get involved today, just email me at shadowens@infostations.com and I will help get you in touch with the people that need your help, or committees that need chair people.

Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

*-Helen Shadowens,
Vice President of Programs*

ALSO NEEDED: It will be five-years that I have produced the newsletter, web site (with my husband Geoff), name tags, and Yearbook/Roster and two-years that I have produced the Garden Tour ticket/program. These projects have been increasingly difficult to fit into my schedule. Next June I will need someone else to publish the newsletter and Yearbook/Roster. Geoff and I will continue to work on the web site and printing/laminating name tags. Let me know if you can help at 530 587-4647 or newsletter@lake-of-the-sky.org. Thank you.

*-Patty Robbins,
Art Director/Editor*

The Villager Nursery Class Schedule

The Mountain Gardening Class Series (the 30th year) is taught by local botanists, ecologist, landscapers and gardeners with extensive knowledge and years of practical experience... Our climate is very unique. Help from the trials and errors of others is a great benefit (we have years of personal and vicarious gardening experiences to share). The Vegetable Class will be at the Truckee Donner Rec. & Park District's Club Room, the rest of the classes are offered at the Villager Nursery, 10678 Donner Pass Road. Pre-registration is encouraged but drop-ins are welcome. We will cancel or re-schedule if the weather is unpleasant. The classes are still free of charge. Dress warmly and please bring a folding chair or stool. You are welcome to bring loads of questions and samples of plants or soils for identification (after each class held at the nursery). The setting is very informal and we always have fun.

Saturday, August 20, 10-11:30 a.m.

How to Plant Trees and Shrubs. You will learn methods that our many years of experience have proven to work best in this climate and in these soils. We'll discuss options and field your questions. These are not the techniques you will learn in any books.

Saturday, August 20, 10-11:30 a.m.

Topic to be Announced. Maybe we'll go botanizing and seed collecting in the meadow across the street. Composting? Anyone interested in a class?

Saturday, September 3, 10-11:30 a.m.

Mountain Native and Naturalized Plants (reprise)—Mountain Native Plants.

Learn to choose the best and easiest native plants for many situations. Learn how to protect and enhance your existing native plant populations. Gather some seed collecting tips and ideas for wild berry jellies and jams. We'll also cover a few of the historically important introduced species thriving in Truckee without care for more than a century. Bring samples for identification.

Saturday, September 10, 10-11:30 a.m.

Fall Color in Your Garden. Choose trees, shrubs, and perennials with the most colorful leaves, persistent berries or super late blooms.

What's the weather for the best display, how to help your plants yield the richest golds and the deepest reds. We'll cover the chemistry and the natural artistry of a showy fall garden.

Saturday, September 17, 10-11:30 a.m.

Gardening in the Fall. Fall is a time to accomplish a great deal in your garden before another long winter. October is a time to plant, transplant and divide trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials. Collect seed, propagate cuttings, fertilize, mulch, prepare soil and prepare new beds. Ready the garden for next year's growth. Gardening is *always* about "next year". Right now, we have a lot less time to wait until next year.

Saturday, October 1, 10-11:30 a.m.

Gardening with Bulbs

Now (October) is the time to plant the ultimate low-maintenance perennials. Learn when bulbs bloom, what to feed them, how to plant them. Learn bulbs for sun and shade, for spreading or seeding. Bulbs that are rodent and deer proof and we'll offer suggestions for planting combinations. Plant now into December for color April-July.

Saturday, October 8, 10-11:30 a.m.

Fall Color Walk

Take a leisurely stroll through downtown and Brickletown to see the trees, shrubs and perennials with the best fall displays. Just for fun. We'll stop by Piper's Patisserie for a tasty pastry and coffee. Class size is limited for this one, call to sign-up.

Sunday, October 16, All Day

Truckee River Day X. Watershed

Restoration Projects—River restoration and projects for adult and children volunteers. Spend all day or part of a day learning about and working on our river. Project leaders will specialize in re-vegetation, native plants, history, geology, fisheries, and forest health. Call the Truckee River Watershed Council at 530 550-8760 if you are interested in leading groups or if you wish to participate. The Villager and U.S. Forest Service Office will have registration forms by mid September. 🐾

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Book Review: *Tabletop Gardens*

I'm forever bringing in snippets of plants and flowers (not to mention rocks, feathers and bones) that I find on walks. And I have the perfect bowl for putting them in. It sits on the kitchen table and has always looked like some kind of strange mini-garden.

So I loved the new book the Garden Center recently got in. It's called "Tabletop Gardens" by Rosemary McCreary. Her suggestions for creating small, tidy inside gardens that fit on a shelf, the table, a windowsill are truly wonderful.

And if you like the tangled dance of roots, you'll love her section on the "Sculpture Garden." Especially now that our Garden Center is carrying water plants. The idea is to place water plants in clear glass containers so you can watch the plants' underwater growth, both the delicate roots and bulky rhizomes.

Another garden is made of black polished stones with creeping mint running throughout. The author has suggestions for grass gardens, bulb gardens, and bromeliads planted on a moss-covered log.

Orchids and begonias, coleus, moss and ferns make up many of the mini-gardens in this book. What caught my fancy was training ivy on a chain outlining a window. When I was little, my father had ivy growing all over the dining room. Practically had to use a machete to get to the table. Think I'll try it again.

The back of the book has simple instructions for propagating, repotting, trimming and training plants.

For people who live in city apartments and long for a place to grow plants, this book just might offer a few fun alternatives.

*-Cindy Bellinger,
Editor Santa Fe Greenhouse* 🐰

Lake of the Sky Nametags

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

The Scented Garden

The scented garden. No doubt you're envisioning azaleas in the warm humid climates of southeastern United States.

Or masses of roses and lilies in the temperate Mediterranean climes. But Southwest is full of its own special scents. Besides the warm, pungent aroma of Sagebrush interspersed with the sweet smell of Pinon or Ponderosa Pine all kinds of perennials can add to the fragrance of a garden.

Large pots can also be planted for instant fragrance. Be sure to position flowers so they'll absorb the day's heat, which builds up fragrance which is then released come nightfall.

Many perennial flowers known for their scents are:

- Chocolate Flower, Lilies, Soapwort, Creeping Phlox
- Garden Phlox, Hostas, Dianthus, Sweet Violets, Peonies
- Candytuft, Wallflower, Four O'Clocks, Evening Primrose
- Dame's Violet, Forget-Me-Nots, Passion Flower, Bee Balm, Lupine

Annual flowers that are particularly fragrant are:

- Sweet Peas, Stock, Petunias, Dahlberg Daisies, Nicotiana
- English Primrose, Dianthus, Miniature Camations, Sweet Alyssum

Also, bulbs can be planted throughout the landscape for fragrance. Some wonderfully scented bulbs include:

- Narcissus, Hyacinths, Crocus, Snowdrops, Daylilies, Tulips, Iris

Many plants have foliage that greatly add significant fragrance to any garden.

Some are:

- Lavenders, Catmint, Rosemary, Russian Sage, Artemesias
- Santolina, Salvia, Lemon Verbena, scented Geraniums

Groundcovers

Thyme makes a wonderful fragrant groundcover, and all culinary herbs are

fragrant, especially upon being touched. Herbs planted in shrubs and flowerbeds become useful, hardy, and fragrant groundcovers.

Fragrant Trees

Catalpa and Linden trees, both reaching 40-feet, have intensely fragrant flowers that can permeate a whole garden. Other fragrant trees are the Amur Maple, Golden Chain Tree, and Purple Robe Locust and the lesser known, Yellowwood. The flowering crabapples and cherries also abound with fragrance. Fruit trees are usually not planted for their fragrance, but the light fragrance of their blooms herald the coming of spring like no other event.

Fragrant Shrubs

- Winter Jasmine, Shrub Honeysuckle, Mock Orange, Currants
- Western Sand Cherry, Witch Hazel, Curry Plant, Butterfly Bush
- Lilacs

For guaranteed fragrance in the garden all summer long plant English Roses. Their inventor, David Austin, bred the line of roses with fragrance in mind, using old roses for fragrance and hybrid roses for their ever-blooming quality. The wonderful result is old fashioned, fragrant flowers that bloom all season. Another major rose breeder who valued fragrance was Griffith Buck, as indicated by the large number of his hardy shrub roses that are quite fragrant.

Also, many hybrid roses have wonderful fragrance:

- Mister Lincoln, Double Delight, Angel Face, Iceberg
- Chrysler Imperial, George Burns, Sentimental

Vines

- Wisteria, Akebia, Chocolate Vine, Goldflame Honeysuckle, Clematis Montana

Fragrance adds another dimension to the landscape. A garden may be pleasing to the eye, but an unexpected fragrance will enhance its value. Special fans of fragrant landscapes are people with limited eyesight and young children, with their wonder of all things natural.

*-Katherine O'Brien,
SFG Nursery Manager* 🐰