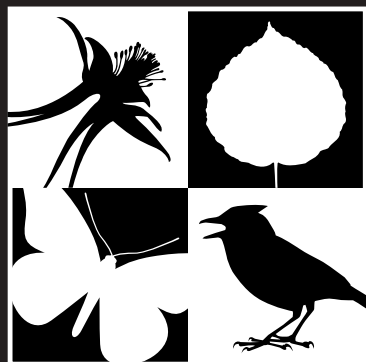


LAKE OF THE SKY



GARDEN CLUB

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
LAKE OF THE SKY GARDEN CLUB

May 2002, Volume Twelve, Number Three

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

ALL THE DIRT

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newsletter@lake-of-the-sky.org

Publicity: Cathy Erickson 916 415-0321

For inclement weather changes, call:

Barbra Briggs 530 583-3011

May Meeting at Thunderbird Lodge

Monday, May 20th, in the morning.

This members-only meeting will be held at the Thunderbird Lodge (Whittell Estate) at 10:30 a.m. Due to parking constraints onsite, we will carpool from the parking lot below Village (Ace) Hardware at the west end of Raley's Shopping Center, Incline Village, starting at 10:00 a.m. Our garden tour will be led by Toni Fauver, Thunderbird Gardener-in-Chief; the inside tour will be hosted by docents. There is a \$10.00 fee (50% discount) which will be collected at the Lodge. The day will also include a brief business meeting so be sure to bring a sack lunch! For those of you unfamiliar with the Thunderbird Lodge and our Club's volunteerism there, please see the article on page two in the April newsletter. 

Letter from the President

Wow! What a great turnout for our April meeting! Forty-nine members and guests present and, I believe, eight new members! Here are some reminders for up-coming events:

1. Its time to pay dues especially if you want to buy garden tour tickets at the member price;
2. Advanced sign-ups and carpooling are necessary for our next meeting on May 20 which is a tour of the Thunderbird Lodge (please see additional information elsewhere in this newsletter);
3. There is a change of location for the district meeting we are hosting on May 15 (also additional information elsewhere in this newsletter);
4. For more information on the free wildflower seeds reported in the April *All The Dirt*, call the Backyard Conservation Program Hotline 530 573 2210; and
5. please, call Wayne Scholl, chairman of the nominating committee 530 550-1058, and offer to be nominated for an officer of our garden club. You meet so many wonderful people serving on the executive board. Happy Spring!

From Lois 

New Members

Hale, Elizabeth 530 581-1977
Post Office Box 44
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Halpin, Julie 530 587-9076
12698 Stockholm Way
Truckee, CA 96161

Lance, Pat 530 583-4874
Post Office Box 6953
3360 Edgewater Drive
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Leth, Terry 775-832-5065
150 Juanita #3
Incline Village, NV 89451

Sloop, Sheila 530 546-5880
Post Office Box 805
4692 North Lake Blvd.
Carnelian Bay, CA 96140

Spencer, Dana 530 583-6037
Post Office Box 1496
4075 High Street
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Why Bother With Soil pH?

It is easier to grow plants that thrive in the soil you have rather than trying to change the soil significantly to accommodate foreign guests. To choose the right plants, you must know what you have to offer them. Different plants like different levels of soil "pH." "pH" is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of your soil. The pH level affects soil life, the structure of the soil, nutrient availability, and plant growth. Knowing the pH level of your soil can provide various clues about the kinds of plant life it can successfully support.

*Golden Gardens, Vol. 70, No. 6,
May-June 2002* 

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.

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

Special event on May 15, 2002

Lake of the Sky Garden Club is hosting the Golden Foothills District meeting at Tahoe City Public Utility District Board Room in the TCPUD office building on Fairway Drive in Tahoe City. **Please note the change of location.** The meeting will begin at 10:00 am with Toni Fauver as the featured speaker. Let's have a good group of our members there to welcome our colleagues from the other side of the mountain. The plan is for everyone to bring their own brown bag lunch. Thanks to all who have volunteered refreshments for the beginning of the meeting, and who help with set up. Set-up will be between 9:00 and 9:30 am that morning. 

Garden Tour Update

We have had two fun ticket assembling parties and were able to offer ticket sales to members at the April meeting. Members are able to purchase two tickets at \$12 each during the months of May and June. July 1st ticket prices will increase to \$20 for everyone. Tickets will be available at the Thunderbird Lodge Tour and at our June meeting. We would like members to buy their tickets as early as possible so we can hand over the rest in July for the nurseries to sell. Members and out-of-town members unable to attend the June meeting can call Barbara Menk at 530 583-3330 for tickets or mail a check to her made out to *Lake of the Sky Garden Club* to Box 6209, Tahoe City, CA 96145 and Barbara will mail the tickets to the members. Fran and Linda passed out sign-up sheets for cookies, host and hostesses, and food servers at the April meeting and we need many more. Don't wait to be called, volunteer by calling Fran at 530 587-3245 or Linda at 530 583-2459 or email at sfdc@jimsteinmann.com

Linda B Jones, Chairperson. 

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance as of May 2002 is \$9,525.27

Time to renew your membership. Please call Linda Carrigan at 530 550-8511 for a form.

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET June 1, 2002 to May 31, 2003

Ending Balance as of
May 15, 2002: \$ 6,705.04

ANTICIPATED 2002/2003 INCOME:

Dues (110 Members at \$15.00)	\$ 1,650.00
Garden Tour Income	7,000.00*
Interest	50.00**
Sub Total Anticipated Income	\$ 8,700.00
Total Income	\$15,405.04

ANTICIPATED 2002/2003 EXPENDITURES:

State and District Dues	
(110 members at \$2.25)	\$ 247.50
Insurance (110 members at \$1.10)	121.00
Hall Rental (nine months at \$14.00 per month)	126.00
Garden Tour Expense	1,200.00
Newsletter, Brochure, Roster, Forms	2,000.00
Hospitality	400.00
Postage	150.00***
Miscellaneous	500.00
Officer Expense	300.00
Sub Total of Operating Expenditures	\$ 5,044.50

PROPOSED COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

Penny Pines Reforestation	
3 acres at \$68.00 each	204.00
North Tahoe Art Center	100.00
Garden Tour Community Donation (Truckee, 2002)	500.00
Student Scholarship	1,000.00
Community Requests	3,000.00
Sub Total Proposed Community Projects	\$4,804.00

Total Anticipated/Proposed 2002/2003 Expenditures	\$9,848.00
Proposed Ending Balance May 15, 2003	\$5,557.04

**This amount reflects a slight reduction from this year's proposed budget. Although early indications are that the 2002 Garden Tour will be a sell out event, the Executive board felt that since Tourism in general had been adversely affected by 9/11 we should take a conservative approach.*

***Interest rates are considerably lower than last year.*

**** The postal service has announced an increase in postal rates.* 

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April 29th 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. Wayne Scholl then gave a persuasive talk on the upcoming election of officers for the 2-year period beginning July 1st, urging everyone to please consider becoming a candidate for president and other offices. If you are interested, please call Wayne at 530 550-1058.

Our speaker was Ed Pandolfino from Sierra Foothills Audubon Society. His talk was entertaining as well as informative, including slides of many birds we often see in our area plus tips on feeder use. A summary of Ed's information is on page four.

A motion made by Diane Morrison to approve the minutes of the March meeting was seconded by Sherry McConnell. The membership then voted on the recommended changes to the By-Laws which were discussed at the previous meeting and published in the April newsletter. The following motions were made by Lorrie Moore and seconded by Helen Shadowens: (1) Adding new elected position of Vice President-Membership; (2) Adding the specific duties of the foregoing; and (3) Changing the wording of the Dissolution Clause.

Garden Tour

Linda Jones, Chairperson, gave us another update on the tour to be held July 27th in Truckee. Linda is still seeking a hostess chairman and passed around a sign-up sheet for those willing to host either morning or afternoon. Many tickets have already been assembled and are available to club members at \$12 each until June 30th, after which they will be \$20. Fran White, once again in charge of refreshments, told the group that we will be serving at only one house this year. The offerings are cheese, grapes, cookies, peach iced tea and lemonade. She passed around sign-up sheets for cookies (home-made, please!), people to serve (including setup or cleanup), flowers for the serving tables, and a general "wish list".

Scholarship Committee

Fran White, head of this committee, has completed the publicity for the \$1,000 scholarship being offered by our Club. Articles have run in the local newspapers and applications are available at 14 locations (high school and college counseling offices plus local nurseries). An applicant's field of study must be landscaping, horticulture or environmental science.

Upcoming Events

Lois Perryman reminded us that on May 15th our Club is hosting the Golden Foothills district meeting at 10:00 with Toni Fauver speaking on wildflowers. Please note change of venue: The meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Tahoe City PUD office building, 221 Fairway Drive (on your left shortly after turning up Fairway from Hwy. 89). You can help with this event by baking breakfast breads and/or setting up the room starting at 9:00 and/or being a friendly host for our visitors. The facility is available until 1:00.

Regular May meeting: Please see separate article in this newsletter.

*Respectfully submitted by
Susan Hoefler, Secretary* 

The North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden:

An educational community garden at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village welcomes Lake of the Sky members and guests to a wine and hors d'oeuvres party, gathering together people interested in gardening and landscaping both successfully and responsibly in the Tahoe Basin.

Join us at Margaret and Ben Solomon's home, amid a blooming apple and pear orchard and adjacent to the Demonstration Garden, on Thursday, June 6, from 4:00 to 6:00.

Reasons to attend the Demonstration Garden Gathering:

- You are new to the Tahoe Basin, love plants, but need to learn what flowers, shrubs and trees will succeed without harming the lake and forest environment.
- You have been here for a while and would like to share your successes and failures with other Tahoe gardeners.

- You want to learn about the Demonstration Garden's free classes (perhaps teach one), contribute ideas to the newsletter, or join in workdays weeding and planting at the garden.
- You'd like to join the North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden to help plan the new walkway site at the Sierra Nevada College Lake Campus.
- You plan to create a vast green fertilized lawn, the envy of all East Coast and British visitors, but sense that this will look obnoxious in Tahoe where everyone will know you are sacrificing our clear lake just to exercise your ego. You would like suggestions for alternative, lake-friendly ground-covers that will be much more beautiful under your Jeffrey pines and will awe your Eastern visitors (who remain quite unimpressed by Tahoe lawns, no matter how much Miracle Gro is used.)

For more information on the Garden Gathering, call Jan Steinmann at 530 546-4429 or email at sfdc@jimsteinmann.com. 

Trees

by Sergeant Joyce Kilmer

*I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree.*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may
in Summer wear
A nest of robins
in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom
snow has lain;
Who intimately
lives with rain.*

*Poems are made
by fools like me,
but only God can
make a tree.*



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Backyard Birding

Attracting birds to your yard or garden and identifying them once they get there.

WHAT YOU NEED

Binoculars

You can spend \$80 to \$1400 for a pair of binoculars, depending on your budget and seriousness. I usually suggest that people start out with a pair in the \$100 to \$120 range. I also suggest you buy one with magnification power of 8X (eight power). The extra magnification of 10X is generally not worth what you lose in light and field of view.

Feeders and Food

1. A hanging feeder filled with black oil sunflower seeds
 - a. This will attract our "red finches" (house, purple or cassin's depending on where you live), black-headed and evening grosbeaks, pine siskins, mountain chickadees, nuthatches up to three different species, Steller's Jays and others.
 - b. Add a thistle tube (either a separate feeder or you a 2-tube or 3-tube feeder) filled with niger thistle seed. The goldfinches and pine siskins love it and this type of feeder can be used exclusively by them.
2. A hummingbird feeder filled with sugar water at a ratio of 4:1 or 5:1 water to sugar volume. Remember, no coloring required. You could attract up to four different kinds of hummers, depending on your location.
 - a. Use at least one combo oriole/hummingbird feeder if you live in the foothills or Central Valley and you might attract bullock's and/or hooded orioles!
3. A ground feeder with white millet, black oil sunflower seeds, cracked corn will attract many of the same species that come to a hanging feeder; plus many more ground dwellers including several different sparrows, towhees, quail, doves, dark-eyed juncos, etc.
4. A suet feeder (use the big 4x4 inch cube with small mesh openings can bring in several kinds of woodpeckers, nuthatches and many other feathered surprises.

Other Attractions

1. *A water feature:* This can be a simple birdbath, a small pond, a little waterfall. Moving or dripping water is most attractive. You can get all kinds of birds that will never come to feeders to visit water in any season.
2. Berry bushes in season will draw thrushes and other birds. See the "Gardening for Birds" bibliography.
3. Brush piles provide important cover for lots of ground loving birds like sparrows, towhees and quail.

Field Guide

If you want to identify the birds you attract, you will need a good field guide. I recommend the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Make sure you get the new edition (3rd Edition). Western Birds by Roger Tory Peterson is also a good one. Avoid field guides that use photos. Birds of Northern California by David Fix and Andy Bezener is a new, local guide that looks interesting.

Other Books You May Want

Two great books on bird behavior, breeding, feeding preferences and other interesting facts are: *The Birder's Handbook* by Ehrlich, Dobkin and Wheye and *Lives of North American Birds* by Kenn Kaufman.

Where to Get Equipment, Books, Feeders, etc.

There are several stores around, check under "Birds" in your local yellow pages. In Roseville there is the Wild Bird Center at 5339 Sunrise Blvd (near Madison Ave.)

Gardening for Birds

Here is a list of books about gardening for birds and wildlife:

1. *Birdscaping your Garden*, George Adams
2. *Stokes Bird Gardening Book*, David and Lillian Stokes
3. *Attracting Birds to your Backyard*, Sally Roth
4. *Backyard Bird Feeders Bible*, Sally Roth
5. *The National Wildlife Federation Guide to Gardening*, Craig Tuft
6. *Audubon Backyard Birdwatcher*, Burton and Kress

Sponsored by Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Ed Pandolfino, erpfromca@aol.com
916 652-7315, April 29, 2002 🐦

Thunderbird Lodge

The following information is courtesy of the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society's information package.



The Thunderbird Lodge, previously known as the Whittell Estate, was built in 1936 by George Whittell Jr.

The Thunderbird Lodge estate was the largest privately held parcel on Lake Tahoe, comprising 140 acres. It is now a six acre historic district surrounded by 43,000 acres of Forest Service and Nevada State Parks land.

The property includes a mile of pristine lake frontage with numerous small sandy beaches and coves.

A 600-foot tunnel carved through solid granite connects the lodge with a cottage and the boathouse, home of the famous 55-foot Thunderbird yacht.

The Thunderbird was built in 1939 by Huskin Boat Building Company in Bay City, MI. and delivered by rail to Lake Tahoe in July 1940.

In front of the house is a magnificent three story, four tiered fountain and waterfall.

There is a 15-foot stone beacon located 25-feet off the shore.

You can visit their web site for more information at: www.thunderbirdlodge.org 🐦



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