



# THE DOGWOOD DIGEST

## Willits Garden Club Newsletter

WINTER - MARCH 2023

*Willits Garden Club - "Keep It Growing!"*

### GREETINGS from the GARDEN CLUB!

To members and all interested parties:

### MARCH 14 MEETING - CANCELLED.

The weather is just too unreliable! We all need to stay safe and revisit our own gardens if we can – I say this as thick snowflakes are falling outside my window!

**ON APRIL 11, WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WIL GONZALEZ** giving us a demonstration on flower arranging. **DON'T MISS IT!**

**SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER IN FALL OF 2022**, we have had some excellent programs at our regular second-Tuesdays meetings:

**OCTOBER 11:** Our Yearbooks were distributed, with a few corrections on a separate sheet. Reza's Breadery had donated a box of their wonderful fresh sourdough loaves to our Garden Club as a fundraiser, which brought in \$65, with the remainders of the bread donated to the Food Bank. The parking lot at the Harrah Senior Center was closed for over a month so it could be renovated and brought up to ADA standards, which hampered work at the Senior Garden during that time. Our October program by Kitty Loberg on Irises was very informative, inspiring me, maybe all of us, to grow more irises and take better care of them. She and Steve also joined the Willits Garden Club.

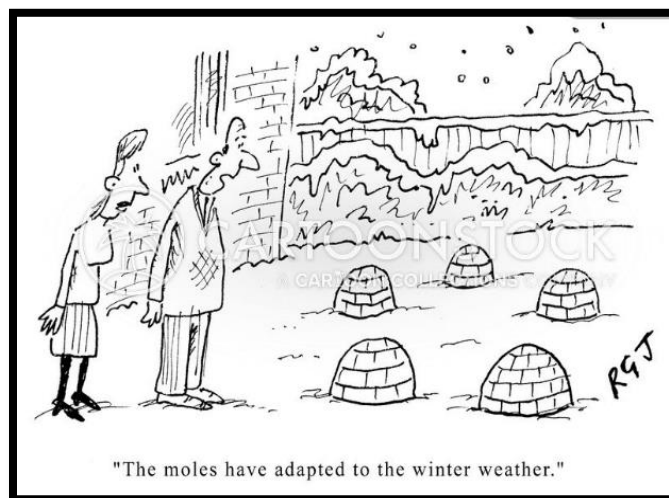
**NOVEMBER 8:** On Election Day, Julie Bawcom, geologist, gave a wonderful slide show presentation on her recent trip on the Colorado River through to the Grand Canyon, with emphasis on the plants and animals seen there.

**DECEMBER 13:** We had festive holiday decorations, and RuthAnn Volz of the Willits Food Bank gave us an inspiring talk on the many ways the Willits Food Bank works for the community, what kinds of donations they accept, other ways we can help out. Several warm hats and pairs of socks were brought by members, and a few cash donations were given as well. Remember, "It feels good to do good."

**JANUARY 10:** This meeting was held in spite of the rainy weather! Richard Jeske, local fruit grower, gave a very informative talk on planting and caring for fruit trees and grapes for best results, along with a handout to keep for reference. He brought grape starts and tree collard starts for members to purchase.

**FEBRUARY 14:** On this Valentine's Day meeting we had to change our plan at the last minute, when scheduled speaker Beth Brennerman was unable to make it to the meeting. Eric Buteyn of Ridgewood Ranch kindly stepped in and offered a tour of part of the Golden Rule Gardens, and their winter activities. Prepping fields for new plantings, cleaning tools, trays and sheds, and extensive greenhouse work were shown, as well as harvest of winter crops such as carrots. Eric discussed the subscription program called CSA, Community Sponsored Agriculture, that helps finance the Gardens, wherein one can sign up for a weekly or bi-weekly box of fresh seasonal vegetables graced by a small floral bouquet. More info is at [goldenrulegardens.com/](http://goldenrulegardens.com/).

Also in February, President Fran Gardner announced that she will step down from being an officer of the Willits Garden Club as of June 30, 2023.



**THE SENIOR GARDEN:** A combination of bad weather, pest problems, and too few interested workers have led to the Willits Garden Club being inactive at the Willits Harrah Senior Garden. The matter was brought up at the February meeting, and the consensus was that

the Garden Club members were not interested in continuing to work any rows at the Garden, which costs the club \$25 per row. So we agreed to withdraw from participation as a club. Individuals may still purchase rows if they choose to do so. The contact person is Sarah Marshall of North Coast Opportunities, (707) 462-1958 or (734) 883-3896.

#### MENDO-LAKE DISTRICT NEWS:

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

- The SEPTEMBER District meeting was held Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> hosted by Potter Valley Garden Club. They showed their National Garden Club prize-winning Beautification Project
- The FEBRUARY District meeting was hosted by Ukiah Garden Club, with a delicious soup-and-chili luncheon and a program by Caring Kitchen, which delivers on the concept of "Food as medicine" by creating delicious, nutritional meals for clients facing cancer, through donations and volunteers, mostly teens who learn food handling skills through service to the community. Contact number 707-467-3212.
- In other news, there is an opening for District Director and District treasurer, and positions in Ukiah GC and Willits GC are also going unfilled.
- NEXT DISTRICT MEETING is to be hosted by Willits Garden Club on September 27, 2023.



*I've banished Winter, saith the Spring,  
Awake! arise, ye flowers!  
Brisk breezes blow,  
Bright sunshine glow,  
And rouse the young Year's powers.*

*~Henry James Slack (1818–1896),  
The Ministry of the Beautiful*

#### THE GARDEN IN SPRING

**This Winter has been** exceptional for weather challenges, but eventually Spring will get here! With it we'll have "a multitude of spring-flowering bulbs, shrubs and trees in full bloom."

**"This is a busy month** for gardeners. Spring vegetables love cool, moist weather and don't mind a little frost. Set out lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, spinach and swiss chard starts now. Potatoes can be planted this month – plant red, white, yellow and russet for a variety of uses and flavors. Pansies and violas (Willits Garden Club's signature flower!) will fill your spring flower beds with their bright faces... Sweet peas, with their memorable fragrance, can be planted now for wonderful bouquets later this spring.

**"It's time to prune** wisteria trees and vines by cutting out unwanted long runners and removing old seed pods. Don't damage flower buds that are clustered at the end of short branches. You can prune hydrangeas now by removing old flower heads down to the first new leaves. Don't prune stems that have no old flowers, and they will be the first to bloom this summer."

As we remember all the winter precipitation and enjoy the warmth of spring sunshine, we'll exclaim **"This year's garden will be the best ever!"**

*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. Jenny also wrote a weekly column for The Willits*

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For more information please go to  
[www.willitsgardenclub.org](http://www.willitsgardenclub.org).*

