



THE DOGWOOD DIGEST

Willits Garden Club Newsletter

WINTER 2022

Willits Garden Club - "Keep It Growing!"

GREETINGS from the GARDEN CLUB!

To members and all interested parties:

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER IN FALL OF 2021, we took a chance on three in-person meetings in spite of resurging Covid. When it felt unwise to meet in person, I have kept members informed via emails and snail-mail letters for those who don't use email.

SEPTEMBER 14, 12:30 – We met at the home of Gary Bodensteiner, each bringing our own lunch to enjoy outdoors on his patio. New 2021-2022 Yearbooks were distributed to those present. After our lunch meeting we toured the Hospital garden (Commonwealth Garden) hosted by the brilliant and hard-working Garden Manager Melissa Bouley.

NOVEMBER 9, Noon - Eight of us met in the airy inside space of the Mobile Village Clubhouse. Among other things discussed, we elected a **NEW VICE PRESIDENT** (Shannon Furr had resigned). Current officers are:

President – Fran Gardner (also acting Secretary)

Vice President – Gloria McCartney

Treasurer – Gary Bodensteiner

Parliamentarian – Yuko Thomas

DECEMBER 14, 11:00 a.m.: We had a delightful Holiday Party at the Mobile Village Clubhouse. We invited all the residents of the Mobile Village to join us by inserting a notice into their monthly newsletter, but none ventured in. We had a delicious potluck, brightened by holiday decorations. We played a rousing game of "Holiday Bingo" for which prizes were small gifts donated by members. A good time was had by all.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! JANUARY 11, 2022 - I elected to cancel this meeting for various reasons, but mostly because responses to a survey of email-able members indicated only 2 expected to attend, besides myself. So **JANUARY MEETING IS CANCELLED.**

OLD BUSINESS: MEETING SPACE – We decided at our November meeting to go back to having regular meetings at the Mobile Village Clubhouse near Ridgewood Ranch. It is not subject to the regulations that make the Senior Center sometimes unavailable, it is available for free since some of our members live in the

Village, and many expressed an opinion that they like the setting for various reasons. Until further notice, it will be our meeting location. I have updated that on the Website.

NEW BUSINESS: Although we have to play it almost day by day with the Covid threat, we need to plan. I had hoped to bring in Sarah Marshall of North Coast Opportunities (who has replaced Lucy Kraner) to introduce herself and talk about her work in January, but maybe February will work. I will be looking forward to **suggestions from members** as to programs for future meetings.

THE SENIOR GARDEN: Work continues with the Willits Garden Club working alongside community members in the Willits Senior Center Community Garden. Shannon Furr is garden manager. Apples were harvested and beds cleared and dug in preparation for planting winter vegetables. The rows in front worked by the Garden Club will undergo some remedial work to reduce pest infestations and increase sun exposure.

WILLITS SUMMER SOCIALS?

We were unable to have them this past summer because COVID made a comeback. Maybe in 2022?!

MENDO-LAKE DISTRICT NEWS:

Rhea Pitchard, District Director, is moving to Windsor. She will remain as director until June 2022.

- The FEBRUARY District meeting is to be hosted by Willits Garden Club, but in these Covid days it is hard to say what that means. I will let members know, when I know. The meeting date is Feb. 23, 2022.



Most of us are familiar with the magazine Mother Earth News, but you may not know that they have a very informative free website on Organic Gardening. Just go to www.motherearthnews.com/organicgardening/.

THE GARDEN IN WINTER

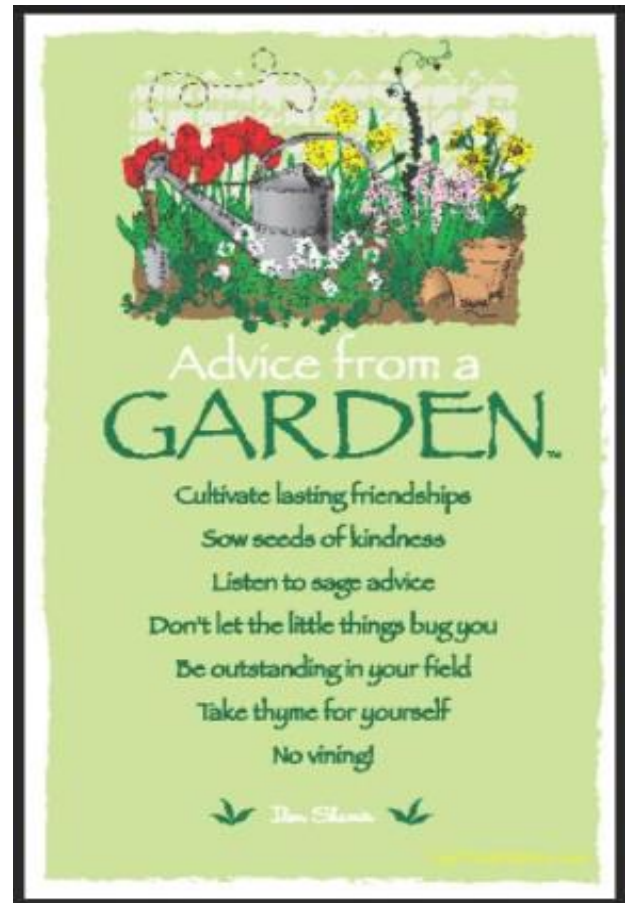
December is a rather quiet month in the garden. Plants are dormant and the weather doesn't generally attract us to spend time outdoors. But an occasional nice day may lure you out there looking for a way to spend some time in your garden. Go for it!

There are probably still some garden clean-up chores to do. Dead annuals can be pulled up and composted, and hardy perennials cut back. Time to tidy up. You can plant winter-blooming flowers like pansies and primroses to fill in the spaces. Now is a good time to take a look at your landscaping and see what would make it more attractive through the winter months. Paths, steps, walls, gates and fences, which give structure, are more noticeable. Features like rocks, sculptures, statuary, trellises, benches and birdhouses add interest. Be creative!

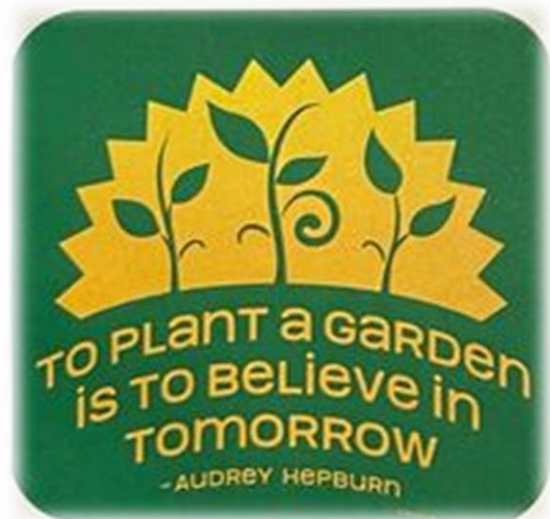
January is a month of new beginnings. Time for fruit trees and grapevines, lilacs and roses, blueberries and strawberries. Time to browse through seed catalogs, choose new varieties, visit your local nursery. Make a plan for your vegetable garden, leaving room for perennial vegetables like asparagus, artichokes or rhubarb. January is also pruning time for most deciduous trees and shrubs. Roses and fruit trees need special attention.

As we watch the first spring bulbs pushing up out of the soil, we say to ourselves, **"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 News for 35 years.



"No poet I've ever heard of has written an ode to a load of manure. Somebody should, and I'm not trying to be funny." ~ Ruth Stout, "The Second Season," *How to Have a Green Thumb Without an Aching Back*.



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