



# From The Gardens' Bench

## Celebrate Educate Recreate

Winter 2022

### Hello from the Gardens

#### President's Message

Hello everyone. I am very excited to once more be serving as the President of the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens Board of Directors. I inherit an organization that has remained strong throughout the last few years. For that we can thank the past president and executive officers and our horticultural professional, Ernie Wasson. But most of all, we are grateful to you - our loyal supporters. Despite not having a fundraising event for more than 2 years, you have stepped up to donate to the Gardens via North State Giving Tuesday and other venues. That has allowed us to continue pursuing our goals for the space.

We have seen both growth and challenges during the pandemic. This coming year I will be helping our Board to focus on what the "New Normal" will mean to the Botanical Gardens. What will events look like when we get back to 'normal' again? How do we cope with the changes in light, shade and woodland health and how that impacts our display gardens? What is our next big project?

I do know that we need your input and energy in order to be successful going forward. Now would be an opportune time to join the Board of Directors. If you are so inclined, you can contact us at [info@dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org](mailto:info@dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org).

Either way, we hope to see you in the gardens this Spring!

*Arlene Dinges, President*

#### NEW ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

##### **President:**

Arlene Dinges

##### **Vice-President:**

Ellen McArron

##### **Treasurer:**

Barbara Valenzuela

##### **Corresponding Secretary:**

Cindy Barajas

##### **Recording Secretary:**

Luann Krahm-Wiegele

##### **Board Members:**

Hedy Moberley

Mike Rodriguez

Mari Shanti

David Walmisley

### Membership Drive 2022

**"Always beautiful, always free"** our motto says it all. It is membership drive time again and we are hoping to have another great year. Continuing and new memberships 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 dedicated stewards of the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens.



Once again the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens Board has decided to refrain from having a concert as its fundraiser this summer. We have struggled, like everyone, with COVID-19 restrictions—not knowing how comfortable people would be with returning to the concert, or how virulent the flu would be at this point. It generally takes 6-7 months to plan and prepare for the concert, and we don't want to bring you an event that is less than our best effort. Also, attendance over the past few years (prior to COVID) did slow down.

We are therefore re-thinking and re-imagining our fundraising campaigns. Any suggestions from you would be welcome.



# All Plants Considered

The trials and tribulations of gardening are many. Every year there is something new to ponder and learn from. Having just extensively walked around the Botanical Gardens in mid-February I want to share some of the gardening challenges

in Dunsmuir. Every garden is evolving and needs some help along the way.

The first thing I always notice in the garden after a heavy rain, snowstorm or windy episode is the number of dead limbs that have fallen throughout the garden. The majority of the fallen limbs are small but there are always some larger branches that cause damage where they fall. Many of the declining native oaks in the garden have large dead limbs that are ready to fall. Most of this year's damage happened during the December snow storms.



The weeping Dogwood at the curve by the tennis court went to compost heaven after the main trunk snapped off. The weight of the wet snow was just too much for its delicate structure. Various maple limbs in the main lower garden have also been damaged from the weight of accumulating snow. The

broken limbs have been correctly pruned to promote corrective healing and direct future growth.

The newest challenge in the garden is the mystery animal that is attacking our two multi-trunked Japanese Umbrella Pines (*Sciadopitys verticillata*). These slow growing trees have amazing waxy leaves. A list of possible suspects that might be shredding the bark include bears, porcupines, beavers, rabbits, squirrels, deer, voles and deer mice. There are no broken limbs or massive scratches in the bark so I'm inclined to rule out bears and I don't

## 'Giving Tuesday' 2021

### DUNSMUIR BOTANICAL GARDENS

**RECEIVED 37 DONATIONS  
FOR A TOTAL OF \$3003.00**

**We do not take for granted that our work  
would be possible without supporters like you.**

**THANK YOU to all who donated in 2021.**  
[www.northstategives.org](http://www.northstategives.org)



Proud Member  
American Public  
Gardens Association  
[publicgardens.org](http://publicgardens.org)

[info@dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org](mailto:info@dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org) [www.dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org](http://www.dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org)



know of any beavers in the area. I have also never seen a rabbit in the garden and the affected bark goes up the tree so I have ruled out deer. So that leaves porcupines (do they live in Dunsmuir?), squirrels, voles and deer mice. Perhaps it is time to set out a have-a-heart trap or install a game camera.

The weather is always a topic for discussion amongst gardeners. Abundant rainfall or lack of rain, extremes in temperatures, wind and hail can all play a part in keeping one busy in the garden. Some of the rhododendrons and other plants are showing signs of wilt. The absence of rain since December is stressing the garden's plants. Turning on the above ground water systems while the threat of hard frosts still exist is not an option. Hopefully rain will have visited the garden by the time you read this newsletter.



Another article could be written on the challenges from disease, insects and weeds. I will save that for a later newsletter. On the bright side, broken limbs and deceased plants open up new planting opportunities in every garden. There are always too many plants and never enough time or space to add that new exciting plant that you just found in your local nursery. One of the best rewards from living in a 4-season climate is our seasonal changes. In Japan the ancient calendar recognizes 72 distinct seasons. Enjoy your local seasons and support your garden's plants in times of need. Celebrate the seasonal challenges and changes. There is a reason for the seasons!

*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 horticulturalist to purchase perennial plants, shrubs and trees to add to the Gardens' permanent plant collection. Recent memorial donations have been made in honor of:

**Lois Deewey   Barbara Murphy  
Cindy Murphy**

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](http://www.dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org), or through the mail at Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens P.O. Box 242, Dunsmuir, CA 96025.

**Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens**  
a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization  
P.O. Box 242, Dunsmuir CA 96025  
Located in the Dunsmuir City Park 530-926-2494

