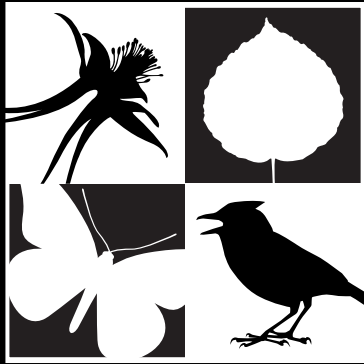


# LAKE OF THE SKY



# GARDEN CLUB

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

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
LAKE OF THE SKY GARDEN CLUB  
Nov-Dec 2004, Volume Fourteen, Number Nine  
Post Office Box 1827, Tahoe City, CA 96145-1827

# ALL THE DIRT

## OFFICERS

**President:** Christa Cullen 530 582-9182

### VP Programs:

Helen Shadowens 530 448-1368

### VP Membership/Webmaster:

Geoff Nicholls 530 587-4649

**Secretary:** Elly Stickney 530 587-3476

**Treasurer:** Phyllis Stephenson 530 581-1325

### Correspondence Secretary:

Kathy Swigard 530 583-5296

### Garden Tour 2005:

Donna Caravelli 530 583-4066

**Historian:** Gloria Stroemer 530 583-3632

**Hospitality:** Lorrie Moore 530 587-6980

Collene Maktenieks 530 581-1041

### Master Gardener Coordinator:

Diane Morrison 530 545-2325

**Newsletter:** Patty Robbins 530 587-4647

14499 Hansel Ave., Truckee, CA 96161

**Publicity:** Helen Shadowens 530 448-1368

### For inclement weather changes,

call: Barbra Briggs 530 583-3011

## December Holiday Party

Now that we're buried under snow, it is time to party! The end of the year holiday party will be held **December 13th, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at Barbra Briggs' home. Everyone is to bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. Also each person is to bring a wrapped gift (under \$10.). Barbra has planned a sing-a-long and possibly additional entertainment. Due to parking difficulties Barbra has arranged valet parking. **Please R.S.V.P. to Barbra at 530 583-3011 by December 10th.** For directions to Barbra's house, please see map on Page Two. Hope to see you all there.

## 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](mailto:newsletter@lake-of-the-sky.org) with your request.

Email January 2005 newsletter information to Patty Robbins by January 5, 2005 at [newsletter@lake-of-the-sky.org](mailto:newsletter@lake-of-the-sky.org)

## President's Message

As I sit here now in front of the computer, looking out the window, it is snowing again. Winter is here and in a hurry, too! There wasn't even time to get the shrubs wrapped, the critters under control or the tools put away. It's true. The fall color this year is white! A few leaves may still cling to the deciduous plants but they are covered with snow. Time to turn our thoughts from our gardens to other activities. Have fun in the snow!

The holiday season is right around the corner. Barbra Briggs has graciously opened her home once again to us for the Club's Holiday Party. Please bring an appetizer and a friend.

At least, we can still get together this winter and talk about gardening! See you in December.

*P.S. - If you have not done so already, don't forget to turn your irrigation systems off.*

*-Fondly, Christa *

## October 25th Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by our president, Christa Cullen.

New member, Deb Travaille, was introduced. Guest, Martha Duprey, was introduced. She is George and Lorrie Moore's sister. Welcome!

Christa read a "thank you" note from the Tahoe Lake School. They very much appreciated the \$1000.00 gift from Lake of the Sky.

**There is NO November meeting.** Instead, we will have our annual Holiday Party in early December. Barbara Briggs has offered her lovely home for our appetizer pot luck festive party. Look for the date soon!

We will have a January and February meeting. Both will be held the 4th Monday as will the March meeting. The January meeting will give us information on seeds. The February meeting will be on pressed flowers.

Our raffle plant...Service Berry...was brought by Lorrie Moore. Whoever won the raffle will bring the next plant to be raffled...at our January meeting! Thank you, Lorrie, for the interesting (striking fall color) plant.

Thank you Maureen for all those orchids. They did find good homes and will be enjoyed by so many. If anyone else has plants that need to be adopted, do as Maureen did...bring them to a meeting and presto... new homes for sure. Thanks for the good idea, Maureen!

Our program was on fall color presented by Rob and Eric from the Villager. So many great ideas...from the Mountain Ash, Red Baron Crabapple and Service Berry to the miniature Fall Crocus. For more brilliant fall colors cut back on the watering in August and September! Thanks Eric and Rob for a great program!

**Remember...NO meeting in November... and look for date and time for our festive Holiday Party! Next meeting will be January 24, 2005. See you there!**

*-Respectfully submitted by  
Ellie Stickney, Secretary* 🐿️

[www.lake-of-the-sky.org](http://www.lake-of-the-sky.org)

## CGCI Calendar

### November 10

**"Wildlife Among Us" at Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens,** 715 Spring St., San Jose. 6:00-7:00 p.m. FREE! Presenter: Trudy Burney, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley. Trudy will discuss what types of birds and small animals we can expect to see in our yards and gardens this winter and what we can do to make our outdoor spaces more friendly and accessible for our more wild neighbors. Info: [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org) phone 408 298-7657 or email [education.grpg.org](mailto:education.grpg.org)

### November 10

**"Victorian Tea Affaire" by Chicago Park Garden Clubs,** Grace Lutheran Church, 1979 Ridge Rd., Grass Valley. Program by Bob Gordon, President of California Garden Clubs, Inc. on flower arranging. Full tea served-affle of arrangements and other goodies. \$22.00 each, limited seating. Info: Nancy Tilman 530-477-6229 or [ntilman@msn.com](mailto:ntilman@msn.com)

### November 18

**"Seeing Stars" by Auburn Arrangers Guild.** An all-table design flower show and tea at the First Congregational Church, 710 Auburn Ravine Road, Auburn. Doors open at 1 p.m. Reserve tickets for seating in advance by phone: Shirley Anderson, 530 885-5685; Betty Ann Cassina, 916 487-9444; Jean O'Connor, 916 783-4042; or Yvonne Turner, 530 268-6774. (No tickets

sold at door.) Program is Floral Designing Sisters Priscilla Streng of Reno and Lorna Bonham of Red Bluff.

### November 20

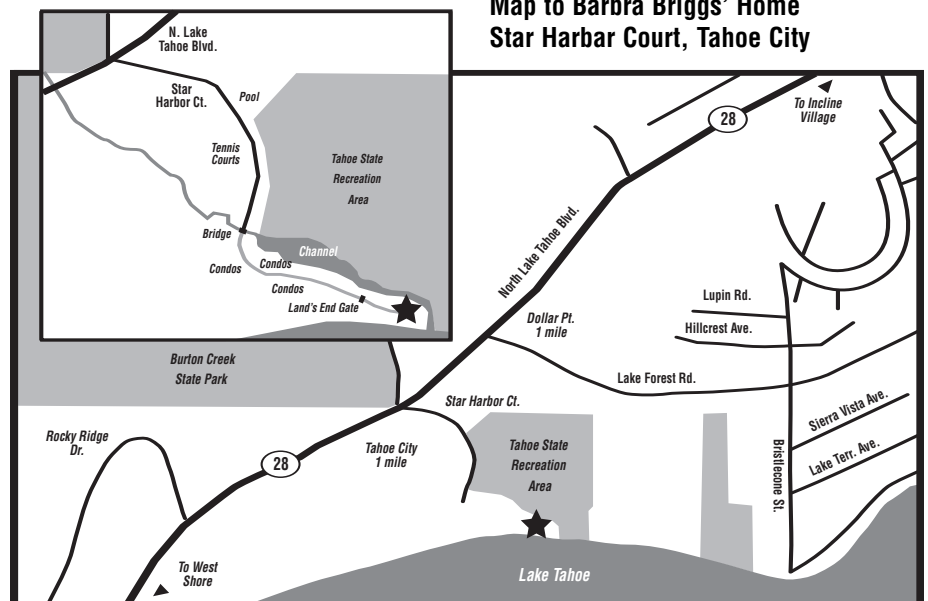
**"Growing and Eating California Native Plants" by Friends of Guadalupe River Park and Gardens.** 9:00-11:30 a.m. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Instructor: Arlie Middlebrook, Middlebrook Gardens. Arlie will discuss what plants grow the best in our area and will share recipes and food samples of dishes cooked with native plants. She will also have her book, "Eating California" available for purchase. 50 West San Fernando St., Suite 1100, San Jose. [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org) or contact Kary Wilson, the Education Coordinator, at [education@grpg.org](mailto:education@grpg.org) or 408 298-7657.

**Continued on Page Three**

*May your Holiday Season be  
a time of joy, peace and love,  
and may all your  
New Year's wishes  
come true.  
-Patty Robbins*



### Map to Barbra Briggs' Home Star Harbor Court, Tahoe City



Calendar continued from Page Two

**November 20**

**“Seed Saving” by Friends of Guadalupe River Park and Gardens.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$12 members, \$15 non-members. 50 West San Fernando St. Suite 1100, San Jose. The Bay Area Seed Interchange Library (BASIL) Project is part of a growing network of concerned farmers and community gardeners dedicated to conserving the remaining genetic diversity of our planet's seed stock. Representatives from BASIL will discuss and demonstrate seed saving techniques. [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org) or contact Kary Wilson, the Education Coordinator, at [education@grpg.org](mailto:education@grpg.org) or 408 298-7657.

**December 3-5**

**30th Annual Christmas Show “Christmas Warmth and Wonders” sponsored by the Sacramento Arrangers Guild.** 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento. Info: Louise Watts, Publicity Chairperson, 916 489-1218.

**December 4-6**

**San Mateo Arboretum Society Holiday Extravaganza,** 101 Ninth Ave., San Mateo 650 579-0536. [www.sanmateoarboretum.org](http://www.sanmateoarboretum.org) Sat. 10 a.m.-noon with wreath making workshop. Cost: \$10. Bring your own shears. Sun. 1-3 p.m. Create unique holiday floral arrangement. Join SMAS expert, Shirley Sorensen, AIFD. The program is free. Sun. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. annual luncheon at the San Mateo Elks Club. Author of “The Center of Attention” Ron Morgan will share his knowledge of creating extraordinary floral arrangements for special occasions. Tickets: \$40.00. Info: Susan Aumack at 650 349-2416 or [smaumack@hotmail.com](mailto:smaumack@hotmail.com).

**January 8-9, 2005**

**“Orchid Luau” presented by the Peninsula Orchid Society.** Annual show and sale at Fair Oaks Community Center, 2600 Middlefield Road, Redwood City. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 seniors, disabled, and children 12-16. Info: [www.penorchidsoc.org/](http://www.penorchidsoc.org/) e-mail: [meg570@comcast.net](mailto:meg570@comcast.net) or 650 593-4793. 🐛

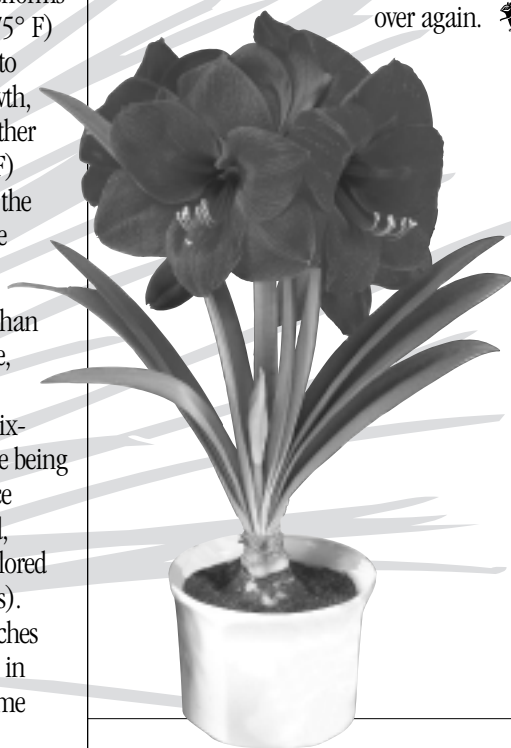
## Plant of the Month: *Hippeastrum Amaryllis*

The Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) is a true bulb that originated in the tropical areas of South America. Thus, it is a tender bulb. It performs best when grown under warm (70 to 75° F) temperatures for nine- to ten-months to promote flowering and vegetative growth, followed by two- to three-months of either cool (55° F) dry storage or cool (55° F) growing conditions. The use of one of the latter conditions is required to promote reflowering of the bulb.

Most marketed bulbs sold are greater than eight inches (20 cm) in circumference, and are either Dutch, Israeli, or South African-grown. They produce two- to six-flowers per floral stalk, with the average being four. Very large bulbs normally produce two-flower stalks. Flower colors are red, white, pink, orange, salmon, and bicolored (mostly whites with pink or red flushes). Plant heights range from 18- to 36-inches depending on the cultivar, the country in which the bulb was produced, and home forcing conditions.

- **Planting:** Plant the bulb (tip up) in soil so that roughly one-third of the bulb is still exposed. Water it and place it in a bright, warm room (70-80° F).
- **Water and Environment:** Water to keep the soil moist but never soggy; once per week should be sufficient. (Do not overwater; it will cause the bulb to rot.) When foliage appears, occasionally rotate the container to keep stems from leaning toward the light. Cool temperatures prolong bloom; when buds appear and begin to color, move the plant to a bright but cooler area (60-68° F).
- **Post-Bloom Care:** After flowers fade, cut stalks as close to the bulb as possible without removing the leaves. When the bulb is finished blooming, move the pot outdoors to a lightly shaded area, water regularly, and feed once a month with a well-balanced, liquid fertilizer until early fall, when the bulb enters an eight-week resting period. At this point, cease feeding and stop watering; this should trigger the leaves to wither.

When the foliage dies back completely, cut it back to one-inch. Remove the bulb from the container, store it in a paper bag in a cool (50° F), dry, frost-free location, and let rest for at least eight weeks. Re-pot in fresh soil, water it, then start the process over again. 🐛



### Things to Do For Your Garden in Winter

- Plan for next year's garden
- Look through garden and seed catalogs
- Catch up your reading of any garden magazines and books
- After four weeks of no snow on the ground or no rain give your garden a good drink of water, especially plants that were planted in the fall
- Purchase bulbs (Narcissus and Hyacinths) to chill for January and February forced blooms

**Scrapbook:** Please mail photos and articles to Gloria Stroemer at P.O. Box 8413, Tahoe City, CA 96145. Old photos are also accepted. Please remember to identify names of people in photos and the date they were taken.

[www.lake-of-the-sky.org](http://www.lake-of-the-sky.org)

## 2004 New Members

### **Sybil and Dick Alexander**

PO Box 7675  
684 Olympic Dr  
Tahoe City, CA 96145  
tel: 530 583-3875

### **Deborah Clark**

PO Box 817  
5525 Sahara Dr  
Carnelian Bay, CA 96140  
tel: 530 546-0474  
email: dclark50@prodigy.net

### **Maureen Cotterman**

12811 Falcon Point Place  
Truckee, CA 96161  
tel: 530 587-2182  
email: mcotterman@ltol.com

### **Martha Devine-Geoffroy**

13468 Skiview Loop  
Truckee, CA 96161  
tel: 530 550-9926  
email: chillydink@aol.com

### **Mike and Anya Guymon**

930 Tahoe Blvd #802-425  
Incline Village, NV 89451  
tel: 775 833-0960

### **Marian and Ken Handy**

PO Box 312  
4110 Robert Ave  
Carnelian Bay, CA 96140  
tel: 530 583-1157  
4124 N Lindstrom Place  
Tucson, AZ 85750  
email: thehandys@yahoo.com

### **Tari and Albert Lewis**

PO Box 2694  
10832 Aspenwood Rd  
Truckee, CA 96160  
tel: 530 550-7123  
email: tariannlewis@yahoo.com

### **Kitty Murray**

PO Box 5793  
836 Holly Rd  
Tahoe City, CA 96145  
tel 530 583-8615  
email: kitty5793@yahoo.com

### **Suzanne Riley**

PO Box 5007  
165 Observation Dr  
Tahoe City, CA 96145  
tel: 530 581-1162

### **Ellen Rosenbaum**

PO Box 7151  
151 Mammoth  
Tahoe City, CA 96145  
tel: 530 581-2331  
247 Calle la Mesa  
Moraga, CA 94556  
hm tel: 925 283-2542  
wk tel: 925 890-9770  
email: lalarose@aol.com

### **Becky Saltenberger**

10566 Belford Pl  
Truckee, CA 96161  
tel 530 587-6572  
email: bsalt@usamedia.tv  
or bsalt12345@aol.com

### **Sondra Sharee and Bill Fitzgerald**

PO Box 306  
Truckee, CA 96160  
tel: 530 587-0511

### **Betty and Walt Stern**

155 Los Robles Dr  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
hm tel: 650 343-7164  
wk tel: 650 343-6737  
10705 Silver Spur Dr  
Truckee, CA 96161  
tel: 530 587-7494  
email: b.w.stern@comcast.net

### **Deb and Bud Travailk**

PO Box 2047  
1140 Squaw Valley Rd  
Olympic Valley, CA 96146  
tel: 530 581-3531  
12100 Graves Rd  
Manteca, CA 95336  
tel: 209 599-7527  
email: debtravaille@fire2wire.com

### **M Weityman**

298 Uplands Way  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

*If you are a new member and have been overlooked, please contact Geoffrey Nicholls at 530 587-4649 or email at membership@lake-of-the-sky.org. Please accept our apologies... you will be listed in our next newsletter.*

## Caring for Flowering and Foliage House Plants

Most house plants are hybrids of plant species which grow wild, somewhere in the world. A good rule of thumb for keeping them healthy is to try to match the same environment from which they originated. You may not be able to match every criteria for your plant, but every small step you take to ensure the plants comfort will be a giant step towards keeping your friend healthy.

Proper lighting and watering are, by far, the most important criteria for the health of your house plant, but temperatures and humidity will drastically affect your plants as well. Generally, tropical plants enjoy a relative humidity of 50%-70% and warm temperatures. Unfortunately, when temperatures in the home rise above 67° F, the humidity drops drastically, so it may be necessary to sacrifice a few degrees of warmth in lieu of an increase in the humidity.

Of course, there are always exceptions to the rule. Succulents being the most notable, which prefer warmer and drier conditions. At temperatures below 60°, African violets will stop blooming, Poinsettias may drop their leaves, and the leaves of Gardenias may turn yellow. It will be a great benefit to your plant if you do a little research about what the needs of your particular species happen to be.

The benefits of having plants in the house are well worth the effort (some would call it a labor-of-love) to nurture them along. However, many of our most popular house plants come from tropical climates where the highest percentage of poisonous plants reside.

House plants not only convert carbon dioxide to oxygen but also trap and absorb many pollutants. Many of these chemical compounds are released into our air through a process called "off-gassing" and often come from everyday items present in our homes and office. NASA discovered over 300 organic compounds aboard the space shuttle and, in it's endeavor to conquer space, began testing common house plants for their capacity to purify indoor air. Luckily for us it turns out that some of the best house plants for cleaning our air are also very easy to grow. 🐾

[www.lake-of-the-sky.org](http://www.lake-of-the-sky.org)