



### **Note of Remembrance**

Joanne Geggatt, a friend to all, mentor, and longtime Master Gardener passed away October 21, 2022, at the age of 87. Joanne lived in the Tahoe Keys for a number of years, and tended quite the garden. She started her volunteering as a Master Gardener in Santa Clara County (San Jose) in the earliest years of the program. She worked on plant propagation for the San Jose Plant sale, which is now one of the largest Master Gardener plant sales in the State. When she moved to El Dorado Hills with her husband Allen, she transferred her County MG affiliation to El Dorado. There she worked on organizing the Sherwood Demonstration Garden located in Placerville. She planned, planted, curated, and maintained the 3600 sq. ft. Succulent Garden for a number of years. She also did all the gardening and landscaping at her own home of 10 acres. When they moved to Lake Tahoe, she again moved her MG affiliation to our newly formed Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe. While here she gave MG classes on pollination and plant rooting techniques (using wine grapes as examples). She was also a member of the California Native Plant Society, tramping around in the field looking for rare and unusual native plants and pointing out the beauty of our more ubiquitous flora.

She grew up in Santa Cruz having, as she stated, “an amazing childhood with lots of adventures”. As a Botanist and Entomologist, she loved to explore nature. Her career included working for the Youth Science Center at Vasona Park in Los Gatos as an educator. She traveled to many countries including Costa Rica and Thailand on botanical explorations. She enjoyed playing the piano and guitar. A fantastic

hostess throughout her life, she often entertained family, friends, and associates at her home.

Her husband passed in 2020. She leaves behind son David, daughter Linda, three grandchildren and four great-grand kids. Cards and notes of condolence can be sent to her daughter Linda Barnes at: 234 Elm Wood Court, Los Gatos, CA 95032. The family plans A Celebration of Life Luncheon for Joanne on December 4, 2022, in Livermore, CA. If you would like to attend the luncheon, please contact Linda for details at: [lindalbarnes@aol.com](mailto:lindalbarnes@aol.com). Please consider donating in her memory to one of the Master Gardeners programs that she was part of.

**By Dave Long**



## **Welcome Kevin Kamp Lake Tahoe Master Gardener Program Coordinator**

Let me introduce myself to the Lake Tahoe Master Gardener community. I am Kevin Kamp and have recently moved to South Lake Tahoe from Oregon to be closer to my children and grandchildren, who live in California. I grew up on a farm and worked on farms when I was young. I have continued to be excited and amazed about growing things. I worked for more than 30 years in international development programs. My focus was on innovative, climate smart, sustainable and nutrition sensitive agriculture systems for rural and peri-urban areas of Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. I developed these systems for government, the United Nations and NGO organizations before I retired a few years ago. I am excited to join the Master Gardener team in South Lake Tahoe. My intention is to listen and learn from all of our Lake Tahoe Master Gardener volunteers as well as the community we serve. I am clearly impressed by what I have seen and heard about to date and look forward to meeting Lake Tahoe area gardeners during our events. I ask for your patience as I learn about the program. In my spare time, I enjoy hiking, fishing, biking and running. And of course, I look forward to getting advice from our group as I get my own garden started in the spring. You can reach me at [kkamp@ucanr.edu](mailto:kkamp@ucanr.edu).



## WANT TO GET YOUR "GROW ON" NEXT YEAR?

The Grow Your Own 2022 collaboration ended in October, but the group is already planning their schedule for 2023. If you have ideas on what workshops you would like to see us do, please email us at [laketahoemg@ucanr.edu](mailto:laketahoemg@ucanr.edu).



### Tips on Garden Tool Care Sandy Gainza LTMG

This month, take a few minutes to care for your garden tools. It is getting pretty expensive to buy a new shovel, metal rake or pickaxe, so taking good care of the tools you have can save money as well as make them more useful to you when you begin gardening in the spring.

1.) Remove dirt - this can be done in a number of ways. If the day is warm and dry, you can hose off mud and dirt from the tools. Be sure and let them dry completely before putting them away or you will have to deal with rust. If you are worried about moisture, use a wire brush to remove the dirt and forgo using water.

2.) Removing rust - Even in the dry mountain climates, rust can affect the wear of your garden tools. To remove rust, use an abrasive pad,

such as scotchbrite, steel wool, a wire brush, or a sanding sponge. Check out this article from **the Home Depot** regarding additional methods to remove rust from tools.

3.) Once the tools are rust free, keep them that way by using a spray lubricant to coat the tool with a fine layer of protection.

4.) Store your tools in a dry location. If you have a nice row of hooks or pegs, hang them up. I don't have a large area, so I store them handle down, just in case my shed floor gets wet.

5.) Don't forget the handles! Clean off the dirt, lightly sand wooden handles with sandpaper, abrasive pads or steel wool, then oil with boiled linseed oil for the best protection.

6.) Sharpening your tools. Here is an **article from the Master Gardener website** about how to sharpen your garden tools with some valuable precautions.

If you take some time to take good care of your tools, they can last few lifetimes. Next month, I will show you how to clean your hand tools!

## Plant Feature for November



### Rabbitbrush

Dave Long LTMG

(*Ericameria nauseous*) formerly  
*Chrysothamnus nauseous*

Rabbitbrush (*also known as: rabbit bush, rabbit brush, Chamisa, rubber rabbitbrush, gray rabbitbrush and goldenbush*) is one of the few Tahoe plants that may still be in bloom mid fall, giving many of the native bees and pollinators one last big gulp of pollen and nectar before the rain and snow bring an end to the growing season. There are at least 9 different recognized varieties of *E. nauseous* and another 18 closely related species (Jepson Manual) found throughout western North America (not to mention hybridization between the species) making it difficult to positively identify any individual plant. But for most purposes and situations *E. nauseous* – Rabbitbrush is close enough.

Rabbitbrush is a perennial woody scrub that typically grows to about 1.5 meter in height. Often growing in dense patches along roadways and dry disturbed areas. Individual plants are mound shaped. Leaves about 1-2 inches long and are lanceolate to spatulate shape. Foliage

color is grayish green, or depending on angle of viewing just gray. When blooming, flower heads are numerous with individual flowers small and also numerous. Blooms are bright yellow to yellow-orange in color. As seeds mature the flower heads turn white. Often found in association with Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and/or as an understory plant to Jeffery Pines (*Pinus jeffreyi*) in drier situations where the pine occurs. It thrives in a wide range of sandy or gravel soils that are common to drier Tahoe areas.

The plant, especially the flowers, is used extensively by bees and pollinators, making it an important part of the landscape. There is an interesting native moth that feeds nearly exclusively on Rabbitbrush. Find the adult Rabbitbrush Webbing Moth (*Synnoma lynosyrana*) in late summer and early fall when plants are in bloom. The small brown male moth flies during the evening. The female, while having rudimentary wings, is flightless.

A yellow dye can be made from rabbitbrush flowers. Indigenous peoples have used the stems for basketry. The latex could be collected, boiled and chewed as a gum. Early in the 20th century Rabbitbrush was considered a possible candidate for commercial rubber production, again during World War II, and once more in the 1950s. Rabbitbrush has been used as an ornamental xeriscape shrub for low/no water landscaping. Pruning the shrub in spring allows use of the plants as a hedge. However, its high resin and latex content make rabbitbrush unsuitable for fire-wise landscaping.

#### References:

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US Department of Agriculture. TJ Howell Botanical Drive

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US Bureau of Land Management Eight Dollar Mountain Recreation

Guide. [www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/files/brochures/Eight\\_Dollar\\_final\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/files/brochures/Eight_Dollar_final_pdf.pdf)

US Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management. Eight Dollar Mountain Botanical Area / Wild and Scenic Illinois River

Corridor. [https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/regions/Pacific\\_Northwest/EightDollar/index.shtml](https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/regions/Pacific_Northwest/EightDollar/index.shtml)

US Forest Service. Eight Dollar Mountain Botanical

Area. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/rogue-siskiyou/recreation/recarea/?recid=82875&actid=63>

## Closing Gardens for Winter

Tips by Annie Christy LTMG

1. Keep watering evergreens until the ground freezes.
2. Bring in, turn over or cover clay and concrete pots and fountains with burlap.
3. Plant spring bulbs if the ground isn't frozen.
4. Mulch to insulate plants and maintain moisture.

5. Protect disease prone perennials leaving 3-5 inches of stem.
6. Remove leaves from lawns but keep some in garden beds to protect pollinators.
7. Leave ornamental grasses, shrubs, and flowers for birds and pollinators, prune in early spring.
8. Wash and disinfect garden tools with rubbing alcohol or bleach. Remove rust with steel wool. Oil wooden handles and store tools in a dry place.
9. Heavy snows can pull down some tree and shrub branches. Prune lightly or tie back around the upper portion to prevent winter damage.
10. Turn water off, clean filters and blow out irrigation systems.
11. Winterize lawn mowers and rototillers by draining the gas or adding a fuel stabilizer.
12. Disconnect hoses from waterspouts to avoid freezing damage.
13. Sit back and enjoy the winter!



**The Traveling Gardener**  
Dave Long LTMG

**TJ Howell Botanical Drive, Southwest Oregon**

The TJ Howell Botanical Drive is a 7 ½ mile drive on Eight Dollar Mountain Road located in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest of

southwest Oregon. Eight Dollar Road is off of Oregon State Highway 199 (Redwood Highway) between the towns of Selma and Kerby. The Botanical drive starts at a Botanical Wayside and ends in a picnic area with multiple turn-outs for parking and exploring along several short interpretive trails. Eight Dollar Mountain Road starts as a paved road and turns to a maintained gravel road after ¼ mile. The road is suitable for any car at slow speeds. During winter and periods of high fire danger the road is closed and locked just beyond the Botanical Wayside.

The area is noted for its botanical diversity with numerous species or varieties only found in the serpentine soils of the Klamath – Siskiyou mountains, which generally run east/west as opposed to the adjacent Cascades and Coast Ranges that have north/south axis. The serpentine soils and parent peridotite rock are low in nitrogen and calcium but have higher concentrations of metals including iron, nickel, chrome and magnesium. These unusual soils have affected the flora of the area, with endemic plants only found on these soils or varieties of more common plants adapted to the localized geology.

The Botanical Wayside, the first stop on Eight Dollar Mountain Road is about a .4 mile (out and back) well maintained boardwalk that is open year-round. The boardwalk passes through stands of Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), grass areas and ends at a smallish wetland (fen) where California Pitcher Plants (see photo above) are in abundance (*Darlingtonia californica*). Western Azaleas (*Rhododendron occidentale*.) bushes are all along the boardwalk in the less dry portions. Numerous wildflowers are in bloom in the spring. May is the recommended month to enjoy the wildflowers. The area around Eight Dollar Mountain including the Botanical drive area has over 350 vascular plants identified.

Other stops along the TJ Howell Botanical Drive include Days Gulch Botanical area, with a view of the Illinois River and Little Falls Trail where specimens of the Port Orford Cedar (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) can be found.

The Botanical Drive is named after pioneering botanist Thomas Jefferson Howell (1842-1912), who wrote the first plant guide book of the area. He collected thousands of specimens including 46 type specimens (specimen used to first scientifically describe a new plant species or variety). His personal collection of about 10,000 plant specimens was donated to the University of Oregon.

Two stories are possible explanations for the name Eight Dollar Mountain: 1. Named for a gold nugget valued at \$8 found on the mountain's slopes; 2. It took \$8 worth of shoes to walk around the base of the mountain.

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US Department of Agriculture. TJ Howell Botanical Drive

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## What would you like to read about?

Let us know! Call or email us at the address below. We will research and write what you need to know about!

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