



From The Gardens' Bench

Celebrate Educate Recreate

Summer 2022

Hello from the Gardens

President's Message

I can hardly believe we are half way through the year already! The Gardens have been a busy place this year. I am so thankful for our amazing staff, Shirley and Dale of the Rec District, led by our horticulturalist, Ernie Wasson. They are seeing to winter damage, and getting things in shape for planting. Weather has kept the rest of the board members at bay – we pushed back our cleanup day several times already.

This year, a big focus for our gardens will be the health of our trees. If you have been following Ernie's reports, you are aware we have lost several trees these past 2 years. Director Mike Rodriguez has recently had a professional come through to look closely at the remaining trees. More trees will need to

come down for safety reasons. The firm will be preparing a plan for us, and DBG will in as timely a manner as the budget will allow - taking out the most dangerous trees first.

Of course, changes in the canopy also change the growing conditions of our individual gardens, so that will keep Ernie busy. We all will look forward to some new plantings and arrangements in the coming months and years – always fun and interesting.

As ever, we thank you for your support. It is your membership and financial support that enables us to keep the Gardens 'Always Free, Always Beautiful.'

Arlen Dinges, President



New Board Members NEEDED

Are you a fan of the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens? Do you have a small amount of time to each month to dedicate to the preservation and growth of the Gardens? Want to exercise your creative talents? Come join us! The Board of Directors of Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens are currently seeking new people to join their team. Please send an email of interest to Ellen McCarron at mcarronellen@gmail.com, and we in turn will make sure you receive an application to become a board member.



Membership Drive 2022

"Always beautiful, always free" our motto says it all. Thank you for our continuing and new memberships in 2022. Your support allows us to continue to enhance and maintain one of the prettiest places along the Sacramento River.

Your membership helps the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens to maintain native and ornamental plantings overseen by a professional horticulturist and a second dedicated gardener. The combined knowledge of these two garden experts keeps our small piece of heaven healthy and *'always beautiful'*.

Membership makes the gardens *'always free'* for public enjoyment. So, we are looking forward to hearing from you knowing that your donations and memberships keeps us as dedicated stewards of the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens.

All Plants Considered

Whenever two gardeners get together they often talk about the weather. Is it going to rain? When is it going to stop raining? Is it safe now to plant the tomatoes? Is it too late to plant peas? Did you see what the hail did to my succulents? Should I water in the middle of a super-hot day? Is the plant dead or should I wait to see if it will come back to life? So many questions, opinions and stories about gardening and the weather!

This winter/spring in Dunsmuir has been a challenging one for Siskiyou gardeners. After several months of relatively warm and dry spring weather that encouraged early growth, a cold frost on April 12th & 13th surprisingly burned back several long-established plants in our gardens. In my Dunsmuir garden temperatures were in the mid 20's. I'm sure it was much colder in Mt. Shasta and other locally cold spots. Also in my garden the Fuyu Persimmon tree lost all of its leaves. Some new leaf buds are now starting to swell. One of



my favorite trees in my garden is the Handkerchief or Dove Tree (*Davidia involucreta*) which lost all its leaves from the hard freeze. This tree is actually quite hardy, but the first flush of spring leaves never had a chance to harden off. A potted Dove Tree specimen in the botanical garden nursery was also hit hard but is leafing out quicker than my tree in the ground. This Dove Tree will be featured in the new garden bed adjacent to

the new handicap ramp that was installed last year. I have also heard reports of defoliated peach trees and foliage burn on Japanese Maples.

When a frost is forecast there are several things you can do to protect your tender plants. The first is to thoroughly water all your plants. A well hydrated plant is less susceptible to frost damage. If your plants are in pots moving them inside or under an eave of a building or onto a porch is a good way to protect plants. I have several somewhat tender plants I bring into my laundry room during the coldest weeks of the winter. Covering plants in the garden with some type of frost protection cloth is another strategy. Some gardeners put blankets or tarps over their threatened garden plants. Cistus, a nursery just outside Portland is known as the "Home of Zonal Denial". Many of their customers try to grow favorite plants that may be only marginally hardy in their region.

Placement of a particular plant in your gardens appropriate cold or warm or protected spots plus plenty of mulch can help your garden thrive. One way to check out if a potential plant will be hardy in your garden is to do some plant research using the Sunset zones in the Sunset Western

Garden book or the USDA plant hardiness zones as your reference. Dunsmuir is a Sunset zone 7 while our USDA zone is 8. Sunset zones were initially developed for west coast locations while USDA zones are broader plant growing zones for the entire United States. Another plant zone system is the American Horticultural Society plant heat zones that can help gardeners determine if their plants will survive our hot summers. Dunsmuir appears to be in Zone 6 or 7.



In the Midwest the science of Phenology (the study of events in biological life cycles) can help farmers & gardeners determine when to plant a particular crop. Being aware of changes in your garden, keeping daily weather records and keeping a constant eye on the weather helps one be better connected with your region and the world around you. Phenology is also an excellent tool to record local climate changes.

Finally a reminder to visitors to our Botanical Gardens to please stay on the established pathways and keep your dogs leashed while exploring the gardens. Every year there are sprinklers that are broken, flowers that are stepped on and surprise piles from roaming dogs that gardeners find only after they have been stepped on. We want to spend our energies and resources on exciting new plants instead of plant replacements or plumbing repairs. Please do come visit the gardens! There is much to see now that spring is here, and summer is on the way!

Ernie Wasson, Gardens' Horticulturist

~ Memorial Donations ~

A wonderful way to honor a loved one and to also support the Gardens is with a memorial donation. Checks can be made out to the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens and sent to P.O. Box 242, Dunsmuir CA 96025, with the name and address of the family where an acknowledgement card can be sent. These donations are used by our horticulturist to purchase perennial plants, shrubs and trees to add to the Gardens' permanent plant collection.

Recent memorial donations have been made in honor of:

Cindy Martel Leonard Murphy
Karen Cross Hazel Billings

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization your donations are always welcome. Donate in "Honor of", in "Memory of" or set up an annual or monthly donation. Consider naming the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens

as a beneficiary in your will.

You can donate online at

www.dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org,

or through the mail at

Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens

P.O. Box 242, Dunsmuir, CA 96025.



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P.O. Box 242, Dunsmuir CA 96025

Located in the Dunsmuir City Park 530-926-2494

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