



# THE DOGWOOD DIGEST

## Willits Garden Club Newsletter

SUMMER 2021

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

### GREETINGS from the GARDEN CLUB!

To members and all interested parties:

**SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER IN MARCH**, we were able to have two in-person meetings: In **May** we had an outdoor meeting at the home of Fran Gardner, enjoying potluck dishes, collecting some dues, and listening to Lucy Kramer discuss the Community Gardens. In **June** we met outdoors at the Senior Center (on the day they reopened to the masked, vaccinated public). The few of us who came sat outside at the shaded patio and lamented the missed meetings and programs. Member Robert Dooley invited the group to visit his home and pick cherries, so we saw his amazing house and were inspired by his gardens in the hills of Willits. For June and summer, we again cancelled meetings as the Covid virus variant became a growing concern.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Response to the emailed April-May re-election of officers was unanimous in keeping the same slate of officers through June 30, 2022 (at least):

President – Fran Gardner (also acting Secretary)

Vice President – Shannon Furr

Treasurer – Gary Bodensteiner

Parliamentarian – Yuko Thomas

**THE SENIOR GARDEN:** Community Gardens require contracts to be signed each year, agreeing to the rules and regulations, and this year's contracts were executed in June and July. Work continues with community members working alongside the Willits Garden Club in the Willits Senior Center Community Garden, Large raised beds and cultivated rows in the back are fully utilized, and smaller elevated beds have been used as nurseries for young plants. The fruits trees and grapes are producing well, and produce is being shared to the Senior Center kitchen. Kudos again to Shannon for shepherding these efforts and planting unclaimed areas, often using plants donated by the Howard Hospital organic garden. Even the wild blackberries have produced well and two quarts of berries were donated to the kitchen for their desserts.

### WILLITS SUMMER SOCIALS?

We were unable to have them this past summer because COVID made a comeback. Maybe next year?!

**WILLITS GARDEN CLUB MEEING SEPT. 14, 12:30 - OUTDOORS** on the back patio at Willits Harrah Senior Center. Their dining room is **closed** but meals can be picked up out front (order ahead, beef fajitas, rice & beans) or bring your own. After our lunch meeting we plan to tour the Howard Hospital garden.

**MENDO-LAKE DISTRICT:** Mendo-Lake District met on June 23, 2021 via Zoom.

- Rhea Pitchard of Ukiah is the new District Director, after Ginabelle Smith was unable to continue. The Assistant Director position is open.
- Kitty Loberg gave us a slide show of planting snapdragons and ranunculas as they matured and bloomed. Beautiful!
- The next District meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. If you would like a Zoom invitation let me or Rhea Pitchard know.

**YEARBOOK:** The Yearbook has been revised for 2021-2022 with our new theme, "Keep it Growing!" This theme refers to both our gardens, and our critically small Garden Club! Invite your friends to join us, support us with dues, and to get on the mailing list for newsletters and Yearbooks. The Yearbook is being printed and will be distributed to paid-up members as soon as it is ready. It contains information on our sister clubs in the Mendo-Lake District, and the state, regional and national organizations of which we are a part, and the resources they offer, as well as a Resource Guide for local information about gardens and related education.

**REMINDER:** A few members have not yet submitted their dues (\$20 per person or \$30 per couple). Dues support the stipends for program speakers, the cost of postage and printing for yearbooks and newsletters, and other Garden Cub projects.

**T-SHIRTS:** A new design was created on good quality navy cotton t-shirts for a fund-raiser sale. The shirts have earned \$500 so far, and since the cost of the shirts was donated, that is all profit for the Garden Club.



## STAANDING COMMITTEES

We have open positions for Committee Chairs.

Awards .....	
Newsletter .....	Fran Gardner
Golden Rule Liaison .....	
Membership .....	Fran Gardner
Opportunity Drawing (Raffle).....	
Penny Pines .....	Scott Bryant
Photography .....	Shannon Furr, Fran Gardner
Programs, Speakers/Field Trips .....	Gary, Shannon
Fund Raisers .....	
Scholarships .....	Gary Bodensteiner
Senior Garden Liaison.....	Shannon Furr
Website, Yearbook.....	Fran Gardner

## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT:

**Gary Bodensteiner** wants to remind us that the Garden Club has interesting meetings and events, expanding our knowledge of plants, flowers and land-scaping. Also looking forward to fun get-togethers on holidays and social occasions.

**Shannon Furr** reports: "The Harrah Senior Center garden has been a joy! Things are ripening now: Asian and Bartlett pears, grapes, squash, tomatoes, parsley, cucumbers, basil, melons, kale, and eggplant. Soon we will have apples and casaba melons as well as winter squash. This is what I envision a Garden Club to be: gardeners giving back to their community with joy and gratitude in their hearts."

**Yuko Thomas:** "It has been a hard-fought year and a half, coping with Covid-19, but we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccine is working and we are creating opportunities to experience the wonderful beauty of nature. We visited Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden ([gardenbythesea.com](http://gardenbythesea.com)) when the Rhododendron was in full bloom, and we are going to go visit The Happy Dahlia Farm this weekend.

<https://www.thehappydahliafarm.com/>

We cannot wait to be enriched by this experience, and hopefully, we will be able to get together with all of you soon."

*I sit in my Garden, gazing upon a Beauty that  
cannot gaze upon Itself. And I find sufficient  
Purpose for my day. — Robert Brault*

- **DID YOU GET A GARDEN CLUB T-SHIRT? They are available at \$25 each by ordering from Fran.**

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE on our Website:

[www.willitsgardenclub.org](http://www.willitsgardenclub.org)

## BAT HOUSES



## YELLOWJACKETS

*INFORMATION about Bat Houses (useful!) and Yellowjacket Wasps (not as terrible as you think) is included with this Newsletter to members, or by request.*



A **ladybug** is a good sign in a garden because it can mean fewer problems from pests, particularly the dreaded [aphids](#). Aphids feed on plant tissues and can also transmit viruses to plants, but an adult **ladybug** may consume hundreds of aphids a day and thousands in its lifetime — they literally gorge on aphids!

