

What inspired/motivated you to re-do your landscape?

- I wanted to save water and make my large yards into several areas that had different uses. I started attending gardening classes with the Master Gardeners in Yolo County and the Water Wise tours. I wanted to attract bees, birds, and butterflies. I wanted to cut down on the water I was using to water the lawn and help conserve that resource.

How would you describe your yard?

- Eclectic with European, cottage garden, and Spanish styles. Whimsical with influences from a sign post, Alice in Wonderland, man in the tree and a raccoon. Lots of areas that are useful for adult conversation, tea parties, neighborhood gatherings, or children's exploration.

Did you do it yourself, hired a professional, or a combination of both?

- All work was done myself. I hired a neighbor who had experience with brickwork to hardscape in front and back. I bought plants at plant sales at WCC, Woodland high school, Fort Bragg high and middle schools, and UCD. I also found plants at friends and neighbors occasionally.

What type of plants did you use?

- Mostly drought tolerant plants that require less watering. The front hedge is Germander. I have butterfly bush out front and the Matilda poppy on the front side, bought at a nursery in Fort Bragg while visiting my daughter. The white iris has been moved and divided. The little purple iris was rescued from a friend's yard as they were getting rid of it. Tulips and daffodils were from a fundraiser from Fort Bragg Middle School for my grandkids. Roses in the back were in the front yard for years and moved to the back yard ~3 years ago. Some were gifts from a dear friend that were started from slips (cuttings). Others were planted by my mother. Yellow iris from a friend, Linda. The Meyer Lemon tree is original to the house.

My dad was a gardener and had asparagus in the backyard years ago. I ordered asparagus crowns from Park Seeds and planted them 3 years ago. I purchased artichoke starts from a plant sale at WCC also 3 years ago. I purchased the Swiss chard, Brussel sprouts, leaks, and garlic from a plant sale at WCC also.

Moon garden: I read about in Moon Garden which is where all of the flowers are white so when there's a full moon the garden glows. I had white geraniums from another house that I moved here. There are lambs' ears and white iris that I transplanted there. I tried to grow a moon flower but it didn't work. I planted the plants equally on both sides a cement slab where a burn barrel used to be which is now a tiny patio. The plants grew really well on the west side but not on the east side so that's a work in progress now.

Pam's Hill: the plants on the south side were a gift from a friend in Galt who promised they would grow anywhere. I purchased the columbines from master gardeners. I initially had 3 varieties of columbine. There is also some sort of sage in Pam's Garden, which was made in memory of my daughter's mother in law.

Roberta's Garden: Planted in front of the large garden window in memory of my mother. I planted all of the lavender & was inspired by all of the varieties of lavender at the lavender festival in the Capay Valley. Some of the lavender was purchased from a plant sale at the UCD Arboretum and some from plant sales from Woodland High School at WCC. Forget me nots from my daughter, Megan. Violets are from another friend, but I don't remember which one. Rosemary was from UCD Arboretum. Sage from my friend, Virginia.

Coyote bush next to the fence on the east side of the back yard was originally planted in front of the big window, but it got too big and was blocking out the view. I moved it maybe four years ago to its current location and it has thrived there. Purchased at the UC Davis Arboretum plant sale.

There is one bay laurel bush/small tree next to the garden window and one bay laurel tree/large bush next to the fence. Both voluntary from birds.

Germander hedge in front yard: I wanted a barrier to keep the dogs out of my front yard and was considering a white picket fence. Then I thought about having something that would attract bees and be living. I do frequent walks around the neighborhood and saw a large germander bush over on second street that I thought it could be trimmed. I researched some more and that spring, I decided to give it a shot. I had trouble finding the enough of the germander to plant the whole hedge. I got about half through Woodland High School plant sale at WCC and half were purchased at UC Davis Arboretum. I planted every other one because they were 2 different varieties. That was a happy accident because the two different kinds of germander bloom at different times. It keeps the bees fed for longer, blooms really, really early in the spring and continues to bloom all summer long. The flowers on the germander are different shades of purple, but the hedge looks like one long hedge. You have to look closer to notice the 2 different varieties. They are easy to trim with a hedge trimmer and are drought tolerant.

I am beginning to plant the hills in the front with Rose of Sharons propagated by my neighbor John, California fuchsias from UCD & a Trident Maple from the City of Woodland tree program.

Did you use any rebates that the city offers? What about a landscaping class?

- Have not used any rebates yet. I have taken a lot of master gardener classes, read a lot of books & magazines, and go on the water wise tour every year as well as the Stroll through History. I talk to people about how they've done their gardens. I also get wood chips for free from my tree trimmer Alliance Tree Service!

Does your landscape use any pesticides? If the answer is no, how do you fight against pests?

- I put out beer baths for the slugs. I do use sluggo once in a while, especially around the vegetables. I don't use other pesticides on a regular basis but am not opposed to using them if needed. I pull a lot of weeds. I pay my grandkids \$.05 per snail to get rid of them.

I go out with a flashlight at night to look for slugs and black widow spiders. If I see aphids on the roses, I spend time squishing them.

I set up garden beds and the asparagus patch with “compost lasagna” by layering cardboard boxes. They will (hopefully) block out some of the weeds (and some Bermuda grass and nut grass) and will eventually decompose.

How often do you water your yard? Do you use drip irrigation?

- I use drip irrigation on timers for when I am out of town for up to 3 months at a time. There is a sprinkler system in use for the grass in the back yard. Everything in the front yard is on a drip irrigation with a timer, except for the tree. I sometimes use gray bath water to water the tree. I hand water where needed, especially for new plants until they are established.

Does your landscape attract birds and/or beneficial insects? If so, what kind?

- Lots of birds and bees. I have 2 bird baths and 1 bee bath. I often see Hummingbirds, lots of different kinds of Bees, Robins, Coopers Hawk, Pigeons, Mocking Birds, Doves, etc. I used to have house wrens in the eaves for years but finally had that repaired. Now I think they live in a hollow in the Fruitless Mulberry Tree.

When did you start working on your landscape?

- When my parents bought the house in 1960. I have worked in the yard on and off since then, but I moved back to Woodland in 2007 and really began the water wise landscape when I moved back to care for my mother in 2009. I planted things in front of the garden window to look at. Then I started with the path to the Atelier. There were 3 different kinds of pavers/stone that led back to the Atelier. It was a muddy mess and my mother was using a walker. We needed a better solution. Pam’s hill was created from the soil that was dug out of where the paths were going. Then I started with small garden areas like the moon garden. The hills in the front yard were also created from the soil that was dug out for the paths and the patio there.

Anything else you would like to share? This could include any advice or lessons learned from working on your own yard that you would like to share.

- I always buy more plants than I need and put some in pots and some in various parts of the garden that I think they might work. Then I see how they do during the summer. If they don’t grow then I have the ones in pots that I can replace them with. I can move the pots around to figure out where they’re going to work and then put more there later.

I got a lot of advice from the master gardeners and learned a lot about bees and what kinds of things they need and want. For example, I learned that the coyote bush is used by the bees for leaf cutting so I wanted to put one of those in, but put it in the wrong place and then had to move it. I also learned about the bee boxes from the master gardeners and have one of those. I also have a potter friend in Mexico and was telling her

about how the bees drink from the bird baths. So, she made me both a bee bath and a birdbath for my front and backyard.

I'm always futzing around with my garden and moving things and doing things differently. I have found a really, really good source is little old ladies in town because if something grows in Woodland, then it's bound to grow in your own yard. You just need to find the right place for it! I also am very happy to give cuttings to other people. I know my friend Rose always told me that she would give me things but I could never thank her because if I thanked her, they wouldn't grow. Now I'm the little old lady.