



THE DOGWOOD DIGEST

Willits Garden Club Newsletter

JANUARY 2024

Willits Garden Club - "Gardening is Therapy!"

GREETINGS from the GARDEN CLUB!

To members and all interested parties:

The Willits Garden Club met last June and decided to restructure, due to low numbers at meetings and activities. Rather than Meetings monthly, the seven members present agreed to schedule-as-you-go Field Trips, each arranged for and led by a Club member, with expenses covered by the Garden Club. Of course all members of record would be invited!

We also agreed that we didn't have the participation necessary to host the District meeting scheduled for September, and I let the District know we would have to back out of that.

We began our new program with a visit to MENDOCINO COAST BOTANICAL GARDEN on August 8, 2023, planned by Gloria McCartney. Four Club members enjoyed a brunch at Good Eats Café in Mendocino Village, then journeyed to the Botanical Garden to enjoy a spectacular display of dahlias, their featured blooms that day.



We also enjoyed begonias and fuchsias in their display house, trimmed lawns setting off manicured landscaping and statuary, the rose garden with very fragrant heritage roses, an enormous garden of heaths and heathers (explaining the difference), the

cacti and succulents section, large area of native plants, a vegetable and plant-dyes garden, and amazing trees and shrubs. We also took the walk out to the coastal view.

Our second outing was scheduled for October 3, a visit to WEATHERTOP NURSERY AND BUILDING in Laytonville, arranged by Charlotte Smith. We had good participation and excellent weather for this event. After perusing their many potted plants and trees, and loads of starts for winter gardens, as well as the supplies and tools offered in their shop, we made our purchases and proceeded to the Asian Palace Restaurant for a delicious lunch.

Then on November 25 several members and guests made the long drive out to EMANDAL FARM for their PIZZA & WREATH-MAKING, wherein you can make a holiday wreath using fresh greenery and other natural products. Fran Gardner arranged for participation in this event. Wire frames and a clamping machine are provided, as well as all the pizza you care to eat. This is a very popular local event, where owner Tamara Adams hosts dozens and dozens of new and returning wreath-makers and pizza-eaters. The drive to Emandal is challenging, but Mother Nature favored us with good weather, and we had a great time, as well as making great decorations for the front door, or to give as a gift.



CURRENT GARDEN CLUB STATUS: No further outings have been planned as of today. The holidays have intervened and the weather has been very wet. If any member has a Field Trip idea, feel free to present it to the membership.

A member who wishes to plan and schedule an outing, or host a get-together, or run a meeting of the Garden Club, can access the membership contact list in your most recent (2022-23) Yearbook.

We have been asked to clean out the storage cabinet in the Mobile Village Clubhouse, and this has been done. In the absence of regular meetings, the napkins, table covers, coffee, tea and condiments have been dispersed, vases and other items donated.

Gary Bodensteiner has volunteered to house Willits Garden Club signs, photo albums, records of meetings and expenditures, etc. for the duration. He will now be the Club contact person.

The Garden Club Website (willitsgardenclub.org) will continue online for a few more months. The Website has all the Newsletters, archival information, and current status.

The Facebook group will continue in perpetuity and is a great forum for all to share your gardening challenges, triumphs, information and questions. Even gardening humor and cartoons!

For more information please go to
www.willitsgardenclub.org.



***When overwhelmed and unable to think,
I go out and garden, the work is my shrink.
My fingers in soil, a bucket of seeds,
My shovel at hand, this is all that I need.
To plant and to plan where the garden will be,
This brings a kind of contentment to me.
The sun and the water will both do their thing,
And Nature rewards me in Summer and Spring!***

Very Happy Gardening to you all!
- Fran Gardner



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