

## Garden Tour 2024 Enjoyed by Visitors



John Morris leads one visitor on a tour of his Troll Knoll. John spent much of both days sharing life stories plus stories all about his 20-acre garden, complete with a mining town, a poi pond, and acres of trees and bushes. Many who visited suggested that this garden should be on the tour every year since it changes so much. John said changes occur because he and his wife spend no less than two hours on it every day. It is their haven.



Julie and Russell Brown have only been working on their garden for the past two years. It's already well established, complete with a work area that includes an outdoor sink.

Mother Nature cooperated as many visitors swarmed this year's gardens during the annual garden tour. Those who worked the gardens heard nothing but compliments about the gardens and the garden shop.

Many of the garden owners enjoyed welcoming visitors and answering their questions, often identifying plants and explaining how they care for them. Some garden owners shared that they have been working on their gardens for many years, while others were proud of what they have accomplished in a short period of time.

People were interested in the history of the gardens, how they are maintained, and what watering systems are used. Many were surprised that most of the work is done by the homeowners themselves because they love being in their gardens and seeing the fruits of their labor.

Many of the visitors explained that they look forward to the garden tour every year. Husbands were good sports but explained that they knew they had work ahead of them.

Thanks to Paula and crew, the garden shop had many offerings, ranging from signature bird houses, to wall

hangings, to artwork, and to decorative pavers, to name a few. Many spent a significant amount of time browsing and buying, then left bragging about their new treasures.

Some of the gardens had Master Gardener volunteers who were available to answer questions about the gardens and local flowers. People are always interested in what grows well in Nevada County and how to care for the many varieties of plants while also learning how to co-exist with wildlife in the area.

Local musicians contributed to the tour, as well. Liz, who is one of our new members, played guitar and sang at the Troll Knoll.

This year, the Master Gardeners Garden located at the local NID office not only shared their garden, which was beautifully labeled, but handled this year's raffle by displaying the raffle baskets and selling the tickets. Food trucks were also invited to sell their foods at the Master Gardener sight. Many enjoyed purchasing meals and homemade desserts then sitting at picnic tables to visit while eating.

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# Garden Tour Shopping Fun

Patricia Wolfe welcomed the tour to her lovely home and garden out of Nevada City on Lowhills Road. Once visitors hiked up a beautiful tree and driveway, they were treated to gorgeous peonies, some rare, and the always sought after.



Beautiful trees and bushes greet guests as they arrive at Pat Wolfe’s garden. The Garden Shop was also located at this location. Few left without something.



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# Presidents' Message



We both look forward to serving as co-presidents next year but first want to recap the productive year that our organization experienced, thanks to each and every member.

It seems that Covid may finally

be behind us. We were thrilled to present two very deserving Live Your Dream awards, grants, and student scholarships. Sharon worked hard to find interesting speakers who informed us about important happenings in our community and sparked our interest in getting involved.

Paula's passion for the Garden Shop found members working diligently on a variety of offerings. Work took place at her house then, thanks to Kyra, in a great workspace at the Methodist Church. Offerings included signature bird houses, painted pots and rocks, lit bottles, and napkins. Paula convinced members who felt they weren't talented to give painting pots and rocks a try, and the results were stunning.

New additions, such as decorative wall hangings, arrangements, art works and holiday items, thanks to the efforts of Kyra, our resident florist, were on sale, as well as Susan Warner paintings.

While touring Garden #4, members began plans to create garden signs to sell in next year's shop, and we can only imagine what other plans are already being set into motion, seeing as Paula has volunteered to oversee next year's Garden Tour but only if she can stay in charge of the Garden Shop.

Thanks to this year's return to pre-pandemic Garden Tour attendance and Garden Shop profits, we are anticipating being able to increase the amount of money for grants and even entertain the idea of an Impact Project.

As we left our last meeting, our installation meeting, we all agreed that even though we go dark for the summer, we need to focus on staying in touch and on taking care of one another and helping each other as several of us are dealing with health issues.

We will do our best to keep everyone updated. Please enjoy the summer with friends and family and return refreshed and ready to begin another productive year, one that continues to promote all that is best for women and children.

# Soroptimist of the Year



Linda proudly recognizes Sue and Trish as this year's Soroptimist of the Year recipients.

Each year, one of our club's members is recognized as the Soroptimist of the Year, but this year an exception was made as the award was presented to two deserving members who worked as an incredible team.

No one volunteered to be this year's Garden Tour chair, so the decision made was that there would be an organizational meeting and that individual members would sign up to handle each of the jobs necessary for a successful tour. While this idea sounded good and members stepped up and performed their jobs, the truth is that two individuals, Sue and Trish, our previous Garden Tour co-chairs still ended up being the go-to team whenever questions arose.

In presenting the Soroptimist of the Year Award, Linda acknowledged that everyone tended to lean on Sue and Trish. They kept us on track and were always willing to answer questions and/or to help problem solve.

Susan and Trish accepted the position of Garden Tour Go-Chairs just prior to the pandemic outbreak. Gardens were in place, many advertisers were onboard, and publicity was on track, then everything needed to be halted. They put everything on hold and stuck with it for two more years, making many adjustments due to Covid and the need to encourage people to feel comfortable to once again come back on a tour.

Following last year's successful tour, Sue and Trish wanted a break, and the rest is history. Their efforts could not go unrecognized.

All agreed that they were deserving of the Soroptimist of the Year award.

# Next Year’s Officers Installed in Brief Ceremony

This year’s installation of new officers was anything but normal. Because several members are dealing with health issues, the decision was made to hold an abbreviated installation then to celebrate together sometime later this summer.

First, Linda recognized this year’s officers, thanking them for all of their contributions to the club.

Then, Linda thanked the nominating committee for inviting and/or encouraging members to come forward to serve as officers for next year.

First, Paula Campbell stepped forward because she realized how necessary it is to have a Garden Tour Chair. Linda agreed to return as a co-president when Lynn offered to serve as a co-chair. Trish and Sue offered to assume the treasurer duties if Lynn would work with Linda. One of the newest members, Liz McAteer, agreed to become the Vice President and is excited to be scheduling speakers.



Susan Rasmussen enjoys installing the 2024-2025 officers.

Linda turned the meeting over to Susan Rasmussen for what she introduced as the shortest installation on record.

Susan welcomed next year’s cadre of officers then installed them as a group.

The slate of officers includes:  
Co-Presidents, Linda Decker and Lynn McDaniel

Vice President, Liz McAteer  
Recording Secretaries, Susan Warner and Wendy Price  
Corresponding Secretaries, Kyra Kelley and Linda Fuentes  
Co-Treasurers, Trish Gerving and Sue Williams  
2-Year Delegate, Sharyn Turner,  
1-Year Delegate, Jill Meyer  
Director, Linda Decker

# Elke Receives A Bittersweet Farewell



Before the meeting came to a close, Linda recognized Elke, who is stepping away from SISF.

She began by looking around the room to realize how many members of the organization are with the group because they have been sponsored and encouraged by Elke who loves the Soroptimist organization.

Elke explained that when she first joined SISF, she was very quiet and lacked confidence. With the encouragement of members and opportunities to get involved, she became comfortable with public speaking and gained the confidence to take on a number of responsibilities, not to mention offices.

For several years, Elke has encouraged members to create Valentine cards that she has delivered to Meals on Wheels so that each person who received meals also felt loved on Valentine’s Day.

Most recently, Elke scheduled all of the workers for the Garden Tour, a challenging role.

Linda reminded members that if one knows Elke, one knows that she loves chocolate; therefore, she was presented with a box of chocolates, along with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and an open invitation to join us whenever possible.