



# FORT BRAGG GARDEN CLUB

*Serving the Mendocino Redwood Coast*

## News & Notes

Summer 2024



Above are the two photos entered by Heather Litton of her garden on Calpella Street in Mendocino which won First Place in our Celebrate Our Gardens photo contest.

---

### A note from your President

It's high summer! An exciting time to garden.

We have just completed a year of much growth and many firsts. In April we elected a Board of Directors with four new officers for the two-year 2024-26 term. The Club installed this Board at our May membership meeting and Pot Luck.

Officers for 24-26 are President, Cornelia Reynolds; Co-Vice Presidents, Becky Ellis and Alan Foss; Treasurer, Laura Welter; Recording Secretary, Francis Hopson; Corresponding Secretary, Simone Piasias; Parliamentarian, Wendi Felson.

The Board is planning to meet on July 11 to discuss plans for the year ahead. If you are interested in chairing a committee or participating on the Board, please let me know and I will invite you to the meeting.

The Garden Club is committed to help us adapt to change and new demands in our gardens. Learn more below of our accomplishments and plans for education, conservation and service.

-- CR

## CLUB NEWS

### *LAST THING FIRST*

#### **Fall Plant Sale October 5**

Our Fall Plant Sale date is Saturday October 5. This project is directed by Becky Ellis. We plan to focus particularly on native perennials and winter vegetables, with an information table for each. Several gardeners are growing plants for the sale. If you are willing to grow some native plants or vegetable starts for the sale, there are seeds available, as well as pots and soil. Please let Becky know. 707-357-6581

*Get Fall Plant Sale  
Saturday October 5  
on your Calendar!*

#### *Spring Plant Sale & Pop-Up Boutique*

Our Spring Plant Sale & Pop-Up Boutique in April was a great success. Led by Becky Ellis, Johanna Brekke-Brownell and Simone Piasias, we raised a record-breaking \$2,800 for our Scholarship Fund, with an additional \$440 raised in a raffle managed by Alan Foss with help from Julie Soller and Staci Nelson; the total for the day was \$3,240.

#### *Plant America, Feed America*

Our Club has proceeded with two projects in alignment with the NGC program for 2023-25, *Plant America - Feed America*, to help feed the hungry across our country. Led by Alan Foss, Becky Ellis and Carmen Magano, we are growing food for the Food Bank at S. Lincoln St Community Garden in Fort Bragg. Our bed is planted, and our gardeners have become involved in the S. Lincoln Street Garden group. Several of their members attended our Celebrate Our Gardens event on June 10.

Led by Tina DeLucchi, with help of Peggy Martin, Kay Rex and a growing roster of others as the summer bounty increases, we are harvesting the vegetable garden at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden and delivering the produce to the Food Bank weekly. If you are interested in helping, please contact Tina. 510-909-6704.

You will find valuable information and news about NGC in the newsletter National Gardener. Subscribe here: <https://gardenclub.org/national-gardener>

#### **Our Scholarship Program**

In support of CGCI's plans to increase scholarships to better reflect how expenses have grown for students, our Scholarship Committee, chaired by Kay Rex, voted to increase the amount of our scholarship to \$1500.

The Committee worked closely with Fort Bragg High School to offer support this year specifically for students going to Mendocino Community College. The Club identified local scholar, Sydney Robbins Berrettini, for recognition with a \$1,500 college scholarship.

Please stay in touch with CGCI activities and opportunities by subscribing to the CGCI newsletter, Golden Gardens eNews. Use this link; you can also subscribe there to WACONIAH, the newsletter of the Pacific Region of NGC. <https://www.californiagardenclubs.com/cgcinewsletters/>

### **Our Educational Presentations**

For several years now, we have asked members at the April meeting for feedback on the monthly presentations at our meetings. We also ask what people most want to learn, and for other program ideas and speakers.

Members gave high marks to our seven monthly programs on garden insects, native plants, vegetable gardening, garden art and more. Members also requested more hands-on experiences. In response we held two very hands-on and somewhat hands-dirty classes.

In February, following her presentation on seeding, biodynamic gardener Sydney Grange helped us seed flats and pots with veggies, herbs and native plants for ourselves and our Plant Sale. Sydney also led classes in March on starting a vegetable garden that we presented at the S. Lincoln St. Garden where we are growing food for the Food Bank. At our March meeting, members made origami with pollinator seed-paper under the direction of member Alan Foss. Alan also held a weekend class at his home at which participants created seed paper and painted clay pots for our April sale.

### **Sidewalk Gardens to Bragg About**

We honored the winners of our annual *Sidewalk Gardens to Bragg About* contest at a new event, *Celebrate Our Gardens-A Dessert Gala* on Monday June 10. We complimented the Sidewalk Gardens contest this year with a *Celebrate Our Gardens Photo Contest* open to all gardeners from Westport to Elk. At the June 10<sup>th</sup> event we exhibited the photos and voted on a People's Choice Award. The event was attended by over 70 people including representatives of every garden-related organization in the area, from the school gardens to Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. We chose the occasion to present our donation of \$1200 to local Farm to School teaching organization, Noyo Food Forest, to support their Summer Garden Interns Program.

## **Upcoming**

Other plans for the summer and beyond will be made at the Board Planning meeting on July 11. Anyone interested in chairing a committee is invited to attend. Let me know. 707-494-2149

During the summer we will sponsor tables at several events including the Fort Bragg Farmers Market. Our first meeting in the fall is on September 9.

## **Upcoming FBGC Events**

More details to follow by email

### **Thursday July 16 Board Planning Meeting**

In person. Anyone interested in chairing a committee is invited to attend.

**Sunday July 21 Caspar Fest, FBGC Table 12pm – 4pm; 2/two hour shifts**

### **Thursday, August 2 August Board Meeting**

Zoom. All members may attend.

### **Thursday, September 5 September Board Meeting**

Zoom. All members may attend.

### **September Membership Meeting Monday September 9**

1pm Education Center, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens

### **Fall Plant Sale Saturday October 5**

See you there!!

Thanks for reading. See you soon.

Your president,  
Cornelia Reynolds

707-494-2149

