



## UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe *Lake Tahoe Horticulture News*

June 2016

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### *Coordinator's Corner:*

Greetings!

If you are like me, you are probably loving the nice damp weather which is good for our plants but hoping that the sun will come out soon! Well, we have it on good authority that the sun will be shining on Saturday, June 11th for our 3rd annual plant sale. Be sure to put it on your calendar and set some time aside to get your plants in the ground. The June Day Jamboree & Plant Sale will have something for everyone. We will have the ukulele players, tours of the demo garden, games for the kids and plants for sale.

We also have a lot of exciting workshops, tours, events in store for you this summer. Please see the list of events below to make sure you plan accordingly.

We are also recruiting for new Master Gardeners. Consider joining us! Application period is from June 1st to July 11th. Additional details are provided below. We have a fun and informative newsletter for you and hope you can find the time to read it through.

*Sincerely,*

*Megan Suarez-Brand*

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

## June Day Jamboree & Plant Sale

Saturday, June 11th

9 am to 1 pm

Lake Tahoe Community College, Demo Garden area

The UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe, local volunteers working on behalf of the University of California Cooperative Extension, will once again hold the June Day Jamboree and Plant Sale on Saturday, June 11th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Lake Tahoe Community College Demonstration Garden.



Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions about gardening at Tahoe. Whether it be growing vegetables, learning which plants attracts butterflies and bees, finding out how to keep a garden growing with less water, or learning about various phenology studies that are taking place in our area, you will find a wealth of information.

This year tours of the Lake Tahoe Community College Demonstration Garden will also be offered. If you have been wondering how you can use native plants to reduce water use while providing wonderful structure to your garden, this tour will help you envision the possibilities.

This event is both educational and a fundraiser for the local Master Gardener Program. The funds raised through the plant sale will help offset program costs such as printing materials, seeds, soil and other materials used in teaching demonstrations.

This year we will not be accepting plastic plant containers at the event. However, you can help the environment and the Master Gardeners by dropping off your one-gallon and 4-inch plastic plant containers that are in good condition in the bin provided at the South Tahoe Refuse transfer station located at 2140 Ruth Avenue, Monday through Friday during business hours through the month of June. And to add to the fun, our local ukulele players will be on hand from 10:00 to 11:00, so you won't want to miss this fun and talented group.

We hope you will join us for this free event that will be fun and educational for the whole family! For more information about our events and other gardening information, you can log onto our website:

<http://ucanr.edu/ltmastergardeners>, e-mail: [mesuarez@ucanr.edu](mailto:mesuarez@ucanr.edu), or call (530) 314-8383.

## Learn it, Grow It, Teach it!

### Join us! Become a UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe

UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe are recruiting for new volunteers this summer! We will be holding our next 12 week training this fall. The training session will be held on Thursdays from 10 am to 2:30 pm at the Lake Tahoe Community College.

Training session dates will be held from mid-September to early December:

Thursdays (10 am - 2:30 pm):  
September 15, 22, 29  
October 6, 13, 20, 27  
November 3, 10, 17  
December 1, 8  
Saturday: November 5th



The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) invites adults interested in helping others learn about gardening and landscaping to apply to train as a Master Gardener volunteer. UCCE Master Gardener volunteers learn University-based scientific information and then share that knowledge with the gardening community. Master Gardener volunteers are people of all ages and from all walks of life with a common desire to help others learn about gardening and landscaping.

#### Who Can Apply?

- Any resident of the Lake Tahoe Basin for the 20 available openings in the training program.
- Applicants need internet access. Most communication will be through email and websites.



#### How to Apply:

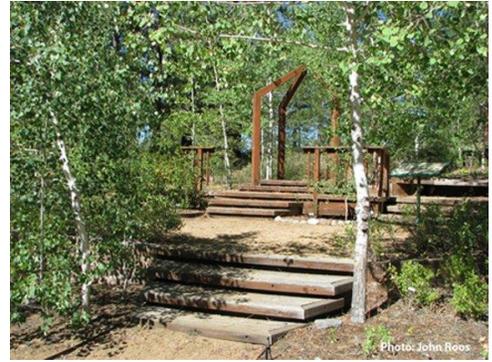
- Sign up on our MG Training interest list at [http://ucanr.edu/be\\_mg](http://ucanr.edu/be_mg)
- On-line application will open on Wednesday, June 1, 2016. On-line application at <http://ucanr.edu/uccemglt-training>
- Application period closes on Monday, July 11, 2016 at 6:00 pm.
- In-person interviews scheduled for: Tuesday, July 19th; Thursday, July 21st and Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>

## 2016 Public Garden Tours:

### *When, where & how to sign-up...*

The UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe will be presenting a series of garden tours at five public gardens in and around the Tahoe Basin. We will be partnering with local organizations, garden clubs and non-profits to host the tours. The purposes of the tours are to:

- a.) Introduce others to these gardens;
- b.) Collect information on these gardens that can be distributed to other interested groups or individuals; and
- c.) Consider using the collected information to develop a brochure or e-app for use by visitors to the Tahoe/Truckee area.



Since this is the first time this type of event has been attempted and due to limitations at certain sites or because other activities are going on simultaneous with our tours, we have had to implement attendance restrictions for a couple of the tours, and limited publicity of the events. Hopefully as we become better at these events we will be able to open up to all that are interested. We offer our sincerest apologies in advance for any confusion or inconvenience caused by these limitations. *Please sign-up early.*

**[Continue reading and find out how to sign-up for the following:](#)**

**June 11, 2016: Lake Tahoe Community College Demonstration Garden Tour**

**July 16, 2016: Champagne Garden Tour of the Tallac Estates**

**July 30, 2016: Tahoe City UC Davis Environmental Field Station Demonstration Garden**

**August 13, 2016: Truckee Demonstration Garden & Annual Edible Garden Tour**

**August 30, 2016: Thunderbird Lodge Garden and Architectural Tour**

***Tahoe Trees & Plants: Mountain Delphinium***

**Mountain Delphinium --*Delphinium glaucum***



Mountain delphiniums are the largest of the Sierra larkspurs, having robust, leafy stems that grow from 3 to 6 feet tall. They grow in lightly shaded areas of coniferous forests in rich soggy soils of wet meadows along streambanks and near ponds. Mountain delphiniums are common in the Sierra Nevada and other mountainous areas from Southern California, north to Alaska and east to the Rocky Mountains. They are most commonly found between elevations of 5,000 and 10,600 feet. Leaves are rounded, 3 to 5 inches across and deeply split into 5-7 toothed segments.

Mountain delphinium flowers are blue to deep purple, and depending upon their elevation, flowers can be

seen from July through September. The flowers cluster on the top 4 to 16 inches of the stems. Delphiniums are easy to recognize because of the peculiar shape of the flower. Each flower has 5 petal-like sepals (surrounding the petals), with the upper sepal lengthened into a spur.

The name delphinium comes from the Greek delphinion which is derived from the Greek work delphis, meaning dolphin, which alludes to the shape of the flower of some species of delphiniums.

[Continue reading...](#)

## Spotlight on a Lake Tahoe Public Garden: *Evans Family Garden*

*This is the third piece in a series on public gardens in Lake Tahoe. Each newsletter we hope to highlight a new "public garden, demonstration garden, public space that exemplifies a Tahoe-friendly landscape."*

In an effort to "give back" to his beloved neighbors, Owen Evans decided to create a garden on his property after the Angora fire. The garden is a cooperative project between the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Nevada Fire Safe Council, South Tahoe Public Utility District, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, the Evans/Allen families, and local businesses. As the garden continues to be developed, it will serve as a model for landscape BMPs, water conservation, fire defensible space, and beauty.



Owen Evans moved to the Lake Tahoe area in the late 1940's. He had completed a degree in Botany at Cal Berkeley and was hired by the USDA Forest Service. He served many roles, including naturalist, forester, firefighter and maintenance worker. He spent time working in the Angora fire lookout and was one of the inspectors for the saw mill at Lake Tahoe Blvd and Sawmill. [Continue reading ...](#)

## School Crossing: School Gardening Programs & Support Organizations



*Editor's note: The School Crossing column is about school activities related to gardening and programs that encourage youth to better understand how food and plants grow, develop and are utilized. Future columns may highlight local activities as presented by our Master Gardeners, teachers, students or a combination. Today's column touches on other national programs and resources.*

- The Edible Schoolyard Project: [www.edibleschoolyardproject.org](http://www.edibleschoolyardproject.org) "The mission of the Edible Schoolyard Project is to build and share a national edible education curriculum for Pre-K through high school. We envision gardens and kitchens as interactive classrooms for all academic subjects, and a free, nutritious, organic lunch for every student. Integrating this curriculum into schools can transform the health and values of every child in America." With many programs and training options in California. This project concentrates on both food production and nutrition.
- REAL School Gardens: [www.realschoolgardens.org](http://www.realschoolgardens.org) "We Create Learning Gardens That Grow Successful Students." For a teacher, a garden is more than a beautiful place or a veggie patch. It is a powerful learning tool, as critical to a student's academic success as a computer or a microscope. To help students succeed, REAL School Gardens creates learning gardens in low-income schools and trains teachers how to use them to improve student engagement and academic achievement. While all children can benefit from hands-on outdoor instruction, we focus our efforts on children in low-income schools so that we address the greatest need." This is a Texas based organization that is spreading nationwide.
- Kids Gardening Project: [www.kidsgardening.org](http://www.kidsgardening.org) The Kids Gardening Project is sponsored by the National Garden Association. This organization offer grants, tutorials, articles and support to start, maintain, and develop relevant curriculum that is a science based approach to food product, gardening and related topics.

Sidenote: Over the past few years the UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe have worked with elementary schools in South Lake Tahoe. We enjoy this work immensely and hope to grow our internal capacity to provide more services to additional schools in South Lake and around the Basin. Consider joining us as a new Master Gardener to help increase our capacity.

## **Regulations, Agencies & Interested Parties... *Farmers Markets***

One of the big projects for the UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe is our regular participation at area Farmers' Markets, answering questions and doing our demonstrations. But did you ever wonder who operates the markets and how vendors are selected to attend, and who can attend? And did you notice a change in the overall makeup and type of vendors beginning in 2015?

California Farmers Markets (CFM) are regulated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA). California Food and Agriculture Code (Division 17, Chapter 10.5) and regulations established in the California Code of Regulations (Title 3, Division 3, Chapter 1, Subchapter 4, Article 6.5) pertaining to Direct Marketing. The agency has strict requirements for establishing markets and who can participate. Beginning in 2015 there was a change in legislation (Assembly Bill 1871) that affects how Farmers Markets operate.

The growth in CFM really begins in 1977 when legislation was approved that exempted certain types of farm produce from packaging, labeling and shipping requirements if sold at a DFA approved setting - the Farmers Market was born. Up until that time the only way to purchase fresh produce directly from the farmer was to visit the road-side stands that were located on the farm's property. The concern by the DFA was to assure that food safety was maintained (in conjunction with the California Department of Public Health). The CFM provides producers with the opportunity to sell their fresh, California grown products directly to the consumers without the intervention of a middleman. The DFA permits all Farmers Markets, with permits restricted to: a. approved nonprofit organizations; b. governmental agencies; and c. approved certified growers, associations or co-ops. Today there are over 700 CFM in the State and 2200 certified vendors approved to sell agricultural products. A little over half the Markets are year round, the others are seasonal, typically from April through October.

**Join us this summer on the following Tuesdays (9 am to 12 pm) at the American Legion in South Lake Tahoe for "Green thumb Garden Tips."**

*Tuesday, June 7th: Power of Pollinators*

*Tuesday, June 21st: Firewise Landscaping*

*Tuesday, July 5th: Strawberries Galore*

*Tuesday, July 19th: Composting & Vermicomposting*

*Tuesday, August 2nd: Plant Propagation*

*Tuesday, August 16th: TBD*

*Tuesday, September 13th: Planting Fall Bulbs*



## **BUGS: The good, the bad, & the ugly...**

### **Lacewings**

By: UCCE Master Gardener Bonnie Turnbull

*This is the second article in a series on integrated pest management. [Click here to read the entire series.](#)*

**The Good (Predators): Lacewings** (Chrysopa spp., Chrysoperla spp.)

With their large, golden eyes, delicate, antennae, spring-green bodies, and four, clear, "lacy" wings, adult lacewings seem like the fairies my daughter was looking for.



But, it's when those lacewings are scuttling around as a teeny-tiny, many-legged "alligators" (The Ugly!) that they work their fairy-magic in your garden. Who would think to connect these two creatures? Like butterflies, they do a complete metamorphosis from larvae to adult. For two to three weeks the larvae gobble up just about any insect they bump into--thrips,

leafhoppers, mites, whiteflies, aphids, and small caterpillars. They grab them with their pincers (check them out in the photo!), inject a venom, and suck out their body juices. YUM! They can eat up to 200 aphids a week during their 3-4 week lifespan. Look for the eggs, too. An adult may lay up to 300 eggs during a period of 3-4 weeks. They are a marvel of intelligent design and grace.



Why, you wonder?

Scientists believe that because lacewing larvae hatch absolutely ravenous, they might be tempted to devour a sister or brother, so each egg is suspended on its own slender stalk. Then he/she spins a cocoon and a few days later--it's miraculous to me--the adult "fairy" emerges.

You will seldom see those adults in your yard unless you leave a floodlight on some summer night. They'll gather there--and hopefully survive for another day of aphid-eating. Encourage them to move in with you by growing lots of the flower food they need----nectar, and pollen.

For more information, see:

[http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/green\\_lacewing.html](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/green_lacewing.html)

Lifecycle diagram

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/FIG/neh-f8-13.html>

## Garden Tips: Tennis Ball Container Seedling Starter

A tennis ball container can be a cheap and easy way to get your seedlings started.

- Remove and discard the clear wrapping that is attached to the outside of the ball container.
- Using scissors, a sharp knife, box cutter or hacksaw carefully cut the bottom 3 inches off an empty tennis ball container. Retain all pieces including the black lid from the container.
- Puncture or drill 3-4 holes into the bottom section to allow drainage. Note that the plastic in the bottom section of the container is quite thick so be careful in puncturing the holes
- Make 5 or 6 one inch cuts along the top edge of the bottom section so that the top portion can be reattached in a fashion.
- Fill the bottom section with potting soil, add seed, and water thoroughly. Place the upper section with lid onto the seed cup portion. The upper section functions as a mini greenhouse
- Place in area with adequate light for germination. Remove lid to re-water as necessary. Be careful not to let the seeds/seedlings get too hot. Remove the lid and/or the upper section to harden-off the seedling prior to planting or if temperatures become excessive.



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## Lake Tahoe Basin: Summer 2016 Garden-based Workshops & Events

**June 4th: Tahoe Friendly Landscaping: Remove your lawn the easy way and Design a water-wise garden**, 9 am to 12 pm, LTCC. (\$) Sponsored by UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe, South Tahoe Public Utility District and LTCC Connect Ed.

**June 7th: The Power of Pollinators:** educational booth at the South Lake Tahoe Farmers Market, 9 am to 12 pm, American Legion. (Free) Sponsored by UCCE Master Gardeners & Sierra House Growing Dome.

**June 11th: June Day Jamboree and Master Gardener Plant Sale**, 9 am to 1 pm at LTCC parking lot near demo garden. Plants will be available for



purchase. There will be Master Gardeners on hand to answer questions and make recommendations. We will also be giving a tour of the LTCC Demonstration Garden. (Free/ \$ plants)

**June 14th: Lake Tahoe Basin Invasive Weeds Identification Workshop**, 1 pm to 4 pm at USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. Register online at <http://ucanr.edu/laketahoeweecourse>.

**June 14th: Vermiculture workshop**, 5:30 pm at the Truckee Demonstration Garden, Truckee Regional Park. (Free) Sponsored by UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe & Tahoe FoodHub.

**June 18th: Tahoe Friendly Landscaping: Drip Irrigation Basics**, 9 am to 12 pm, LTCC. (\$) Sponsored by UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe, South Tahoe Public Utility District and LTCC Connect Ed.

**June 21st: Firewise Landscaping**: Educational booth at the South Lake Tahoe Farmers Market, 9 am to 12 pm, American Legion. (Free) Sponsored by UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe.

**June 25th: Tahoe Friendly Landscaping: Garden Installation and Care**, 9 am to 12 pm, LTCC. (\$) Sponsored by: UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe, South Tahoe Public Utility District and LTCC Connect Ed.

[Continue reading...](#)

*Sincerely,*

*Megan Suarez-Brand, Program Coordinator & UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe Contributors: Dave Long and Bonnie Turnbull*

The UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe strive to meet the horticulture needs of the Lake Tahoe Basin Community, we are pleased to extend research-based information to fellow gardeners on home horticulture. Our Master Gardener volunteers receive training and certification from the University of California Cooperative Extension and provide practical scientific gardening information.

The University of California working in cooperation with County Government and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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