



# **GEM STATE GARDENER**

## **Winter 2015 Newsletter**



### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

**H**appy **H**olidays to all of you. I hope we have a good wet winter. It has been a wonderful fall visiting all of the Garden Clubs of Idaho District Fall meetings. You are all so dedicated to gardening and saving our wonderful planet earth. I encourage all of you to pursue our National President's Sandy Robinson's Special Project "Service in Action". The first step to change awareness, followed by the desire to make a difference, and finally, the necessary actions to make the desire a reality.

Pollinator and amphibian populations are declining worldwide through effects of pesticides, habitat destruction, disease, parasites, global warming, and introduced predators. I encourage all our clubs to participate in the BeeGap, Monarch Watch, The Frightened Frog and Bee a Wildlife Action Hero! Programs and projects designed to engage our members in efforts to protect and conserve these important populations.

BeeGap (Bee Gardeners Adding Pollinators), a partnership with Crown Bees to increase the awareness of native bees and encouraging efforts to increase the population.

The Monarch Watch Committee has programs and materials providing information about the decline of the monarch species with emphasis on the necessity of planting milkweed and nectar sources for the endemic butterfly species.

The Frightened Frog book and program highlights the environmental issues affecting amphibians.

Bee a wildlife Action Hero! By committing to garden for wildlife you will attract the pollinators, butterflies, amphibians, and other beautiful wildlife to your garden so you can provide a safe haven where they can live and reproduce.

In addition, Leadership Development material is available for local clubs leadership development workshops and to promote leadership development. Garden clubs educate, engage, challenge, and develop leaders within their membership. Do not say "no one will lead our club" but "Leap into Action" and help develop tomorrow's leaders today, Significant monetary awards and Certificates of Participation will be awarded for these projects. Go the NGC website [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) and click on President's projects for information and forms. We are gardeners and we care to preserve and conserve our wonderful earth.

Together We Can Make a Difference. LET'S All Go Do It!

***WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM ~ CHOICES MATTER***

*Janet Petersen, President*

## IDAHO GARDEN EVENTS CALENDAR DEC THROUGH FEBRUARY

### **TREASURE VALLEY BEEKEEPERS CLUB WINTER HOBBYIST SESSION**

Friday, December 4, 2015 1:30 – 4:30 pm  
Full info on Page 12

**LIGHTS IN THE GARDEN** – Sawtooth Botanical Garden, 11 Gimlet Rd., Ketchum, ID  
5:30 – 8:30 pm, Dec 11 & 12, 18 & 19, and Dec 25 – Jan 2.

Enjoy lighted displays while you cozy up around fire pits with cookies and cocoa. Cost \$5 per person/\$15 per family. Hologram glasses, beer and wine available for purchase.

<https://sbgarden.org/events>

### **ORIGAMI HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS**

December 9 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Sawtooth Botanical Garden Visitor's Center,

11 Gimlet Road, Ketchum, ID 83340 United States

Bring the whole family and make holiday ornaments for your tree! Create Peace Cranes, Lucky Stars, Trees, Ladybugs and more! Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or cider while working on projects ranging from easy to more complex. Free

### **IDAHO BOTANICAL GARDEN ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AND SYMPOSIUM:**

#### **BASICS OF TEA**

Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Susan Judge, Owner of Leaf Teahouse

COST: IBG Member: \$15, Non-Member: \$20 LOCATION: Leaf Teahouse, 212 N. 9th St., Boise

Black, Green, Oolong, Yellow, White and Pu 'er teas all come from the same plant: *Camellia sinensis*. Come to this class to learn how teas are produced and taste how the different processes influence the taste. Class limited to 12 participants.

#### **SCINTILLATING CITRUS**

Wednesday, January 27, 6:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Brook Slee, Whole Foods Boise Catering Specialist

COST: IBG Member: \$12, Non-Member: \$17 LOCATION: Cottage at IBG

Citrus fruit brings us cheery flavors during the bleak winter months. Join us to celebrate the citrus season. Brook will address the origins of these fruits, where they are grown today, and delightful, yet simple recipes utilizing unique citrus varieties available this time of year.

#### **CREATING A XERIC LANDSCAPE**

Saturday, January 30, 6:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Peggy Faith, owner Xeric Gardening

COST: IBG Member: \$12. Non-member: \$17 LOCATION: Cottage

If you are considering turning your home landscape into a more water efficient one, this class is for you! Peggy Faith, a specialist in creating native and non-native xeric gardens, will offer suggestions on how to start. She will discuss design ideas, considerations for placement, lawn alternatives, irrigation basics, hardscaping, and maintenance.

## **ORGANIC YARD AND GARDEN**

Saturday, February 6, 10 a.m.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jennifer Miller, Healthy Food & Farms Program Director at the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides

*COST: IBG Member: \$15, Non-member: \$20* LOCATION: Cottage

Jennifer Miller will share tools and techniques for the organic garden and yard. Join us to learn ways to establish and maintain garden & flower beds without the use of herbicides, and various methods for managing common pests. She is particularly fond of the earwig trap – so bring your own rinsed quart plastic container and learn how to make one.

## **GROCERY STORE BOTANY**

Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 p.m.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Elizabeth Dickey, IBG Education Director

*COST: IBG Member: \$15, Non-Member: \$20* LOCATION: Cottage

Grocery store produce is a wonderful way to enter the wacky world of botany. For example, figs will not grow into fruit unless a female wasp enters to lay her eggs and is trapped inside. Have you ever wondered if there are dead wasp bits or eggs in your fig bars? Did you know that cashews and walnuts are not nuts?

## **SPRING INTO A SUCCESSFUL GARDEN**

**DATE/TIME:** Tuesday, February 16, 6:30 p.m.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Toby Mancini, IBG Horticulture Director

*COST: IBG Member: \$15, Non-member: \$20* LOCATION: Cottage

Proper planning, and a few preventative measures, can make the rest of the gardening season much less troublesome, and oh, so much more enjoyable. Toby will help you organize your garden maintenance including improving soil conditions, pruning and dividing perennials; discuss weeds, pests and their controls; and share timely plant care tips and other spring gardening wisdom.

## ***SYMPOSIUM - Rethinking Idaho Landscapes***

Saturday, February 27, 2015 • 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Boise State University, Special Events Center

This horticulture symposium, presented in association with the University of Idaho, addresses principles for growing landscapes while working within the constraints of the Treasure Valley's soils and climate.

The Garden hosts Sue Goetz, an award winning garden designer, writer and speaker. She has a special passion for herbs and how to use them. Utah State University Extension Horticulture Associate Professor JayDee Gunnell is a Regional Horticulturalist who oversees the statewide Master Gardener program. He will share his favorite shrubs and trees for Idaho. Jason Doran, with Willowglenn Landscape, combines his artistic skill with advanced horticulture knowledge to create lovely Treasure Valley-appropriate landscapes. He will show us a variety of ways to design a landscape that conserves water. The final speaker (yet to be confirmed), will highlight exemplary plants that should thrive in our local soils and climate.

Refreshments: Coffee and Tea provided during morning break.  
Book Signing at breaks: Sue Goetz, The Herb Lover's Spa Book  
IBG Members and U of I Master Gardeners: \$35 • General: \$45  
Parking fee and box lunch included if registration is received by 2/19.  
Lunch choices – Greek Veggie Wrap, Turkey Sandwich, Black Forest Ham Sandwich

Symposium registration form and info will be out mid-December. To be placed on the mailing list for this Symposium, simply email Elizabeth Dickey, Education Director/Visitor Services Manager at IBG with your name, phone and email address.  
[elizabeth@idahobotanicalgarden.org](mailto:elizabeth@idahobotanicalgarden.org)

***MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEARS EVENTS TOO!***

April 4-7 2016 Pacific Region Convention, Green Valley Ranch Resort  
And Spa, Henderson, Nevada [www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org](http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org)

May 2-7 National Garden Clubs Convention, Grand Rapids, Michigan

May 18-20, Boise NGC Flower Show Judges Symposium. Everyone that loves Horticulture and Flower Design is Welcome!!! Design instructor: Claudia Bates from Florida: Multi Rhythm and Abstract Designs and Collage; Billie Fitch Horticulture Instructor: Spring Bulbs.

June 12-14 GCII Annual Meeting in Orofino at the Rivers Edge Lodge, hosted by Clearwater District. Our National President Sandy Robinson will be attending.

June 27, 2016 Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. – Leadership Forum. More info below.  
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***Looking for a beautiful place to take a peaceful winter stroll?***

How about the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden amid the Palouse! Between November and February, there is much to observe in the winter garden. The bark colors and textures are prominent, particularly the peeling bark of the birches and cherries and flaky bark of the Chinese elms. The cone laden pines, spruces, larches, and Douglas-firs make an interesting display, as well as the creamy white fruits of the Snowberries.



**Arboretum Tour**

The loop distance around the Arboretum is approximately 1.4 miles of gradual declines and inclines. Short distances from the paths are benches where visitors can relax and enjoy the scenery. To schedule a personal tour call or email Arboretum Horticulturist, Paul Warnick 208-885-5978 [pwarnick@uidaho.edu](mailto:pwarnick@uidaho.edu).

Please give a few days advanced notice of desired tour date to assure the availability of a great experience.

**Location:** 1200 West Palouse River Drive

**Hours:** Open every day, dawn to dusk, free admission.

## GARDEN CLUBS OF IDAHO WELCOMES ITS NEWEST GARDEN CLUB!

By Trowel & Error Garden Club was founded on August 20, 2015 in Nampa, Idaho. It presently has a membership of 11 members. They are: Judith Angell, Vice President; Elizabeth Dickey, Member; Phillip Durfee, Honorary Member; Tammy Edwards Recording Secretary/Penny Pines Chairman; Dana Fillmore, Member; Lanni Johnson, Member; Robbie Lowry, Treasurer/Historian; Jamie Majors-Neer, President; Kabrisha Pearson, Member; and Lora Peterson, Web Administrator/Yearbook.

The club meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Baker Training/Conference Room at the Nampa Police Department, 802 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South, Nampa, Idaho 83651. The club has an active Facebook account BTEGC or search By Trowel & Error Garden Club; and an e-mail account: [Bytrowelerrorgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:Bytrowelerrorgardenclub@gmail.com).

The club joined in the City of Nampa for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Stormwater Community Clean-Up Day on Saturday, September 26, 2015. The club participate in cleaning out the stormwater lines along the Elijah Canal around Lion's Park and Lora Peterson presented a demonstration to the community how to improve Nampa's waterway by keeping harmful pollutants out of our stormwaters. Tammy Edwards, Recording Secretary and Jamie Majors, Club President, were present to share about the pollinators and answer any questions and recruit. (Here is the link to the Idaho Press-Tribune:

[http://www.idahopress.com/members/front-porch-by-trowel-error-gardening-club-of-nampa-helps/article\\_91ddcabc-6be3-11e5-bb02-17b53a9b4af3.html](http://www.idahopress.com/members/front-porch-by-trowel-error-gardening-club-of-nampa-helps/article_91ddcabc-6be3-11e5-bb02-17b53a9b4af3.html) )

By Trowel & Error Garden Club has had great programs at their meetings. In September, Mrs. Elizabeth Dickey presented a wonderful program on how to make "Living Wreaths" with succulents. We also had a presentation from Emiline Hogg, City Representative of Nampa for the Big Clean-Up Day on September 26, 2015 that the club was involved with at Lion's Park. At October's meeting, Mrs. Bonnie Winters presented a program on Lasagna Gardening which was very educational.

By Trowel & Error Garden Club has goals set for the community of Nampa to educate and get the city involved of all ages. The community garden off of 15<sup>th</sup> Street Ave South in Nampa is very important to this Club that it supports the Food Bank, the shelters, and residents in the area who are able to use the space to grow and harvest the produce. This garden is in a central area where it can educate the young and old, to come together enjoy, socialize, and create a beautiful creation knowing that it was grown with your own hands and love.

By Trowel & Error has several events planned for 2016. Our main event is recruiting new members and establishing our club. Getting to know each other and finding out what the club wants to do for the needs of the community.

The club is communicating with the Mayor of Nampa who is very interested in the Bee City, USA campaign. It is just in the beginning steps.

By Trowel & Error Garden Club wants to thank all the wonderful support that our club has received from the Southwest District and the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc (GCID).

It is like the saying goes: "Every gardener learns `BY TROWEL & ERROR'!!!"

Happy Gardening!!!

### **Leadership Forum**

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.  
June 27, 2016 9am  
1301 N. Orchard, Boise, Id  
\$10 for the day  
30 page Leadership Book included

What do YOU need to know to be a presiding officer or treasurer or secretary? What do YOU need to know to handle difficult members? What do YOU need to know to increase membership or motivate your current members to participate?

Come to the Leadership Forum – one day long – and action-packed! You'll learn lots and have a good time learning it. Bring a pencil to take notes and a sack lunch. There'll be plenty of ideas to share with your club.

Leadership is...  
Rewarding, fun, interesting .....  
Make the most of your position!

Led by Robin Pokorski who has served as President of California Garden Clubs, Inc. and developed this Leadership Forum from a vast array of resources. She has presented this Forum to garden clubs all over California and to Nevada Garden Clubs as well as outside the garden club world to other non-profit organizations.

Merry Tillers Garden Club members hands have been busy, relocating and planting 18 peace roses and 5 red roses in the Boise Anne Frank Garden Project and hand tying fleece blankets for donation to the St. Luke's Children's Hospital.



### **ONLY 2 OPENINGS LEFT FOR THE MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM.**

Boise is fortunate to have four organizations supporting and coordinating the Boise chapter of the Master Naturalist program? Including Idaho Botanical Garden, coordinators for the Program, the Idaho Fish and Game MK Nature Center, Boise City Foothills Learning Center, and the City of Boise. The Boise Sagebrush Steppe Chapter, was established in 2008.

Modeled after the national Master Gardener program, the Idaho Master Naturalist Program aims to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to actively work toward stewardship of Idaho's natural environment. Any adult who enjoys nature and is interested in learning more can become a Master Naturalist.

The program for 2016 will begin Monday, January 11, 2016. Most sessions are held on Monday nights from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. through early May. Applications are currently being accepted.

For more information, please contact Sara Focht via e-mail: [sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov) or at (208) 287-2906.



**Chinden Gardeners Club** celebrated its first birthday with the dedication of the Garden City Library Planter

gardens. The event was held in the legacy garden of the city complex. There were 31 people in attendance and the weather was absolutely perfect! Garden City presented the plaque to the left in recognition of the work done by the garden club members. It was placed between the planters and directly below a light and can be seen both day and night.

No birthday could be celebrated without a cake and the only perfect cake would be a Bee Hive cake made by the daughter of a member. Decorated with bees flying all about and a sign above telling all that Garden City had become the 13th Bee City USA and the first in the State of Idaho.

The Chinden Gardeners Club was instrumental in helping Garden City to become a Bee City USA and will, initially, make up the required Bee City Committee along with a city representative. Left to right are: Mayor John Evans, Eagle Scout Candidate Kobe Clouthier, Claudia



Hambacker, club President, Judy Snow, Treasurer and Pollinator Chair, Nancy Bolen, Secretary, Lynnnda Gilbert, Vice President, and Jeff Souza.

**Sandy Ford writes:** This is an article in the Idaho Statesman newspaper - This club was organized just last year and has already won several awards. Judy Snow does a power point presentation wherever someone requests it. She is a tireless worker in promoting saving our pollinators. Her interest in pollinators came to her just a few years ago. She has no prior education or training and just ran with it. We are so proud of her and her accomplishments.

She is our Wildlife Action HERO.

**Garden City Goes to the Bees** - Garden City's City Council recently passed a unanimous vote to make the city a "Bee City USA" — the first in Idaho. Bee City USA is a national nonprofit that advocates for city leaders to raise awareness of bees and other pollinators and adopt practices to support healthy pollinator communities. The Chinden Gardeners Club led the charge to get the certification.

Judy Snow, a spokeswoman for the Gardeners Club, said a number of local organizations took part in the Bee City discussions, including the North End Organic Nursery, The Vineyard Church and the Boys & Girls Club of Garden City. The club will plant a public pollinator habitat behind City Hall in Garden City. This habitat will include a native bee observation booth, butterfly houses, bat houses and more. The garden will act as an outdoor classroom. Being designated as a Bee City also means that Garden City will take on the responsibility of hosting public awareness activities and an annual celebration.



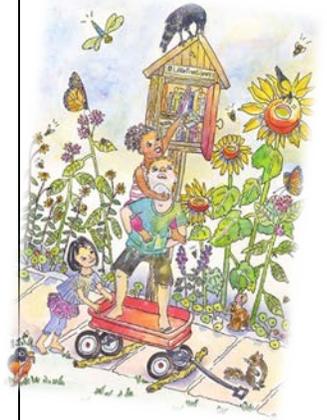
## Pacific Region Project

The *Pacific Region Project* for the 2015-2017 administration is **"Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child"**. It is all about getting more involved in gardening with children. Many of our clubs already have programs set up involving children, but more are needed. They are our future garden club members! Now is the time to start collecting the number of children you help. It's the number that counts. How many members are in your junior garden clubs? How many entries of Smoky Bear/Woodsy Owl posters have you received? How many new Junior Garden Clubs were started? What about poetry or essays? How many students support a school garden, community garden, and/or church garden if your club is involved in any way? The list is endless.

Send these figures to your Youth Chairman, your club's Regional Project Chairman, or your club president. The contest ends November 1, 2016. There is plenty of time to get involved in some way.

***Every Child Counts!***

Sandra Ford, *Pacific Region Project Chairman*



### *Making BAM Visible*

At the request of the **Boise Art Museum**, Boise Parks & Recreation Forestry Unit will be removing the 7 crabapple trees that are planted in front of the Museum. The trees are being removed to increase the visibility of the Museum, avoid structural problems associated with trees, and allow the Museum to explore new ways to utilize the front of the building. Boise Parks and Recreation landscape architects are designing a new landscape plan for replacement plantings to enhance the entrance.

The trees will be posted for 30 days to allow for public comment and are slated for removal in December.

Comments regarding the tree removal, contact **Brian Jorgenson, Forestry Division Manager, Boise Parks & Recreation, 208-608-7701**.

**We need your help.** Really need your help. BAM does NOT need to take those beautiful crabapples down in front of the [Boise Art Museum](#). Do. Not. They could be pruned, even a couple of the most forward ones could be removed. But they do not need to remove all 7 of them. It is too hard to get things to grow well in this high desert anyway. They are flourishing. We are "THE CITY OF TREES." They are art, in and of themselves."

I know they are waffling right now. If you agree,

Call Brian Jorgenson at Park and Rec, number above in the article AND right click on this link and you can get to their contacts form at the city:

<http://parks.cityofboise.org/contact-us-form/>

## **FILL YOUR HOLIDAY STOCKINGS WITH NGC GIFTS:**

Two new items have been added to the NGC online shopping website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

NGC 2015-2017 President's Scarf Item #5487 is now available thru shop online. NGC silk scarf in our own floral design. Each item is individually poly bagged. Price \$35.00 plus shipping and handling. This would make a wonderful Christmas gift.



### **“Inviting Butterflies into Your Garden” brochure**

project for creating a butterfly garden and the conservation of butterflies.

Hardcopy is available shop online for \$3.00 plus shipping and handling or can be downloaded from the NGC Website: [www: gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) free of charge

<http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/presidents-projects/monarch-watch.aspx>

Item #5488. Program and

## **REGISTER YOUR GARDEN AS A BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT!**

“Do you have Autumn Joy Sedum, Asters, Zinnias, Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, Monarda or Bee Balm growing your yard? If so, you already have a Pollinator Garden. Trees and shrubs, bird feeders, water or birdhouses, you can register your yard as a wildlife habitat.”

Sandra Ford, Chairman, Backyard Wildlife Habitat reports there are two ways that you can support the “Garden for Wildlife” program, whose mission is to provide food, water, shelter and places to raise young for birds and wildlife.

1 – Go all out NOW to be a CERTIFIED backyard – the cost is only \$35 and Registration ends on December 31st! Register and pay by credit card online at:

<http://www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat/UserAccount/SignIn>

2 – Register your Club at your DECEMBER meeting - Sandy also tells us that at the *Fall Board Meeting* held in October that each club president received a green folder with numerous handout material containing ideas for Backyard Wildlife Habitat. A ***Commitment to Garden for Wildlife*** form was included. This chairman asked each club president to sign and fill out the front of the form, ask their members to sign their name on the back of it, and return to me. So far, only one club has returned the form!

This is not a life threatening obligation! If you already have several flowers in your yard that attract pollinators, you already have a pollinator garden. All we are asking for is for our members to continue to do so, and maybe add a few more. I would like to register Idaho with the National Garden Clubs, Inc. as a state committed to garden for pollinators. If you have questions, contact Sandy.



## *The Winter Gardener - Yes, you CAN garden in December!*

By Mary Ann Newcomer

In the Rockies, across the sagebrush steppe and high desert areas, winter is made up of crystal blue skies, snow flurries or piles, short days and long nights. As we move toward the shortest day of the year, December 20<sup>th</sup> and the Winter Solstice, Mother Nature herself takes a much needed break, often under a quiet white blanket of snow. A few things to keep in mind as we close out the gardening year in our part of the country:

- Place your orders for hard to find fruit trees.
- Seed catalogs start to arrive now in December. Order hard to find and popular seeds for gift giving (and for your garden) as soon as possible.
- If your garden is not already under a thermal blanket of snow, water fruit trees and cane fruits deeply this month. Once is enough.
- If you have potatoes, squash, carrots, apples, and any other edibles in dry storage, inspect them now and remove any with soft spots or signs of decay.
- New and young fruit trees (first, second and third seasons in the garden) are very susceptible to sunscald. Our extreme day to night temperature swings, cold winter weather, dry air, and bright sunlight is tough on the tender bark of the trunks of young fruit trees. Apple, cherry, plum, crabapple and peach trees are especially vulnerable. When the thin trunk bark areas are exposed to warm sunny south and southwestern sunlight, they are often tricked into believing it is spring and begin developing spring growth tissue. This fragile tissue will freeze and thaw, creating a “wound” on the tree, leaving it prone to disease and injury. There are several inexpensive, easy options for preventing sunscald. You can purchase white or light tan trunk wrapping paper at a local nursery or garden center. Start at the base of the tree, wrapping upward, and overlapping by one third as you move up the trunk. Wrap to the second branch. Wrapping should be done the first of December and removed by the end of March. Never leave the wrap in place as it will collect moisture as well as provide hiding places for unwanted insects and bacteria. If you don't mind the look, you can create an inexpensive, reflective tree trunk shield by painting the trunks with white latex paint instead of wrapping them.

After taking care of the garden, don't forget the gardeners. Here are some thoughtful gift ideas for the gardeners and garden lovers in your life.

- Give a gift certificate to your favorite gardener or gardeners for an heirloom fruit tree or a selection of special cane fruits or fancy Mara des Bois strawberries to be delivered at the proper planting time. Include a note recommending they order immediately for best selection.
- Gifts that are “sown” are gifts of seeds or tools meant to encourage the growing of new or experienced gardeners. Make your own seed packages and stamp or draw the corresponding vegetable image on the packet. Take a tip from the established seed companies and create your own special planting collections.
  - A salad bowl garden includes seeds for green, red, romaine, speckled, ruffled and smooth lettuces.



- A stir fry garden could include seeds for bell peppers, green onions, Asian greens like bok choy and Tatsoi.
- A salsa garden would consist of onion seeds, heirloom tomatoes, hot and mild peppers, and parsley and cilantro seeds.
- The “herbalicious” collection might have parsley, dill, chives, cilantro, and mint seeds.
- A Three Sisters Garden is the historical, traditional planting combination made famous by the Plains and Southwestern Native American tribes. It includes heirloom pole beans, heirloom corn seeds, and squash seeds. Include the memorable history of this planting method with complete instructions.
- How about some hired assistance for someone not able to get out and build their own garden? Companies are willing to plant, tend, maintain and harvest your garden for you for a fee.

For the gardener who needs no gift, consider making a charitable donation in their name to your local botanical garden.

Sharing the garden’s bounty carries the spirit of gardening well into the New Year. May all your gardens be fruitful, delicious and abundant.

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Mary Ann Newcomer lives and plays in the dirt in Boise, Idaho, and calls herself “a garden scribe, scout and speaker.” She shares everything she loves about gardening on her blog, [www.gardensofthewildwest.com](http://www.gardensofthewildwest.com). She’s known as the Dirt Diva on the River Radio, 94.9 in Boise, ID and often co-hosts on Boise Radio (Talk Dirt to Me). Her articles on gardening have been published in *Rocky Mountain Gardening*, *MaryJane’s Farm*, *Fine Gardening*, *American Gardener and Leaf* and many newspapers in the Intermountain West. Her book for Timber Press – [\*Vegetable Gardening in the Mountain States\*](#) came out in 2014. She edited and co-authored *The Rocky Mountain Gardener’s Handbook*, in 2012. She won a Silver Trowel Award from Garden Writers for her story about Cougar Annie of Boat Basin on Vancouver Island.

**MaryAnn’s Favorite plant:**

If I have to claim a favorite, it will be *Philadelphus lewisii*, which is the official Idaho state flower.

It is commonly known as syringa or mock orange. When the river banks are covered with its arching branches, loaded with white blossoms, there is nothing better.



Photo courtesy of Trailmob.com



**National Garden Clubs**  
OFFICIAL WEBSITE

**President 2015-17**

**Sandra H. Robinson**

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**Publication:** *The National Gardener*

**Website:** [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)

**Conventions:**

May 2-7, 2016, Grand Rapids, MI

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

May 16-21, 2017, Richmond, VA

Richmond Marriott

**Ongoing projects:**

☑ Ames Garden Tools

☑ US Botanic Butterfly Garden

☑ Ecology Warriors Workbook

☑ Plant It Pink

☑ Rain Gardens

☑ SAGE & ROSES

☑ School Gardens

☑ Spring Planting for Butterflies

☑ Photo Archiving

☑ Water Projects

(Go to [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) for details on these and other projects)

Pacific Region:

[www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org](http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org)



**Treasure Valley Beekeepers Club  
Winter Hobbyist Session  
Friday, December 4, 2015  
1:30 – 4:30 pm  
Red Lion Downtowner, Boise, ID**

The TVBC is pleased to announce that the Annual Hobbyist Beekeepers Session is scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2015, from 1:30 – 4:30 pm, at the Red Lion Downtowner, in Boise. A donation of \$5 per person at the door is suggested to help the Club defray venue costs.

The TVBC event will immediately follow the conclusion of the Idaho Honey Industry Association's 2015 Idaho Honey Conference being held at the Red Lion.

Our speaker will be Ellen Topitzhofer, Oregon State University Crop Protection Agent. Ellen will provide current information emphasizing the necessity of good bee nutrition, along with tips and techniques for keeping bees healthy and alive that she has acquired while working across the Pacific Northwest.

Ellen is part of the Bee Informed Project Pacific Northwest Tech Transfer Team (<https://beeinformed.org/team-2/tech-transfer-teams/>), which operates out of OSU in Corvallis working with migratory beekeepers in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to monitor colony health and gather pesticide exposure information from these diverse cropping systems.

Out west, colonies primarily pollinate fruit, nut, oil seed, and vegetable seed crops for the majority of the year. Ellen received her BS from the University of Minnesota, and recently, an MS from Oregon State University, where she studied honey bee nutrition. She is also a volunteer mentor for the Oregon Master Beekeeper Program and enjoys teaching others about the joy of beekeeping,

**CONTACTS – YOUR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Email and phone numbers for your State, District and Club Officers and Chairpersons can be found on our website at: [www.GCII.org](http://www.GCII.org).

Janet Petersen	President/Historian	<a href="mailto:janetnpeter@gmail.com">janetnpeter@gmail.com</a>
Vacant	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	
Claudia Hambacker	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	<a href="mailto:c.a.hambacker@gmail.com">c.a.hambacker@gmail.com</a>
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Newsletter: The deadline to submit information or contribute articles for the March 2016 newsletter is February 15th. Send your submissions, calendar events for Mar thru May and any great photos to Marj Dougherty at [marjdougherty@gmail.com](mailto:marjdougherty@gmail.com)

