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Quick Links

[Conservation Landscaping Tour Sunday, August 11th](#)

[Sustainable Landscaping Workshop Tuesday, August 27th North Shore](#)



Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners

August 2013

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Who Is Your Pest? Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrel or Chipmunk?

by Lynne Brosch

Recently as I went around the lake doing talks on pest management, I had several complaints about chipmunks. People describe a lot of digging and eating of plants by these chipmunks. As I began thinking about putting out some information on how to handle the situation I thought about the golden-mantled ground squirrel, I watched eating garden plants voraciously on the Baldwin Estate grounds just yesterday. Perhaps gardeners need to know who they are dealing with. ([read more...](#))





Train to be a UC Master Gardener!

Applications are now available to train as a UC Master Gardener in the Tahoe Basin, with training beginning Friday, September 6, 2013 for 12 weeks in South Lake Tahoe. Both California and Nevada residents in

the Basin are welcome to apply. ([Read more and get an application...](#))

Make Your Own Insecticidal Soap

by Maggie Gordon

Recently in travels around the lake to do talks on management of insect pests I shared this recipe which was promised in the next newsletter. Here is the homemade insecticidal soap as explained by Stephen Brown, a horticulture agent with the Lee County, University of Florida Extension Service.

- 2.5 tablespoons of liquid dishwashing soap (preferably Dawn or Lemon Joy) Not automatic dishwasher soap
- 2.5 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 1 gallon of warm water.

Make only what is needed for one day's treatment.

An insecticidal soap like this is generally not harmful to plants, animals or humans. Mr. Brown recommends thorough and repeated coverage of the affected plants and use at any time of year but not at temperatures above 90 degrees. At high temperatures the soap could cause burning of the leaves.

Microclimates. Micro-worlds.

by Bonnie Turnbull



Welcome to my yard. You say it's too hot? You say my yard is too sunny for a walk around?

But you must see my vegetables before we go in! It's growing well enough, but look at this cabbage

leaf, lacy with holes. Now flip it over. See that tiny egg? Look carefully because the tiny, newly-hatched caterpillars often lie right along the leaf veins marvelously hidden.

But let's go on. Over here, a frog croaks in the deep shade under the thimbleberries. Follow quickly, for mosquitoes hang on the fence there waiting for blood. They like this cool spot and there is moisture nearby. ([read more...](#))

A Gardener is Only as Sharp As His Tools

by Carolyn Meiers



Yard work is hard enough. Don't let dull tools make it any more difficult. Hedge trimmers, scissors, grass clippers, mowers, knives, chain saws, hand saws, loppers, and pruning shears

are just a few of the gardening tools that work better with a sharp edge.

A professional can do the job or you may decide to do it yourself. The cost of sharpening most hand tools is less than \$5, and once a year is quite adequate, depending on usage. ([read more...](#))

Q and A on Watering Trees

by Lynne Brosch

Question:

How much water do my trees and shrubs need?

I have heard that a stressed tree will be more susceptible to bark beetles and other disease. I want to keep my trees healthy by proper watering.

How much water should that be?

[Click here to find out!](#)



Go Native

by Lynne Brosch



Sulfur Buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*) is a wonderful hardy native plant that is fairly low growing and is a good pollinator attractor. Sulfur buckwheat can tolerate a lot of sun and fairly dry

conditions. Its seeds provide food for many small mammals and birds. Mature plants develop quickly and grow to 8 to 12 inches high and can be two feet in diameter. The plant likes well drained sandy to

gravelly soil. It is well suited to our Tahoe climate and a good choice for gardeners. Native Americans found many medicinal uses for sulfur buckwheat and the yellowflowers can be used for dried flower arrangements.

Green Thumb Gardening Classes Continue Around the Lake

Sprinkle or Shower? Efficient Irrigation

Mon. August 5; Tue. August 6; Wed. August 7

BMPs for Single Family Homes and Landscaping Ideas

Mon. August 12 and Tues. August 13

Food Gardening - Protect Your Veggies and Start Now for Next Year!

Wed. August 14 --- location: North Lake Tahoe
Demo Garden, Sierra Nevada College, Incline

The Dirt on Your Garden Soil

Mon. August 19; Tues. August 20

Maintaining Your BMPs

Wed., August 21 Location: North Lake Tahoe Demo
Garden, Sierra Nevada College, Incline

Locations (unless otherwise noted):

Mondays - Lake Tahoe Community College; One
College Drive, South Lake Tahoe
Tuesdays-Tahoe Environmental Research Center,
2400 Lake Forest Road, Tahoe City

Junk Your Juniper and Receive a
Replacement Plant

Remove Flammable Plants from Near Your



House!

Remove highly flammable plants (like these juniper shrubs) from near your home to help make your Tahoe landscape more fire safe ---and for a limited time you can receive a voucher for a replacement plant. [Visit our website to read more....](#)

Planting for Pollinators

by Lynne Brosch

Did you know that over 80% of flowering plants require an insect to move pollen and that 35% of crop production worldwide depends on pollinators? To bring it home to you, one in three



mouthfuls of food and drink that you consume has been produced through the work of pollinators. Bees are the main pollinators but wasps, flies, butterflies, moths and beetles are also contributors. Honey bees, one of our most important pollinators are in severe decline due to pesticides, colony collapse, disease and stress. Even as we are losing more and more bees the need for these bees is increasing.

Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners



We're here to help!

Master Gardeners provide practical, scientific gardening information to the home gardener.


Check out our events and workshops on our website or Facebook!

**Have gardening questions?
Contact us!**

530-543-1501 x 101

email: laketahoemg@ucanr.edu

<http://ucanr.edu/ltmastergardeners>

 Lake Tahoe Master Gardener

Or you can find us at:

870 Emerald Bay Rd., St 108, SLT on Sat. from 12-3 or
South Lake Tahoe Farmers Market every 1st & 3rd Tues.

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