



THE DOGWOOD DIGEST

Willits Garden Club Newsletter

MARCH 2021

Willits Garden Club - "Keep It Growing!"

GREETINGS from the GARDEN CLUB!

To members and all interested parties:

IT HAS BEEN A YEAR NOW since all we had planned and thought lay before us was swept away, when all our meetings and speakers had to be cancelled, when we retreated to our homes and waited for better news. It is a relief that many or most of us are now vaccinated against Covid-19, and we will hopefully be returning to in-person events before too long. MEANWHILE:

A REVIEW: As you are aware, we began almost a year ago to work at the Willits Senior Center Community Garden. VP Shannon Furr took the lead and, with the help of Lucy Kramer and staff at the Senior Center, got funding and supplies to bring the Senior Garden back to life! Work parties were organized, weeds were pulled, rows were cultivated, fertilized, and planted, watering systems devised (thank you Drip Works!) and crops produced. The arrangement is a fee of \$25 per row, with half the produce given to the Senior Center. The Garden Club bought four rows, others bought and worked their own as they chose, and it was a safe, socially-distanced way to get our fingers into the dirt and produce something together for the Willits Community. Bins and barrels were donated to make it usable by alter-abled individuals, and we learned a lot about what does and doesn't work. We also got local fruit-grower Richard Jeske to prune the fruit trees and grape vines. A new plum tree was planted recently. Additional thanks to Spare Time for supplies and to the Howard Hospital organic garden for seedlings. For more details see the Willits Garden Club Report of February 24, 2021 (enclosed).

SADLY, not all members were able to participate, and we certainly missed those we did not see, but some new members have joined in. There have been newspaper articles and Facebook notices and photos about our work at the Senior Garden. This year we will expect some of the same, but with an expectation also that Covid dangers will ease and we can get together in some version of meetings. In fact JUST TODAY, March 14, Mendo County has entered the Red Tier, with some limited gatherings possible. Watch this space!

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE on our Website:

www.willitsgardenclub.org

MOVING FORWARD: When we resume meetings in person, it is expected we will continue to meet at the **Willits Senior Center**, second **Tuesday** of the month at **1:00 p.m.** I will let you know.

DISTRICT MEETING: Mendo-Lake District met on February 24, 2021 via Zoom.

- I spoke about our Senior Garden so enthusiastically that I was invited to speak of it the Fort Bragg GC at their March meeting – also by Zoom of course.
- The District Director, Ginabelle Smith, has decided to step down due to business and personal obligations, so they are looking for a new director.
- The rest of the District officers are going to stay in place for another two-year term in lieu of having elections (moved and voted on at this meeting).

ELECTION SIMPLIFIED: Taking our cue from the District, the Willits Garden Club officers have agreed to remain in place for at least one more year in lieu of elections, if the membership approves by majority vote.

- Ballots were sent out via email and US mail, giving everyone until March 30 to respond. I have received responses from eight members so far.
- Nominations may be made as part of the response.
- A third item on the ballot is whether or not to approve the spending of up to \$300 of WGC monies for tools and supplies **if needed** for the Senior Garden, as all our earned funds have been used.
- There are no plans to make a new Yearbook now. You may change the dates to 2019-2021, the Theme to "Keep It Growing." I will send more information when I have it.

A WORD FOR WORD OF MOUTH: The Spring, 2021 issue is available! Get yourself a copy if you haven't yet, for information on Gardening for Pollinators, the "Constant Evolution" of Emandal Farm, Grazing Cows, Harvest Market, and more, and as always beautiful pictures, articles and ads of interest. Visit the website wordofmouthmendo.com for more information.





*You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt! ~
Author unknown*

June 23, 2021 – District Meeting to be Hosted by the Ukiah Garden Club, via Zoom.

SOME MEMBER UPDATES I RECEIVED:

Kitty McDill has been staying home in Laytonville, minding her chickens and taking advantage of their fertilizer production, and walking her dog “every day, rain or shine.”

Gary Bodensteiner generously donated some excess garden tools to the Senior Garden. Sadly, he lost his brother to COVID in 2020.

Sally Pringle has moved near Hopland and is working a large garden there growing food, herbs for salves and massage oils, and also learning about olive growing and harvesting. She is keeping her business in Willits and her row in the Senior Garden.

Pat Collins kindly donated funds to buy plastic to cover the tender new plants for our winter garden.

Annie Morris hasn’t had much actual gardening time, busy with senior care work, but has her greenhouse full with starts of geraniums and succulents. Soon to seed zinnias for gardening clients, and dig up plants for an “English country” garden she’s working on in Ukiah. Annie donated many potted plants for a sale last summer to benefit the Senior Center.

Shannon Furr has given untold hours to the Garden!

Fran Gardner loaned her small greenhouse to the Garden and finally got this newsletter together.

STAANDING COMMITTEES

We have open positions for Committee Chairs, and other may wish to tackle a new task. Committees have had very little activity due to Covid. When we resume meetings, this will be an Agenda item.

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
Fund Raisers	Gary Bodensteiner
Scholarships	Gary Bodensteiner
Senior Garden Liaison.....	Shannon Furr
Website, Yearbook.....	Fran Gardner

FUTURE PLANS: EVERYTHING IS STILL UP IN THE AIR! The COVID-19 virus had canceled all planned meetings but we hope to resume soon.

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. Covid prevented this from happening last summer, but I hope in Summer 2021 this will be possible.

MEMBERSHIP: in the Willits Garden Club is still \$20 per person per year, or \$30 per couple (at same address). **The 2021-22 DUES are collected in May and June, due no later than June 30.** Send to Fran Gardner, Membership Chair, with checks payable to Willits Garden Club. Members receive Yearbooks and Newsletters informing you of upcoming programs. Dues help pay for our presenters, publications, cost of mailings, and our dues to the state and national parent organizations. **IS YOUR CONTACT INFO UP-TO-DATE?**

BALLOTS were sent out for re-election of this slate of officers for another year. If you have not yet voted please contact Fran via email, phone, or US Mail.

WILLITS GC OFFICERS FOR 2019-2021:

President: Fran Gardner, 510-303-9824

Vice President: Shannon Furr, 321-8760

Treasurer: Gary Bodensteiner, 459-2708

Acting Secretary: Fran Gardner

Parliamentarian: Yuko Thomas, 200-2155

If you have questions you may contact any of us.