



THE DOGWOOD DIGEST

Willits Garden Club Newsletter

MARCH 2020

Willits Garden Club - "Where Friendship Flowers"

GREETINGS from the GARDEN CLUB!

To members and all interested parties:

With everyone **sheltering in place** to avoid getting or transmitting the coronavirus, all gatherings and meetings are cancelled until further notice. Please take all possible precautions! During what may be a very long hiatus, please visit Willits Garden Club on Facebook, or our website, or those of other Mendo-Lake Garden clubs, and enjoy Spring in your own garden! Share your photos and ideas online!

MEANWHILE here is a summary of our Winter and Spring meetings of the Willits Garden Club:

Prior to the December holiday social, we had decided as a club to begin the new year with a new meeting place, day and time! We now meet at the **Willits Senior Center**, second **Tuesday** of the month at **1:00 p.m.**

January 14, 2020: Advertising the changes with notices in the local newspapers and posters around town, and setting up our Willits Garden Club banner at the Senior Center lobby, our January meeting brought a few extra guests and a new member as we enjoyed **Emma Harrington from Spare Time Garden Supply** demonstrate plant cloning and discuss non-toxic pest and disease control products, giving out samples. Emma will be happy to help you with your gardening projects if you ask for her at Spare Time.

February 10, Carol Cox and Wolfgang Ronnefelolt of Grateful Gleaners gave us some background for their organization, telling of gleaned in German postwar poverty and the belief that sharing is a people-to-people solution to both waste and shortage of fresh produce. The group is all volunteers who pick and distribute your extra produce, and they could use some more help. Will train. They work with various agencies including the Willits Food Bank to distribute our extra

produce to those who can make use of it. In addition we discussed making a club contribution to renewing the Blue Star Marker at Cal Fire on Ridgewood Summit, and agreed to pay half that cost.

March 9: Ruthanne Volz of Willits Food Bank and Community Services gave us some of her time to discuss the relationship between our home gardens and the Food Bank. Any extra produce from our gardens is welcomed and useful to local folks in need through the Food Bank. They can be contacted directly at 707-459-3333. We also voted at that meeting to move forward with a scholarship for a graduating senior this year, but the virus has thrown that into question now.

April 14: Flowers by Annette – Cancelled. A longtime local florist in Willits, she donates roses for the Education Foundation's drive-through tri-tip fundraisers. Her website is <https://flowersbyannette.net/>.

May 12: Willits Fire Dept. – Unknown if we will be able to have meetings yet by then. In the meantime check out Cal Fire's "Fire Resistant Landscaping" at

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/fire-resistant-landscaping/>

June 9: Social at Bodensteiner's - Unknown
Wednesday, June 24 – District Meeting to be Hosted by the Willits Garden Club - unknown
STAY TUNED for information about future meetings. More information will be found on our Website: www.willitsgardenclub.org.

"The home gardener is part scientist, part artist, part philosopher, part ploughman." – John Whiting

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

EVERYTHING IS UP IN THE AIR! The COVID-19 virus has canceled all planned meetings for the near and unknown future.



MENDO-LAKE DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB:

This fiscal year's District Meetings are held from 9 am – 2:30 pm, as follows: the Fall (September 25) meeting was held at Ukiah Garden Club clubhouse, 1203 Clay Street; **Winter** (February 26) was hosted by Ft. Bragg Garden Club.

Summer (June 24) was to be hosted by WILLITS at the Willits Senior Center. But with the COVID-19 Shelter in Place directive, that meeting may not happen, or may happen differently. Information will be updated when available to our Website, www.willitsgardenclub.org, on the **Calendar** page.

The FEBRUARY (WINTER) Meeting of the Mendo-Lake District Garden Club at Fort Bragg featured a delicious potluck breakfast by the Ft. Bragg members and a soup tasting for lunch, also provided by the members. The business meeting included an agreement for the Mendo-Lake District to fully pay for the renewal of the Blue Star marker at the top of the Ridgefield Summit next to Cal Fire, originally placed there by the Willits club, and agreement to set up a fund which all clubs may donate to, for future renewal of other markers within the District. Then the program was BEES by Cornelia Reynolds regarding the importance of pollinators and ways to create habitat for them. Bumblebees were particularly featured. The speaker brought bee houses that can be made or purchased.

WILLITS SUMMER SOCIALS:

Instead of going dark during July and August, our club voted to hold Summer Socials at our regular meeting times but without formal meeting business. July was scheduled for Charlotte Smith's home in

STAANDING COMMITTEES

We have open positions for Committee Chairs. We would love to have your help.

Awards	
Brochure, Newsletter	Fran Gardner
Clubhouse Liaison	Myrna & Scott Bryant
Membership	Fran Gardner
Opportunity Drawing (Raffle).....	
Penny Pines	Scott Bryant
Photography	Shannon Furr, Fran Gardner
Programs, Speakers/Field Trips	Shannon Furr
Publicity/Fund Raisers	Gary Bodensteiner
Scholarships	Gary Bodensteiner
Website, Yearbook.....	Fran Gardner

Laytonville, white August will be hosted by Fran Garden in Willits. HOWEVER, with the coronavirus running rampant through our fair land, these meetings too are uncertain. Further information will be sent to you when we have it.

WILLITS GARDEN CLUB:

"Where Friendship Flowers"

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.willitsgardenclub.org

MEMBERSHIP in the Willits Garden Club is \$20 per person per year, or \$30 per couple (at same address). New members joining after January 31 may receive a discount (\$15/\$25). Members receive a Yearbook and regular Newsletters informing you of upcoming programs. Dues help pay for our presenters, our meeting venue, cost of mailings, and our dues to the state and national parent organizations.

WILLITS GC OFFICERS FOR 2019-2021:

President: Fran Gardner, 510-303-9824

Vice President: Shannon Furr, 321-8760

Treasurer: Gary Bodensteiner, 459-2708

Secretary: (open)

Parliamentarian: Yuko Thomas, 200-2155

If you have questions you may contact any of us.