



THE DOGWOOD DIGEST

Willits Garden Club Newsletter

FALL 2022

Willits Garden Club - "Finding Ways to Grow Together"

GREETINGS from the GARDEN CLUB!

To members and all interested parties:

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER IN WINTER OF 2022, we have had regular meetings at the Golden Rule Mobile Village clubhouse. Each meeting has had a very interesting program, with tasty potluck lunches to begin. Attendance has been low but it is my hope that in time we will rebuild our numbers.

MARCH 8 – Annette Pinon of Flowers by Annette gave us an entertaining and very informative program on flower arranging, including her history in Willits and who NOT to buy flowers from (online).

APRIL 12 – Ollie Kolkmann brought his slide show of Birds of Mendocino County, with great stories of finding where they nest, when they migrate, and his own history of being County Assessor which took him to all corners of Mendo County.

MAY 10 – Election of Offices (two-year term)

President – Fran Gardner (also acting Secretary)

Vice President – Gloria McCartney

Treasurer – Julene Casler

Parliamentarian – Gary Bodensteiner (appointed)

Brian Ferri-Taylor of Sherwood Firewise brought us information on hardening your home to make it more fire-safe. Their website sherwoodfirewise.org is a good resource.

JUNE 14 – Installation of Offices by District Director Rhea Pitchard, with a thank-you cake and flowers for Rhea, and then a rousing game of Garden Bingo!

SUMMER - August: The Willits community offered Garden Tours, and Gloria and I managed to get to one of them, an extensive tour of the gardens at Ridgewood Ranch, led by Eric Buteyn. The large gardens and farmed meat animals supply their staff kitchens with produce and meats, supply a table at farmers' markets, fill their Farm Store, do research on growing and improving production, and donate to the Food Bank and other sharing resources. It was a fascinating tour.

SEPT. 13 – Starting the new season out well, we had a program by Jeff Konacek on Bonsai Trees and the

Japanese concept of wabi-sabi,, “a world view centered on the acceptance of transience and imperfection” (Wikipedia). Jeff gave us much information about the traditions, science and art of Bonsai, but it seems the most important lesson is patience. “Balance and proportion” are the ruling principles, and “something nice to look at” is the goal – in Bonsai as well as Japanese gardening generally. Personally, I was inspired to come home and look at my own garden, and search for the views that are pleasing – then set up a resting place from which to see and enjoy them.



BONSAI GARDENING IN AUTUMN

FUTURE MEETINGS – Willits Garden Club programs for this coming season include Kitty Loberg, Irises (October), Julie Bawcom, the Grand Canyon (November), RuthAnn, Food Bank, Doing Good in the Community, (December), Richard Jeske, Winter Pruning (January) and Beth Brennerman, Food Security (February). **SECOND TUESDAYS, 11:30. Join us!**

MENDO-LAKE DISTRICT:

Rhea Pitchard, District Director, has moved to Windsor. She will remain as director until June 2023.

- The JUNE District meeting was hosted by Clear Lake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club, at the home of club president Carol Dobusch, with extensive gardens full of flowers and vines, water features, and whimsy. Especially inspiring were many places to sit, take in a beautiful view or exquisite garden arrangement, for rest, visiting or meditation.
- The SEPTEMBER District meeting will be on Wednesday the 28th hosted by Potter Valley Garden Club. They will show us their National Garden Club prize-winning Beautification Project. Contact Fran if you want to car pool there.

THE GARDEN IN FALL

Fall is a great time for planting. Trees, shrubs and perennials planted now will grow twice as much next year as those planted next spring.

Pansies, snapdragons, stock, calendulas and primroses can be planted now to replace summer annuals. Michaelmas daisies, with bright flowers in purples and reds, come back every year to brighten the fall garden. Choose chrysanthemums in a variety of colors now. They are hardy perennials that will brighten your garden each fall. Look for bulbs like daffodils and tulips to plant this fall so they will light up your garden next spring.

It's also time for some routine garden chores. If your bearded iris blooms were sparse this year, now is the time to divide and replant them. Mix some bone meal into the soil, and plant the rhizomes just beneath the soil surface. It's time to divide overgrown perennials that bloomed in the spring or early summer, and also a good time to choose and plant some new varieties.

Cover newly planted vegetable starts to protect them from birds. Spray cabbage and broccoli plants with *Bt* to control cabbage worms, which make holes in the leaves. Plant garlic cloves. Keep them watered and weeded through the winter and you will harvest healthy large bulbs next June. Plant cover crops in areas of the garden that have finished producing for the summer to enrich the soil for next year.

Don't miss the best planting season of the year!

Extracted from "A Year in the Garden" by Jenny Watts. The book contains a month-by-month, season-by-season guide to buying, planting and caring for plants in the home garden, specific to the Willits area, with beautiful drawings by Geri Hulse-Stephens. Jenny and her husband Dave operated Sanhedrin Nursery in Willits from 1981 to 2017.



"Any sign of gophers?"

Grateful Gleaners



TOO MUCH PRODUCE? Every year since 2004, The Willits Grateful Gleaners have collaborated with generous local homeowners to harvest and distribute extra fruit to schools and non-profit groups. Last year, those groups received approximately 2 and ½ tons of apples and pears which would have gone to waste without our efforts.

We have a solid core of dedicated veteran gleaners, including several enthusiastic newcomers, but we can always use more help. *If you would like to glean, please leave a message at 459-5490, ext. 555-3663.*

Call that same number *if you need our help harvesting two or more fruit trees or a large garden.* Otherwise, we encourage you to harvest your own trees and vegetable gardens and donate extra produce to the **Food Bank** (459-3333), **Willits Daily Bread** (459-3947) or the **Senior Center** (459-6826). In these tough economic times, every little bit helps somebody.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION www.willitsgardenclub.org

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"Advice is for other people." – Jeff Konacek