

The Bones Of A Garden Deciduous trees and shrubs

There is nothing spooky about garden bones. They are permanent plantings and structural objects that make our gardens look interesting and inviting. Trees and shrubs whose "bones" have winter interest as well as other seasonal beauty. Paths, fountains, trellises, ponds, and benches are also considered bones.

Our Sherwood Demonstration Garden is a great place to come see examples of garden bones. let's start with a few plants that bring winter interest even while dormant.

There are several examples in the Marsh:

This Corkscrew Willow can withstand our hot summers and gives the Marsh shade in summer. In winter its curly, freeform branches are eye-catching.



Salix matsudana "Tortuosa" or Corkscrew Willow



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Shrubs can also bring year round interest. These Redtwig and Yellowtwig dogwood shrubs are bright red and yellow stems in winter and can "pop" in your garden when placed to advantage. The Marsh and Shade Garden both have samples of Redtwig Dogwood.



Cornus alba 'Elegantissima', Variegated Redtwig Dogwood
Cornus sericea, 'Flaviramea', Yellowtwig Dogwood



Springtime - *Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima', Variegated Redtwig Dogwood



Early summer blooms - *Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima', Variegated Redtwig Dogwood



Cornus sericea, 'Flaviramea' , Yellowtwig Dogwood

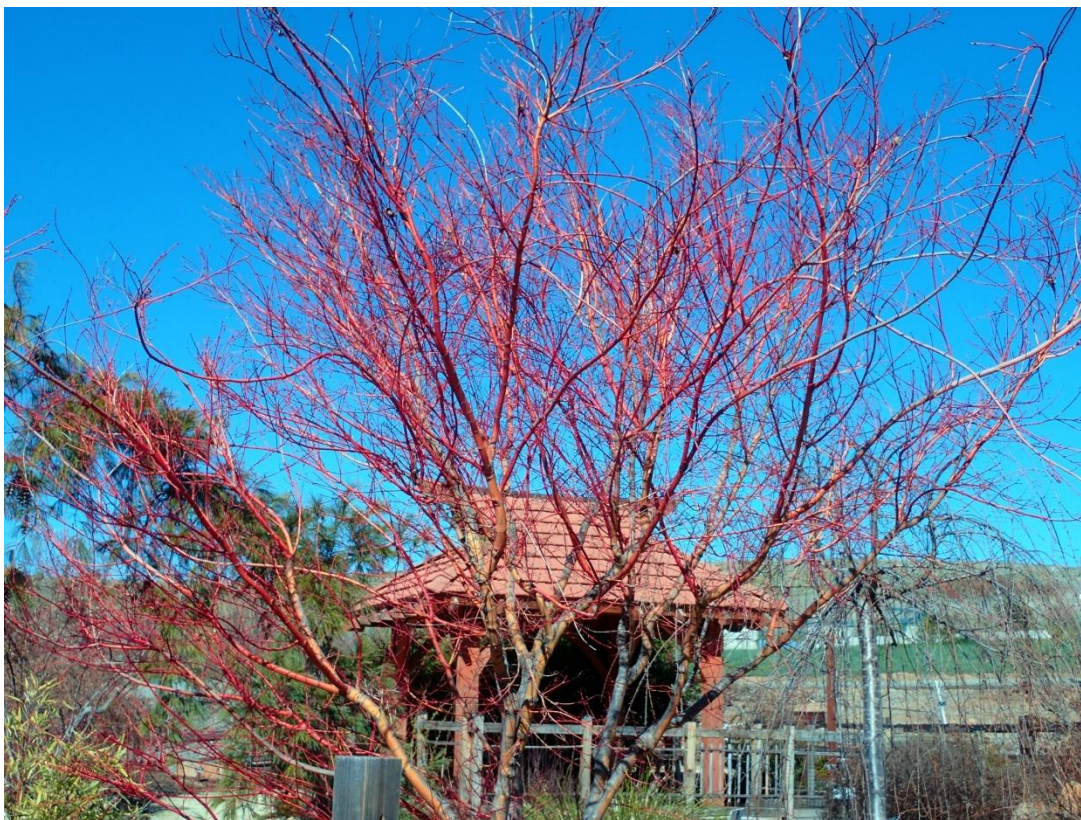


Early summer bloom - *Cornus sericea*, 'Flaviramea' , Yellowtwig Dogwood

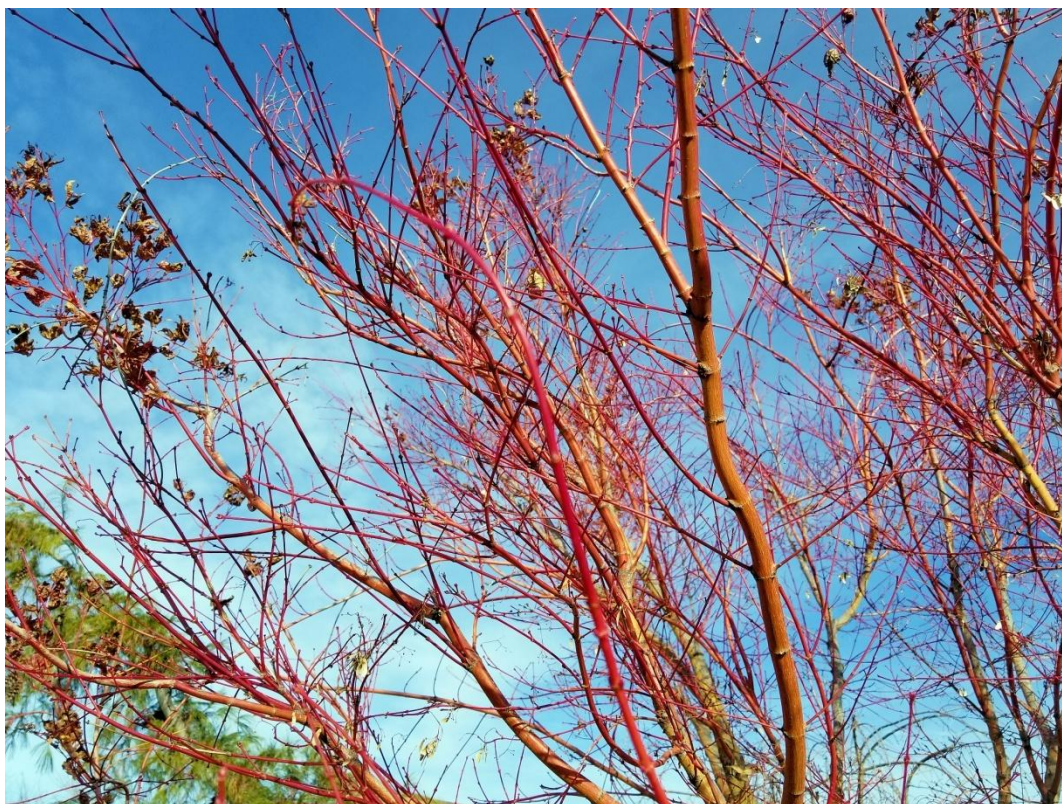
Espalier is a technique to save space and can also bring year round interest to a wall or fenced area. Or, it can stand alone as shown in the demonstration garden Orchard. Many trees and shrubs can be trained in this way.



Another tree that has great bones is this Coral Bark Japanese maple located in the Japanese Garden. In winter the bare stems of the branches glow in all shades of coral. There are 13 different varieties of Japanese maple in just the Japanese Garden. There are another 7 varieties in the Shade Garden.



Acer palmatum, 'Sango Kaku' - Coral Bark Japanese Maple





Fall colors - *Acer palmatum*, 'Sango Kaku' - Coral Bark Japanese Maple

Another shrub in the Japanese Garden that has great bones is this Dwarf Thread Leaf nandina. In winter the stems are a kaleidoscope of colors!



Winter - *Nandina domestica*, 'Filamentosa' - dwarf Threadleaf Nandina

Another favorite within the Sherwood Demonstration Garden is Harry Lauder's Walking Stick. It is popular for its corkscrew branches and the blooms, or catkins, it produces in spring. There is one planted in the Children's Garden and also in the Japanese Garden.



Corylus avellana 'Contorta' - Harry Lauder's Walking Stick



This Weeping Cherry also has year-round interest. There are other weeping type trees such as weeping Japanese maples.



Prunus x subhirtella 'Pendula Plena Rosea' (Double Weeping Flowering Cherry)



Visit the Sherwood Demonstration Garden for more ideas for your garden.