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Alta Dutch Flat Gold Run

COMMUNITY

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Spring 2025

Dutch Flat's Community Garden to get makeover in 2025

By Laura Glassco

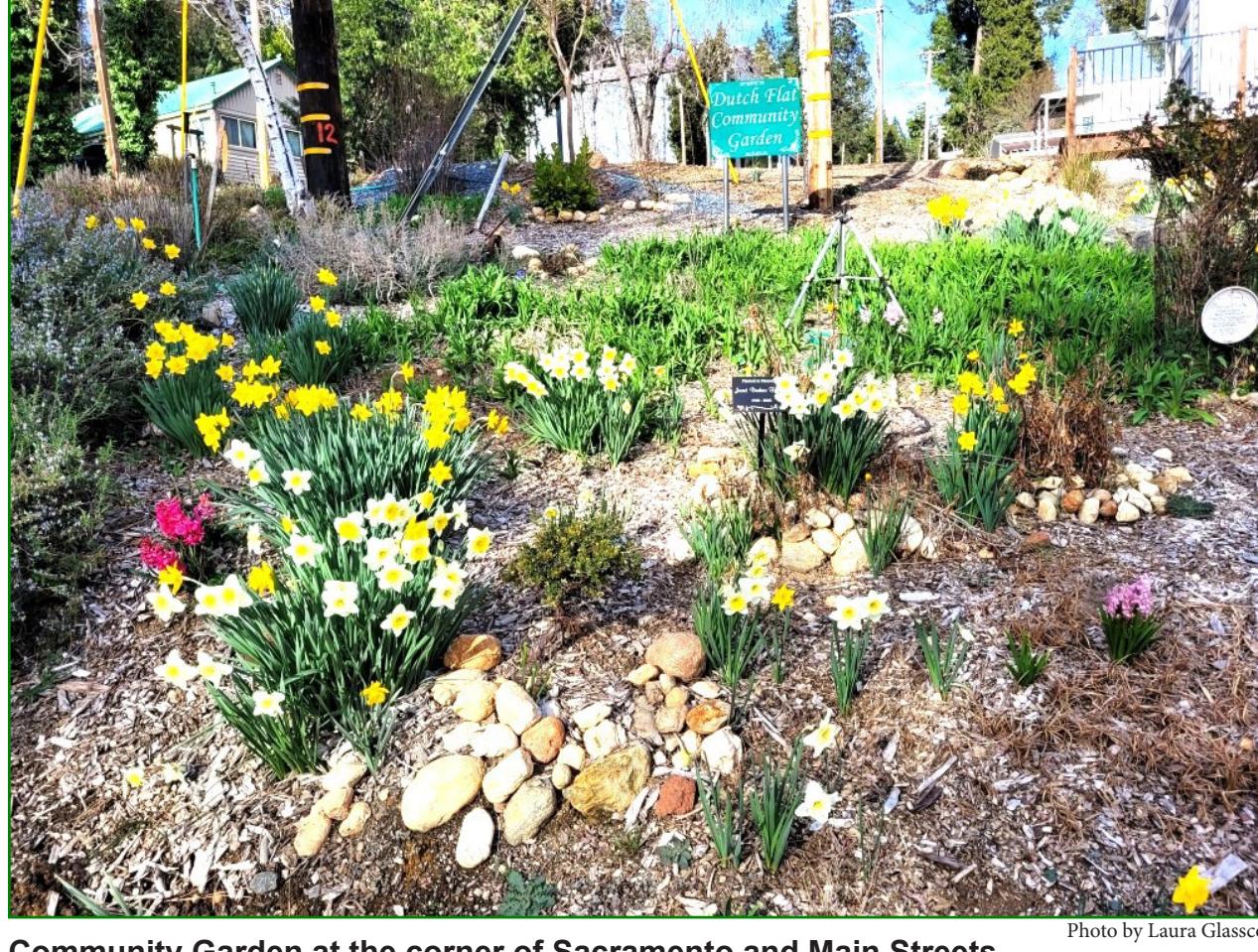


Photo by Laura Glassco

Community Garden at the corner of Sacramento and Main Streets

Several years ago, the Community Garden and the Hearse House were deeded over to the Golden Drift Historical Society from the Dutch Flat Community Center. The Hearse House was restored in 2024. We are now focusing our efforts on the Community Garden.

Jeanne Wilson, Board Member of the Golden Drift Historical Society and Member of the Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and Lora Piscitelli, docent at the Golden Drift Museum, Redbud Society Member and Garden Designer, are co-chairing this effort. They have secured a grant from the Placer County Resource Conservation District to 1. Create a native plant garden; 2. Emphasizing those plants there are excellent pollinators and 3. Have low water consumption requirements.



Silver Bush Lupine

Native pollinator plants that will be added to the Garden include: Lemmon's ceanothus, hoary coffeeberry, silver bush lupine, hollyleaf redberry, Western azalea, dwarf wild rose, California goldenrod and sulphur buckwheat. In addition to these pollinator plants, the Garden already has yarrow, California fuchsia, woodland strawberry,

Western Azalea



To ensure that memorial plants are undisturbed, we are asking those that know of existing memorial plants within the Community Garden to please contact Lora Piscitelli at email: adreamer57@att.net or cell: 530-368-6836 by April 15.

common rush and wild blue flax.

Over the years, this beloved space has been given a wide variety of plants. We are asking those that know of existing memorial plants to please contact Lora Piscitelli (see contact information above) by April 15. She will ensure that memorial plants remain in the garden.



California Goldenrod

Additionally, many non-native plants will be removed from the garden to make room for the native pollinator plants. We expect the following plants to be removed and will be available to anyone willing to pick them up: Daylilies, Shasta Daisies, Red Hot Pokers, Rosemary, Laurel, Mint and Euphorbia. Lora will notify the community when these plants are available on social media.

Lastly, if you have any of the following items and would like to donate to the Community Garden Project, please contact Lora. We need: River Rock and Garden Benches. Monetary donations are also welcome and are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to Golden Drift Historical Society and mail to PO Box 253, Dutch Flat, CA 95714. Or donate online at www.goldendrift.org.

Thank you for helping us to revitalize this Community open space as a native plant habitat hosting a wide variety of pollinators!

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What Community Support Looks Like

By Shana Brown, Superintendent/Principal, Alta-Dutch Flat School District

For the Alta-Dutch Flat-Gold Run communities, the Alta-Dutch Flat School is the heart of the community. While other, larger school districts may rely on local organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club to fulfill needs, we truly rely on the support of individuals in the community to reach out with offers of help. Let me share what community support looks like for our school.

Community support means that the owner of the local store buys cupcakes for the entire school for Halloween and Christmas. Thanks, Abe!

Community support means that the generator that was originally purchased by the Dutch Flat Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary for the Dutch Flat Water Agency is relocated and donated to the school.

Community support means that the Alta-Dutch Flat School's Parents' Club is able to donate over 60 meals to our local community food bank after our Thanksgiving feast.

Community support means that the Dutch Flat Community Center earmarks December donations for families at our school.

"Thank you for all you do on behalf of the children at Alta-Dutch Flat School"

Community support means that the local CalFire staff is invited to all of our activities.

Community support means that the Dutch Flat Pool staffs more lifeguards on the days when our students will be there.

Community support means that Alta Dutch Flat School's Parents' Club sells out of tickets for the Surf and Turf dinner which supports our annual Ski Day. This year, all of our students were able to ski for free because of our community support.

Community support means that members of our community come to our Veterans' Day assembly and to our Winter concert.

Community support means that our local restaurant may pass along food to families in need.

Community support means that local service organizations, such as the Oddfellows, Rebekahs, Dutch Flat Community Center and Dutch Flat Pool, present awards at our 8th grade graduation.

Community support means that, literally, members of the community volunteer to work with our students. Thank you Kitty, Amber, and Gunda!

When Alta-Dutch Flat School says that we thank you for your support, we mean that we feel your support behind us. We know what we mean to our community. You are generous in your giving and we do not take that lightly. Thank you for all you do on behalf of the children at Alta-Dutch Flat School.

Shana Brown
Superintendent/Principal

alta.k12.ca.us
sbrown@alta.k12.ca.us

ALTA-DUTCH FLAT SCHOOL DISTRICT

34050 Alta Bonnyhook Rd.
+530-389-8283

COMMUNITY STAFF**Publisher:**

Dutch Flat Community Center
P. O. Box 14, Dutch Flat CA 95714
530-389-8310

Editorial Staff:

Sarah Fugate, Editor

Reporters & Contributors:

Shana Brown
Nancy Bullard
Diane Ewing
Sarah Fugate
Bill Gallaher
Laura Glassco
Geri Lennon
Debby McClatchy
Mia Monroe
Shelley Willsmore

Special Contributor:

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Shelley Willsmore, At Large

Email: dfcc.newspaper@gmail.com

Address: 933 Stockton Street, Dutch Flat

Website: www.dutchflatcc.org

Facebook: Dutch Flat Community Center

X: @dutchflatcc

Views expressed in letters, guest opinion pieces and other contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, the Dutch Flat Community Center, or its Board.

This newspaper is published quarterly and distributed to Dutch Flat Community Center members and to residents of the Center's service area from Gold Run to Emigrant Gap in Placer County, California.

We welcome contributions from readers. Submission deadline for the next issue:

June 10, 2025.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Attic: Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm.

Dutch Flat Community Center Board of Directors Meeting: 2nd Mondays, 6:00 pm. Location varies. Contact Laura Glassco, 916-778-8308.

Dutch Flat Community Center Potluck: 3rd Thursdays. 6:00 pm. Bring a place setting, your own drink, and a dish to share. July and August at the Dutch Flat Pool.

Dutch Flat Seventh Day Adventist: Community Worship Service, Wednesday, 6:30 pm and Saturday, 3:30 pm. 936 Stockton Street. Contact 706-633-8789.

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Pancake Breakfast: 2nd Saturdays, 8:00 am -10:00 am.

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church Arts & Crafts: Thursdays, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. All are welcome. Learn something new!

Dutch Flat United Methodist Church: Worship Service, Sundays, 11:00 am. Fellowship lunch following service. Contact: 916-847-8477.

Golden Drift Historical Society Board Meeting: 1st Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December, 7 pm. Golden Drift Museum, Main Street. Contact Sarah Fugate, 530-210-5085.

Pioneer Union Church, Gold Run: Worship Service, Sundays, 10 am.

Placer County Library Mobile Service: See Page 5.

Sierra First Baptist Church, Alta: Worship Service, Sundays, 11 am. 33990 Alta Bonny Nook Rd, Alta. Contact 530-389-2168.

Sierra First Baptist Church Bible Study: Mondays, 8:30 am.

Sierra First Baptist Church Community Lunch: Mondays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Free.

Sierra First Baptist Church Food Pantry:

Thursdays, 10 am - 12 pm.

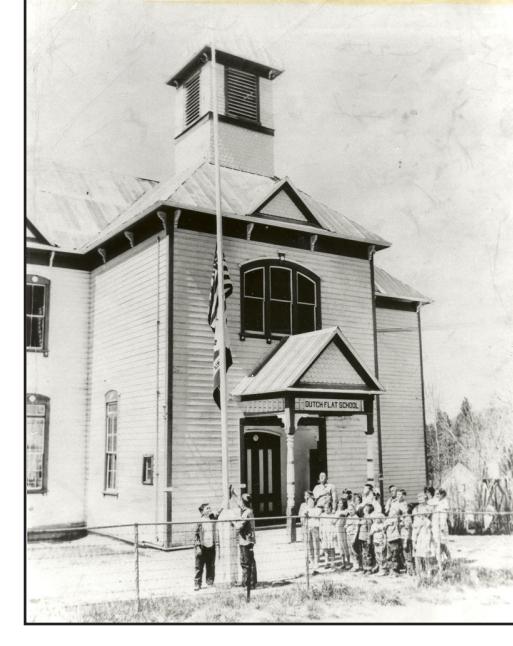
A message from the DFCC President

By Laura Glassco

Spring tried to arrive in February but took a step back in our early March snow! During the winter, many helped to organize our backstage room full of decorations and WES items. We now know what's there and can access it easily.

See the Spring events below. The 9th Annual Artisan Faire is on Saturday, May 3rd. It will have many artists selling their handmade jewelry, watercolors, clothing, lawn art and more! A delicious lunch will be available from Maria's Mexican Food Truck. The Golden Drift Museum will also be open. So come get those unique gift items, enjoy a tasty lunch and drop by the museum for a visit!

The 3rd Annual Spring Fling will be held on Saturday, May 17. The party theme this year is "Hippy Happy". So come wearing your beads or whatever you like. Tickets will be on sale at the Trading Post April 1. Seating is



limited, so get your tickets early for a great beef tri-tip dinner, fantastic silent auction items and music by Malarkey. All proceeds help the Center continue to provide fun and enjoyment for all.



Sierra Nevada foothills band, Malarkey, will provide musical entertainment at the Spring Fling on Saturday, May 17. Tickets will be on sale at the Trading Post beginning April 1.

Here's what's coming up this Spring:

April 20	6 pm	Potluck at the Community Center
May 3	9 am-3 pm	Spring Artisan Faire
May 15	6 pm	Potluck at the Community Center
May 17	5 pm	Spring Fling Dinner and Dance
June 19	6 pm	Potluck at the Community Center

CORRECTION: It was previously reported that the Golden Drift Historical Society paid one-half the cost to restore the historical school banners now on display in the Community Center. In fact, the GDHS paid one-eighth of the cost.

Become a Member of the Dutch Flat Community Center!

Dutch Flat Community Center Membership Form
A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization (Tax ID# 68-0484699)

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Additional Donation to the DFCC \$ _____

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Welcome Home Angels in Fatigues

By Bill Gallaher

"INCOMING!" "Again, this week? Rockets this time! Shrapnel! We've got patients to protect. I've got to either move them under the beds or cover them with mattresses."

1st Lt Sharon Lane, pictured right, never finished her shift. A Viet Cong rocket hit the 312th Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai, South Vietnam, killing Lt Lane while she was protecting others. Ironically, her patients that day were Vietnamese. Mostly friendlies, but maybe not all. When the Viet Cong, who were rice-hatted farmers by day and black pajamas clad soldiers at night, needed medical care, they put on their rice hats and became farmers and used the evac hospitals.

Lt Lane knew she might be treating Viet Cong soldiers, and could have protected herself, but her patients were her first thought. She was a hero!! Lt Lane was the only American nurse killed by enemy fire in the Vietnam War. 7 others died by non-combat means. All the approximately 6500 nurses volunteered for Vietnam. Nurses were assigned to Army or Navy, with men making up about 20%. They are ANGELS IN FATIGUES.

Women combat vets? In Viet Nam? Many people, including Vietnam vets, are unaware of women's important role in the war effort. I even heard one vet claim "there were no women in Vietnam". (He apparently was one of the lucky ones who didn't get a free ride on a Dust Off, or Medivac, helicopter.) My brother stepped on a land mine in Vietnam and spent 18 months in a VA hospital. He fell in love with most every nurse that attended him! These Angels in Fatigues, many just out of nursing school, often worked round the clock in massive casualty situations, directing triage, assisting with emergency tracheotomies and amputations, inserting tubes to assist surgeons, and removing damaged tissue and shrapnel from wounds. They were called "Pluckers" because they plucked out shrapnel from wounded soldiers. They also returned home to the same unfriendly reception and psychological trauma their male patients suffered.

What would we have done without you Angels in Fatigues? What was it like for nurses in combat zones? Most were stationed in evacuation hospitals, temporary medical facilities set up near active combat zones. Tents and cots. Hot, humid and buggy. The mission was to stabilize wounded soldiers before transferring them for further treatment.

In their own words, these are their stories. The following quotes are from nurses that were stationed in various Evac Hospitals in Vietnam:

"On January 30, 1968, the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong launched the Tet Offensive. It is a period of my life I will never forget. I had volunteered for the 12th Evacuation Hospital at Cu Chi where some



of the bloodiest fighting of the War took place. We were inundated with casualties that went on for weeks. The triage area filled up as fast as we could move them out. When a helicopter landed, patients were rushed by stretcher to the pre-op hut where clothes were cut off. As the patients were examined, the severity and location of their wounds was assessed, transfusions and respiratory resuscitation started and superficial hemorrhage was controlled. Some wounds were horrendous, beyond description. Those patients who were unstable were immediately taken to the ORs. Others were sent to x-ray first."

"At times, there were two choppers on the ground unloading patients and several others circling. In mass casualty situations, we might have 50, 60 arriving at once. The base itself was frequently attacked by mortars and rocket fire. When that happened, we rushed to the shelters and as soon as the noise stopped, we ran to pre-op. In mass casualty situations, extra tents were hastily erected around the helipad and these served as extra ER's and resuscitation centers. I had to do the triage and I felt the enormity of that task. Walking down the rows of desperately wounded men, with a glance and cursory exam deciding who would go to surgery first and who could wait for the next available operating room. It was the hardest job I ever had."

"We heard a radio call that Hill 950, west of Quang Tri Provence, was getting run over with mortars. Our hospital sent two "Dust Offs". The fighting was intense and they could only get in with one helicopter that only evacuated one of three Americans. One soldier was later deemed missing in action and the other a POW. Back at the hospital, we waited for the chopper to return, which was tenuous because the chopper was being shot at and had to make an emergency landing at Khe Sahn. Both of our crews made it home safe."

"Coming home from Vietnam on the "freedom bird", I came into Travis Air Force Base.... They kept us on the plane at Travis for two hours before they let us deplane. They said it was for our safety and told us not to wear our uniforms. They waited until there were very few people in the airport to let us off. American uniformed service members were being harassed and attacked by anti-war protesters so we were cautioned not to

be in uniform for our own well-being. You mean I volunteered and spent a hellish year in the midst of a war, caring for my brother soldier's wounds, and now I am home safe but I am at risk here because of my service?"

Capt. Diane Evans, an Army nurse in Vietnam: "The men sandbagged the hooches and hospitals as they were rocketed and mortared. Soldiers were in the guard towers, some standing guard, getting killed, protecting nurses. We were in the hospitals saving lives. We had to measure up. When a soldier came in and his life depended on us, we learned quickly. We were the youngest nurses ever sent into battle. Most of us were under 25 years old. I was 21. We had energy and stamina. We wanted to do our job. We were given a mission. We wanted to get each other home alive. Many times, we were in the hospital saving lives as we heard incoming and outgoing artillery. We got used to knowing what the sounds meant, and the air raid sirens. We pulled together as a team — men and women. Our job was to take care of each other and get our jobs done and get home safely. We were there to protect our patients."

Another nurse said "No one really talked about the women who served in the military. We were just invisible veterans. Even while we were serving, there wasn't a lot written about what we were doing."

"As air raid sirens and mortar blasts and sapper attacks were happening, Dust-off helicopter crews dropped wounded off at field hospitals. We worked around-the-clock to treat the injured despite attacks from the Viet Cong."

"We were so tired. We were working on pure adrenaline. And giggling at nothing. I had worked in emergency rooms with automobile accidents, but nothing prepared me for this"

"We learned techniques such as starting intravenous lines in the dark, performing amputations and working with burn patients."

"We heard artillery rounds 24 hours a day."

"Our shifts were 12 hours; 6 days a week and our incoming came by helicopter. It would be called a 'PUSH' and the wounded were triaged in the ER. Often when working day shifts, we might have to crawl to safety if under a rocket attack."

Thank you to all the women who have served our country, and especially the Angels in Fatigues.

There is too much to tell in one column about these heroes. My next column will share more personal experiences and letters from nurses as they talk about their former patients.

Also, one of the evac hospitals was directly over VC tunnels.

More on tunnels and "Tunnel Rats" later.

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History of the Alta Hikers

By Diane Ewing

After consulting with several retired hikers and my mom's, Peggy Ewing, detailed hiking notes there is a consensus that a small group of friends that enjoyed hiking got together for some local outings starting in 1989. They were Ken and Florence Legg, Ken and Betty Fetherston, Virginia and Ken Wolfe, and Sally and Dick Towle, all from the Alta area. Ken Legg, a former State Park Ranger, was familiar with many hikes in the area. As the word spread about the hikes, several other friends were asked to join the group.

Some of the earliest regular members of the group were Peggy Ewing, Evah Edwards, Winslow and Katie Hall, Shirley Beedy, Sally Pensegrouw, Bill and Sue Hughs, Anna Ewing, Connie Meyers, Cecile Woods, Lonna Haas, Joe and Barbara Hoffman, Marilyn Prince, Jeanne Nelson, Betty and Matt Bailey, Doug and Jeannette Walther, Jean Binder, Larry Bruner, Betty Powell, Joan Chlarsen, Marilyn Gregory, Irene and Bill Grace, Michael and Marilyn Barham, Lucinda Ingram, Nancy Harvey, Laurel and John Larimer, Mary Ann Marker, and Janet and Bob Waters. Many other hikers have come and gone over the years, now including hikers from Placer, Nevada and Sacramento counties.

As the group became larger, it morphed into what is now known as the Alta Hikers. They met on Tuesday mornings, hence the motto, "Always on Tuesday", near the Alta Firehouse, at the parking lot, next to the Attic and decided where they would hike for the day. The weekly hikes ranged from Lake Tahoe to the Sacramento area and beyond, averaging about 6-8 miles long. In 2001, the hikers started planning camp-outs where they would spend several days hiking and camping/RVing in the Hope Valley and then, later, in cabins with showers in the Sierra Buttes.

The Alta Hikers have come a long way from ad-hoc hikes. Now, we have assigned monthly hike coordinators, who plan and lead hikes and organize carpools for hikers. We even have our own T-shirts, hats and lunch sacks designed and made by family members.

Beyond the natural beauty and fraternity, some of the more memorable moments on our hikes were spotting a momma bear and



Photo by Annette Purther

her two cubs at the Waddle Ranch Preserve near Truckee, the Oscar Mayer Weiner Car on I-80, sword in the stone along the Angela, Flora and Azalea Lakes trail, film crew with a drone at Lake Tahoe, hiking with Llamas, hiking to an Alpaca farm in Weimar, touring the Sacramento Railroad Museum, exploring the railroad snow sheds/tunnels at Donner Summit, spotting a fire across the canyon from Point Mariah that we reported, a dead deer carcass being feasted on by a swarm of vultures on Rattlesnake Bar trail and sunbathing rattle snakes at Cronin Ranch.



There were also some first-aid moments: Matt Bailey was airlifted out of the Green Valley trail by a Forest Service helicopter when he fainted from complications of diabetes; Anna Ewing had heat exhaustion on Mount Baldy and was carried out by Doug and Janet Walther. A similar episode happened to Lora and Vance Piscitelli's dog, Koda, a Siberian Husky that suffered from heat exhaustion and could not take another step. We hauled him down the trail in a make-shift gurney made of hiking sticks, Alta Hiker T-shirts and ropes to a creek to cool off. Unexpected events like these or making a wrong turn on the trail always turn into an adventure.

The group has grown through friendship, family, and a love of hiking. At the time of this article the current members include Diane Ewing (legacy of Peggy Ewing), Laura Kendall (legacy of Margie Dolezal), Marilyn DeMarco, Julie Tannehill, Shiomi Wilson, Tamara Dominguez, Corby Nichol, Karen Basquin, Dee and Nolan Smith, Lupe Frazer, Patty Blesso, Penny Anderson, Lora Piscitelli, Karen Charles, Sarah Fugate, and Kathy Naverez. Membership is by invitation only. We are blessed to live in an area of such natural beauty and fellowship.



Photo by Sarah Fugate
Diane Ewing at
Malakoff Diggins
State Park

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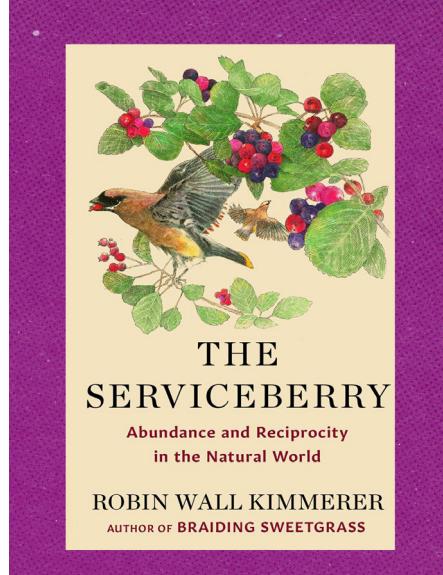
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How to Love and be Loved by a Forest

By Mia Monroe

For half a century I was in public service in our nation's national parks and continue to this day as a VIP (volunteer in parks!). I not only offered this service to you as citizens and visitors to our public lands but also was called to be a steward of the natural systems, species, and seasonal rhythms often as a restoration ecologist, but also to help all engage deeply meaningfully as well as enjoy nature!

It was a reciprocal relationship we all had and indispensable to continue. I realized the deeper meanings of this when recently reading Robin Wall Kimmerer's *The Serviceberry* this winter and she expanded the way we - the natural world and us, nature and each of us - can give and take intentionally, carefully and abundantly. *I hope you all approach this coming "fuse of green" aka as spring in that spirit of reciprocity.*



All of us have a profound feeling, maybe expressed as love, for the nature around us at Dutch Flat. The many and necessary connections with our landscape, our biophilia. This could be something material and deep in our bodies, such as the exchange between creatures, plants and earth. Or even more basic like photosynthesis that gives us oxygen from green leaves. Maybe it is the catch of the breath at the bursting open of a bud or the greening up of the trees. Position your deck chair to the sun (or sunset or night sky!).

Maybe you have an early spring walk in mind! That's a great time to think about the language of the woods through the framework of the Five Love languages:

Words of Affirmation: Speak to the trees and maybe even speak up for them (think SYRCL or NFARA)

Quality Time: Whether you're on a five-minute stroll or errand or a five mile hike, leave a few moments to forget the tick of the clock, breathe in and out to fall in to tree time. A new study shows positive effects to our well-being just looking at a colorful flower bud for 3 minutes!

Physical touch: Hug a tree! Touch your toes into the moss or hummus. Plant a

DUTCH FLAT

Spring Artisan Faire



Saturday, May 3, 2025

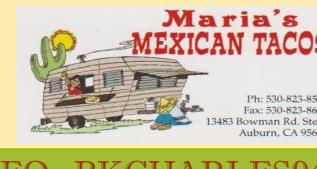
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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garden and imagine the harvest ahead!

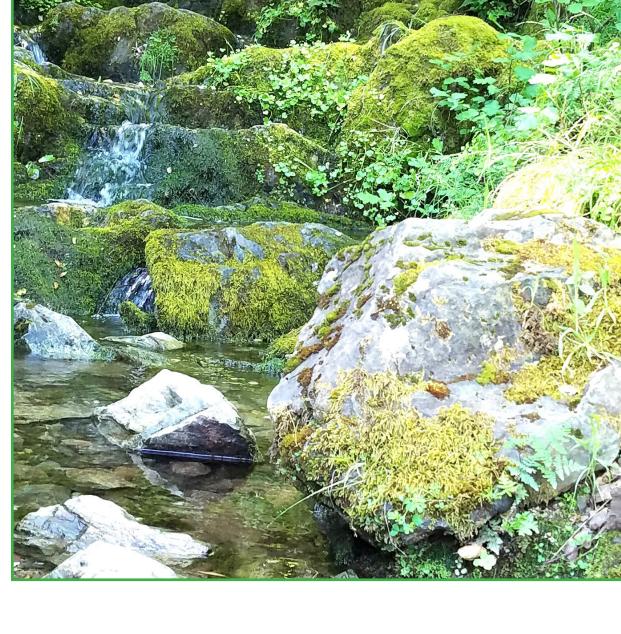
Acts of Service: Pick up litter, do trail work,

share your favorite area with someone else.

Pay attention to other living things there.

Giving and Receiving Gifts: Offer a healthy yard. Water wisely. Maybe leave a little mess of sticks, cuttings as a hiding spot for little critters. Consider shade. Offer a bird feeder. Pause to enjoy the beauty of a butterfly, the song of a bird, crickets and frogs at day's end.

Spring is time to revisit nature, become reacquainted, watch the bare branches become clothed again with leaves and more! Who will migrate back in? Say thank you for the fresh air and brightness returning to our lives! Here's how to listen to *The Serviceberry*: <https://emergencemagazine.org/essay/the-serviceberry/>



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By Debby McClatchy

Gold Run's Main Street

In the Golden Drift Museum, on the left side of the picture gallery, is a large picture of Gold Run's Main Street in 1870. The businesses on the left include their Odd Fellows Hall, Brown's Bank, Leach's Saloon, Oliver's Store, Runckel's Bakery and Saloon, Weber's Saloon, a notions store, Warner's Drug Store, and Hawkin's Tin Shop. On the right are Anderson's Blacksmith, Heintz Mercantile, and the Hackett House Hotel. After The Good Templars, a fraternal organization that allowed women, but no alcohol, flourished in Gold Run, the saloons saw business greatly diminish. The Gold Run Ditch and Mining Company had as its president, Allen Towle. This, plus Mr. Runckel owning bakeries in both Gold Run and Dutch Flat, shows a close relationship between the two towns.

Jay Street in Dutch Flat

Jay Street in Dutch Flat is a small alley that cuts straight through town behind the Community Center to end quickly on School Street. Originally, the lane was named Joseph Street, after one of the Dornbach founding fathers, but then shortened to "Jay", probably by the County. When I was a child it was informally called "Pig Alley". It was only as an adult that I learned this was a more socially acceptable way of saying "Pigalle", as the area had been Dutch Flat's red light district in its heyday. Little mention of this area is found in the town's histories. Isaac Coffin refers to it briefly, as his second wife, Cynthia, was supposedly friends with some of the ladies who worked there.

Town Fires in Gold Rush Towns

Dutch Flat is known as the only Gold Rush Town to have never completely burned down. In most towns, during the first twelve years of the Era, many "buildings" were built of pine and cloth with stove pipes thrust through, a certain recipe for disaster. If a fire started, it generally spread. Mining took place in warmer months, and everything was bone dry.

Ophir was thus destroyed on July 18, 1853. The fire started in the kitchen of the Union Hotel and all Main Street was consumed, except the Brewery.

The first large fire in Auburn was June 4, 1855. It started in Chinatown near the Methodist Church and quickly spread to Dr. Rinze's Drugstore, the Diana Bowling Saloon, and the Keehner's Bakery. Within one hour and twenty minutes, eighty buildings were destroyed.

More Gold Rush Trivia

Main Street, Gold Run, 1870

Colfax had two serious fires during the nineteenth century, one in 1874 and another in 1887. The 1874 fire started in a barber shop located on a plot now housing the City Market. All wooden buildings on Main Street burned, leaving only those made of brick, including the Masonic and Odd Fellows Halls. The 1887 fire started in the May Hotel and was disastrous in that the whole town lay in ruins.

Some towns that burned down were moved to better locations. In the early 1850s Michigan Bluff, known then as Michigan City, was home to Leland Stanford's home and mercantile. Twenty-one miles east of Colfax, it was one of Placer County's oldest towns. Mining started there early in the summer of 1848 by a party of sailors and a company from Sutter's Fort. The mining method was hard-rock, where extensive tunnels were dug into local ridges. The amount of gold found was massive.

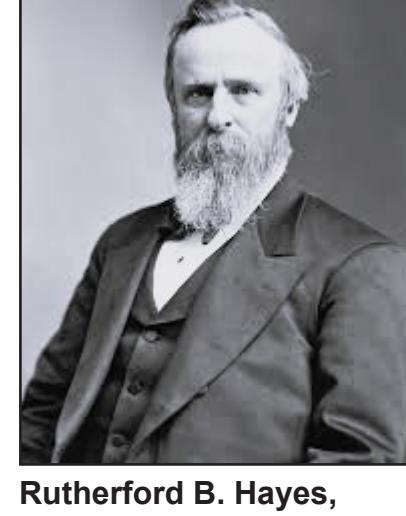
In 1857 the whole town burned down, and was not rebuilt, as the ground was laced with tunnels and unstable. A new town was built slightly to the north and renamed. In 1882 there were still 468 inhabitants, but, by the turn of the century, Michigan Bluff was basically a ghost town.

Rules for Stagecoach Passengers

(Posted at most stations and some coach interior roofs; some Victorian language edited for better understanding)

1. No liquor preferred. If you must drink, share the bottle, particularly with the driver.
2. If ladies are present, no smoking is preferred. Chewing tobacco is permitted, but spit with the wind, not into it.

3. If ladies are present, no profanity is preferred. Except the driver, or else the teams will not understand him.
4. Robes are provided for comfort. Anyone hogging them will be asked to sit outside.
5. Do not snore.
6. Do not lean on your neighbor.
7. Do not shoot off your firearms; it spooks the teams.
8. In the event of a runaway coach, do not jump off, as you will be at the mercy of the elements, highwaymen, and coyotes.
9. Never discuss politics, religion, or past stagecoach accidents or robberies with your fellow passengers.
10. Unchivalrous behavior of gentlemen to ladies is not tolerated. Those guilty will be put off the stage, where it may be a long walk to their destination.

Rutherford B. Hayes,
19th U.S. President**An Honored Visit to Dutch Flat**

In April of 1880, President Rutherford B. Hayes traveled west on the transcontinental railroad, then stopped off in Dutch Flat for a campaign fundraiser. After that fancy, alcohol-fueled event, the President fell down the stairs in the Opera House and was laid up for ten days in the Dutch Flat Hotel. A constant stream of supplicants kept the party going until the recovered, but satiated, man was able to join his entourage, who had been holed up in the Colfax Hotel with ex-Vice President Schuyler Colfax, coincidentally also on a trip west.

April fools! Which one?

Bob Hampshire

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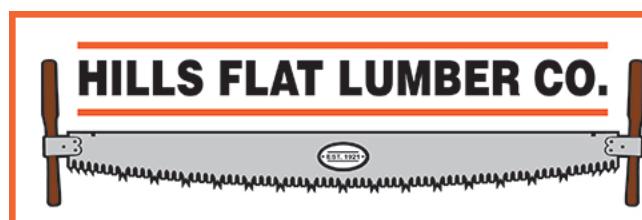
By G. A. Lennon

As most are aware, Hollywood recently lost a fabulous actor, Gene Hackman. In a strange set of events, he was found dead in his mansion near Sante Fe. To further add to the shock, his wife and a pet dog were found, also dead, in another room in the house. If you haven't watched the news for a while, the weird set of events played out for days, criss crossing the Oscars which led to further upending of *what if* details. It was, of course, a media storm. Tonight, after laboring hours over tax prep, I simply had to grab the remote and a tiny glass of wine and check in on the continuing investigation. I wasn't ready for the updated news.

An august gathering of New Mexican law enforcement, medical and environmental gurus and the ever-present media were gathered outside of the Hackman residence. An autopsy indicated that Gene Hackman's wife had died of a strange infectious disease known as Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, while Gene had died in another room of cardiac complications exacerbated by Alzheimer's. By the way, he did not test positive for Hantavirus. It doesn't pass human-to-human and dogs don't get it either. The dog in a cage well, likely died of being in a cage for many days. Re-reading that last sentence is rather horrifying. You can't make this kind of drama up. The front door was ajar, nothing had been stolen, but at some point a hidden passage had been found under the main floor. We all know what the media did with that tidbit. In addition, most of us suffer from voyeurism. It's easy to go into sleuthing 1A and ponder publicly over the unanswered questions. Could we give them a rest? Imagine being their family and having to hear over and over the details on news and social media. But as I sit here and try to remember details of life cycles, of rodents and viruses, I am also aware of the twisted hand of fate.

Here are some cool people and wealthy ones for sure.... living in a mansion in the Southwest. Gene was 95, his wife, Betsy Arakawa Hackman, a classic pianist was 65, the dog was one of 3. The other two dogs were alive and in the house. Now I'm not trying to be ghoulish and string out all the details, but frankly, it is rare, this viral thief in the night.

The virus in question that took Mrs. Hackman, was Hantavirus, also known as the Sin Nombre Virus. It was originally discovered back in the seventies in New Mexico. It is a level 4 virus. OK, I can't stand it, you need to know what level 4 means. When one is doing research at one of the bio institutions, researchers have to wear hazmat suits with controlled oxygen. All the movies you've seen like Dustin Hoffman in *Outbreak*, as well as the recent thriller *Contagion*, paint an eerie picture of a virus that must be respected and considered lethal. Ebola is one of them. With a mortality



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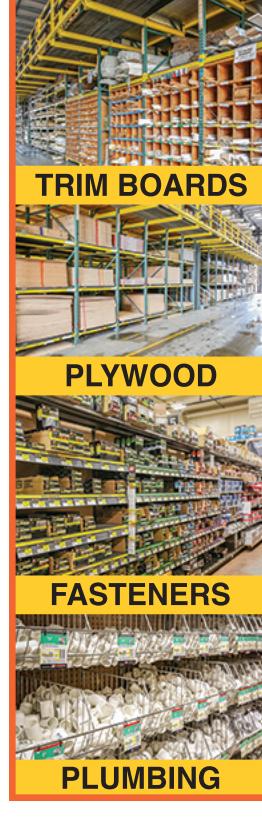
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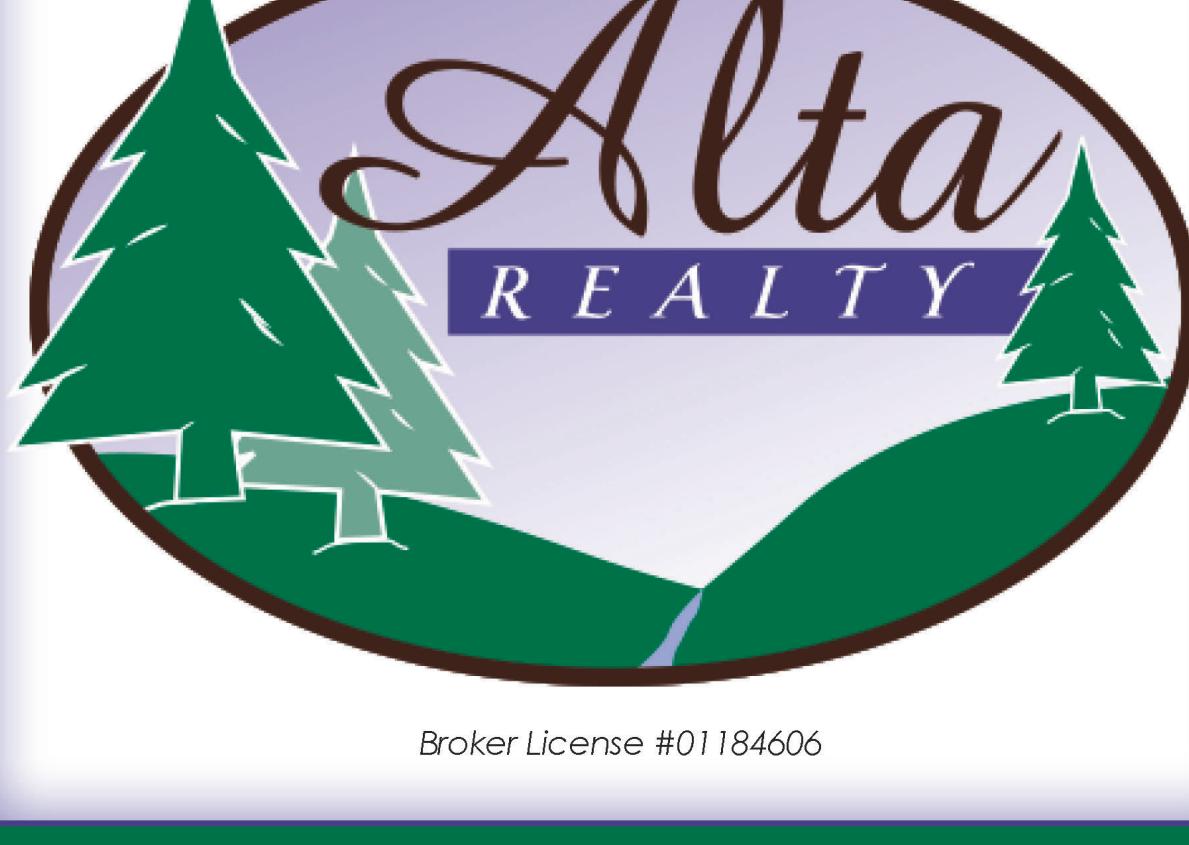
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