

In early August a group of people interested in a "Shoreline Gardens" project headed by Susan Riney of Lake Almanor Watershed Group (LAWG) and Lorena Gorbet of LAWG and the Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC) gathered to tour three parcels of land that abutted Lake Almanor. The parcels are located along Benner Creek, Mud Creek and Goose Bay near Lake Almanor West and will soon be owned by the MSC under agreement with the Land Stewardship Council, which was formed to disburse PG&E lands that were acquired by the State of California as a result of PG&E's earlier bankruptcy.

Participating in the tour, along with Riney and Gorbet, were John Moore, Terry Collins, Suzanne McDonald, Alisha Wilson, Jacquie Cordova, Peggy Fulder, Ben Cunningham, Bridget Bergin and Dov Weinman. They represented various groups active in the basin and beyond.

Using Lake Tahoe's shoreline/demonstration gardens as a model, the goals of this new group for Lake Almanor are largely covered in this description:

"The North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden's mission is to provide an educational resource to the Tahoe/Truckee Meadows community by creating demonstrations of lake-friendly landscaping using native and adaptive plants, water conservation, soil stabilization techniques, defensible space from wildfires, and Best Management Practices for storm water infiltration. The Garden collaborates with residents, community agencies, and private companies to teach building and landscaping practices which work in harmony with Tahoe's naturally beautiful but often fragile environment."

One idea that we heard about was using the Mud Creek area as a nursery for native plants (willow, yarrow, mint, gooseberry) that perhaps could be transplanted into other areas, such as the Goose Bay site. The Benner Creek property, along the north shore of the lake, is mostly woods, but also has some lush meadows areas.

The water quality of lake Almanor is being tested four times a year, under the auspices of the LAWG. As we understand more and more about our lake, we can come up with creative ideas to enhance the water filtration, quality and retention along the shoreline. And maybe even increase the berries that we can pick!