

**UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe**  
**Annual *Tahoe in Bloom* Garden Tour**  
**Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> 2015**  
**9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Advice to Grow by... Ask Us!**

Get your tickets today!  
\$20 per ticket only 200 tickets will be sold.  
Tickets go on sale June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Purchase your tickets at the UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe June Day Jamboree and Plant Sale on June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Tahoe Community College from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Tickets can also be purchased starting Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> at local South Shore of Lake Tahoe garden shops:

- Aspen Hollow Nursery
- Nel's Garden Center
- Sun Basin Nursery, and
- Tahoe Outdoor Living

**Thank you to the local garden centers!** They will also be giving a one-time 10% off your garden purchase with a *Tahoe In Bloom Garden Tour* ticket.

Join the UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe for a fun and exciting day of gardening in Tahoe. The Tahoe in Bloom Garden Tour will feature six distinct Tahoe landscapes. See below for more details and descriptions of each home.

There will be presentations at the event on water-wise gardening, defensible space, perennials, making the most out of the materials you have, vegetables and Mason bees. Additionally, local UCCE Master Gardeners will be on hand at each home to discuss how to make your garden or landscape more Tahoe-Friendly.

**Field's Home**

*Garden Theme: An easy care yard with a patio area and water feature for Spring through Fall enjoyment.*

We purchased our home in December of 1987 and the yard was just pine trees, aspen, and dirt. We were surprised to have some beautiful large flowers emerge in the Spring which we later learned were peonies! As we slowly remodeled our home, we added deciduous trees, shrubs, perennials, and replaced existing hardscape such as a deck, patios, and walkways, and of course added the notorious BMP's!

It has been a learning process over the years to find what grows best in our yard, since we have areas of full sun to full shade. We are not afraid to transplant, but if a plant is too finicky, it goes! We have amended the soil yearly with loads of compost, which has helped the worm population, and slow release fertilizer granules, which help keep the perennials going. We are currently working on replacing the lawn areas in the front and back with drought tolerant alternatives, and

converting to drip irrigation. After 27 years, our yard is still evolving! Our favorite spot is the patio where we enjoy eating outside as much as possible Spring through Fall. We can listen to the soothing sounds of the water feature while enjoying the fruits of our labor!

### **McLeod's Home**

*Garden Theme: Decorating a yard that is structurally and environmentally Tahoe friendly.*

Welcome to the McLeod's garden – or should we say “work in progress”? We have been at our house for 12 years now and something is always changing. Original to the yard are the big pines, the lawn, the lilacs, some of the ornamental trees and lots of the front rock terracing. Everything else has arrived, departed or moved bit by bit. We try to feed the soil and not the plants, so we have put in hundreds of bags of manure and compost over the years. Almost all of the plants are perennial, so the summer bloom is very dependent on how the winter treated them.

Our favorite plants include Tall Bearded Iris, Peonies, Echinacea and anything else tall and showy. Our goal is to have the structure of the garden beautifully planned and orderly but for the plants to be a wild riot of color, form and scent. If we get lucky, it happens... otherwise there's always next year.

One interesting thing that we do is save all the debris raked from the beds in the Spring. We let it dry and then mow over it with the lawn mower to chop up the pieces. We use this material to mulch all of our pathways; in about a year it is like “duff”. We don't put it on the beds because of the high pine needle content. We send almost nothing off the property.

The best moment of our day is usually a cruise around the yard. We are glad you're here and hope you enjoy it as well!

***\*Presentation at McLeod's House: Fill your yard with perennials that reseed—how to make it happen in Tahoe.***

### **Haye's Home**

*Garden Theme: Vegetables and raspberries galore and a lot, lot more!*

After purchasing our home in 1995 we changed it quite a bit. A large patch of overgrown juniper shrubs were removed and replaced with several raspberry plants we brought from our previous home. For the past 20 years we have been rewarded with a bountiful raspberry crop that keeps us supplied with berries for several months. This year our frozen raspberries lasted thru February. We also enjoy making raspberry jam, vinegar and vodka.

In addition, in our backyard we have 3 raised-bed planters where we have grown a variety of vegetables including several types of lettuce, zucchini, yellow squash, peas, beans, broccoli, tomatoes and whatever sounds good that year. The bread from our zucchini is stored in our freezer and lasts us well into the winter. Any leftover herbs from the summer garden get dried for later use.

After removing several pine trees, the backyard now hosts shrubs and smaller trees and provides some privacy. We have just enough grass to play bocce ball and corn hole. As all gardeners know, it is always a work in progress!

## **Winter's Home**

*Garden Theme: From Lawn to Lavender: Water Saving alternatives that are guaranteed to attract bees and butterflies. Answers, tips and suggestions for water conservation in your garden.*

When we drove up to the property 12 years ago, my first reaction was “You can’t be serious!” I didn’t know what was worse, the house or the property around it. My inner child came forward, “I’m not getting out of this car! This place is awful!” I sat arms crossed and stared at the dashboard.

A month later I was digging 30 lifeless Juniper plants from the walkway with a pickaxe. The yard was an eye sore. I did my best to keep the patchy grass alive while my husband and I worked to make the house livable.

This garden is an experiment in the making. I have always been intrigued with lavender and its healing properties so when we saw that Truckee Meadows Community College was offering classes in growing lavender, we signed up – twice. In November of 2014, our water-demanding grass was removed and 200 lavender seedlings were planted. I wanted the feel of being in the South of France in a fragrant field of purple.

Lavender loves sun and poor soil, and thrives on little water. A simple drip-line was installed and the plants are watered twice a week, an hour each time. We are experimenting with four varieties, including Super, which can grow 4 to 5 feet tall.

The neighbors are thrilled with the lavender and can’t wait for the first harvest. As a licensed massage therapist, I am anxious to use the fragrant lavender oils in my practice.

## **Schussel's Home**

*Garden Theme: Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees: a landscaped refuge for all living things.*

We built our home in 1989 and it has been a refuge for wildlife, including neighborhood dogs and children! We started our landscaping before we completed building our home. In-between raising our children we always found time to “play” in the garden. *Gardens have a way of bringing people together.* Our grassy areas provided space for birthday parties, rehearsal dinners, croquet, badminton and horseshoes. Our love of antiques spilled out of our home to our yard in the way of art, planters and birdhouses.

Along with the herb garden, water feature, and square foot garden for veggies our recent addition is a weaving center. Our Mason Bees help keep everything pollinated. The forest thinning in our area has changed the light and now we spend time giving the plants extra TLC and moving them around to happier environments.

***\*Presentation at Schussel's House: Square foot vegetable gardening and attracting Mason bees.***

## **Vogt & DiGiusto Home**

*Garden Focus: Lean, clean and beautifully green... from lawn to landscape with drought tolerant perennials.*

We love to garden and love change! Consequently, over the last 26 years our garden has changed tremendously. We have gone from 90 trees to 16. Our plantings have changed from mostly “ornamentals” to “Tahoe Friendly”. Since we are aging, and because there is no “normal” gardening year in Tahoe, we need plants that can survive fairly independently. Plants that need extra water, food, or protection at very particular times are slowly becoming nonexistent at our home.

In our garden you will see an assortment of lilacs, woods rose, currants, serviceberry, vine maple, dogwoods, willows, geraniums, spiraeas, yarrow, echinacea, rose campion, sedum, and strawberry. Last count there was over 70 varieties. Our front yard is newly landscaped. For many reasons, last fall we replaced our front lawn with steps, walkways and mostly low-maintenance, drought tolerant shrubs and plants. The plants are somewhat immature now, so feel free to return in 2 or 3 years and see how they've grown and filled it! Also, we have done our best to make our property Wildfire Defensible. All unhealthy trees are gone and all others highly limbed. Most shrubs near the house are deciduous - another guard against wildfire destruction. We conduct 95% of the yard work/gardening ourselves.

Enjoy your visit to our garden and if you ever have a question or need to find me, there is a good chance you can do so by visiting my yard where I can usually be found, happily covered in a layer or two of soil!

***\*Presentation at Vogt/DiGiusto House: Toss that lawn and plant water-wise Tahoe friendly perennials.***