



Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.

Established 1953

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Claudia Hambacker, GCII President

Fall is absolutely my favorite time of the year. The growing season is coming to a close, children return to a new school year, and for some reason it just seems that nature is coming to peace with the good job she had done. This year may be a little different. Mother nature has provided us with a beautiful and magnificent total eclipse but she also has given us two violent category five hurricanes and some earthquakes. I, for one, do believe that man has had a heavy hand in changing the climate. Just like most gardeners I compost, do not use pesticides, and try to use commercial fertilizers very, very limitedly. I enjoy watching butterflies, looking closely at bees and man do I get a kick out of seeing my worms when I turn over my compost. In other words I try to do my part in my yard for my planet.

Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to travel to several garden clubs. I have been amazed at the work that is being done to promote gardening and teaching and beautification by clubs all over Idaho. The clubs in Clearwater District are so friendly and focused on helping community. Their efforts at Christmas to bring evergreens into home of shut-ins and those members who can no longer attend meeting demonstrated the spirit of caring for those who are vulnerable. The Japanese garden that was so beautiful despite the heavy rain and high water and was even half flooded during the time of our

Idaho Falls Annual Convention was still amazing. This summer a visit to our McCall Club brought new insight of how women from four small geographical areas, who want the best for their communities, will cross boundaries to form one cohesive club providing beauty, strengthen their ties, and know how to have fun.

My first and second paragraphs may not seem to “go together,” but they do. The first expresses my personal concern about our planet and the second explains how when we work together we can accomplish much. Garden Clubs are service organizations. We need to work together to save our environment, provide beauty, and help others. When we do this we learn that we belong to something much larger than ourselves and we reap many benefits, knowledge and new friends are just two. I am glad that I am a member of local garden clubs and the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. and I hope you are too.



GEM State Newsletter

Claudia Hambacker and Jamie Majors published this newsletter and Lisa Artiga assisted with proofreading and layout. The previous editor resigned and there has been no volunteer to fill the position. There has been no lack of articles for this newsletter and a schedule has been set for the Theme, the featured District, and the Committee Chair who are to enter their reports for the newsletter. The Associate Editors have been a very big help. There are only two editions left for this year. One will come out in January (Jan. Feb. and Mar.) and the last in April (Apr. May, June). If there is no volunteer we will not have the newsletter. It is your choice. I won't be doing it again. ~ Claudia Hambacker

THE GCII WEBSITE

By Allen Deitz, Webmaster

The Garden Clubs of Idaho are a group of educational organizations – local clubs, districts and a state organization – and their individual members. To be effective in carrying out our educational mission, we must communicate! As individuals, we must communicate with other members and with our clubs. As clubs, we must communicate with our club members and with other clubs, among our districts, and with the state organization. And most important: collectively and individually, we must be communicating continually with non-member gardeners and the general public.

Our communication toolbox contains very effective ways to communicate. Not only to communicate with and among members, clubs, districts and the state, but also with the public. Tools include traditional meetings and newsletters, as well a variety of electronic tools such as e-meetings, e-mail, Web sites (www.gardenclub.org, www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org, and www.gcii.org), and social media such as Facebook. But, are we using these tools to their maximum potential?

Several officers and the Web master recently met to discuss priorities and needs to more effectively use the GCII Web site (www.gcii.org) as a communication tool. The Web site is a great way to publicize information about our state organization, districts and clubs, our activities and mission, and upcoming events. The GCII site may be owned and maintained by our state organization, but the site is structured to accommodate and present information about each district and club, as well as the state-level organization.

The biggest challenges to maintaining a useful site are gathering the information and then keeping it up-to-date. To increase the effectiveness and usefulness of the www.gcii.org site, clubs and districts must provide complete, accurate and timely information to be published and must ensure it remains timely by periodically submitting updated information. To help with these challenges, a representative from each district is needed to serve on the Web Site Committee. Each district representative must be willing and able to participate in several meetings (usually via Internet) each year and to work with their district and the clubs within their district to help them take full advantage of the communication opportunities and capabilities of the Web site. If interested in taking on this important role for your district, contact your district director.

The screenshot shows the website's layout. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs for HOME, ABOUT US, FIND A CLUB, NEWS/EVENTS, AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS, LINKS, and CONTACTS. The main heading is "Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc." followed by a sub-heading "Birds, Bees, Butterflies, Moths and Bats – Create a Living Habitat for Them". Below this is a photo of a woman and a paragraph of text. To the right, there are three yellow-bordered boxes: "Our Facebook Page" with a Facebook icon, "Garden Club Video" with a YouTube icon, and a link to "National Garden Clubs".

On the GCII Web site, each club and district has a Web page under the "Find a Club" tab. Each club's page shows the club's meeting frequency, day and time, along with a listing of the club's officers and contact information. But did you know you can also list your club's annual theme (project, motto, flower, etc.), show a description of your club's service area, include a link to another Web site if your club has it's own (check the page for Nezperce Garden Club!), or include an e-mail address for your club that is not an officer's personal e-mail (see Ada Gardeners Garden Club page)? These capabilities are being expanded to include space for a general description of your club, annual plant sale information, and membership application information or to attach a membership application form.

A calendar or schedule of up-coming state, district and local club events and activities was also identified as a high-priority need. This calendar will appear in the *Gem State Gardener* newsletter and the Web site. The Web site version will then be updated as information becomes available between newsletter issues.

Work is also underway to develop – or re-develop – electronic forms in PDF and MS Word formats that will enable filling out the forms electronically. The forms can then be printed or e-mailed, as appropriate. The forms will be made available on the Web site. The first forms to be developed and posted will include forms for club information (to submit club information mentioned above), club membership reporting, awards application, and scholarship application.

ANNUAL CONVENTION 2017 – IDAHO FALLS

By Molly Graeber

The 2017 State Garden Club Convention, **Seeds For Change**, held June 11 – 13 in Idaho Falls at the Fair Bridge Inn, in Idaho Falls, was a complete success. We had 36 attendees representing 11 clubs throughout the state. Our icebreaker, flower arranging, put everyone at ease and it gave everyone a chance to meet and get to know one another. Speakers ranged from Snake River Seed Coop, Cox's Honey, City Parks and Rec and Nature Conservancy. All who toured the Japanese Garden down at the River had a great time. A lot of the garden club members from the Southeastern District worked to make it the pleasure spot it is.

We appreciate all those who attended the convention. We hope the next time we host the convention; you will all return and bring a friend or two with you.

What happened to the summer? It has come and gone and a lot of the things we planned never came to fruition.

Roberts Town and Country Garden Club started the summer by planting pots to decorate the main streets in Roberts, in memory of our founder, LaVern Tomchak, who passed away in May. We also planted the planters in front of the Mustang Center, Senior Center, and the pots in the City Park along with watering and fertilizing all summer long. We cleaned out the park for Market Lake Days, and then did the same for the Eclipse that brought an influx of people for three days. We are waiting for the city to remove the asphalt in the corner of the City Park so we can put in a small waterfall, which should happen within the next couple weeks. Donations were made in memory of LaVern Tomchak to help defray the cost.

We were a part of the Market Lake Day Parade in July. We decorated a small wagon adding flowers pulled by a lawn tractor and passed out icees and information on how to join our club. There were others who came along with us riding their tractors.



Idaho Falls Report

- Continued-

Two large rocks welcoming people to Roberts have been ordered and should be put into place by the end of the month. The family of LaVern Tomchak graciously donated from her estate the money to purchase the rocks. When they are in place, the club will get shrubs from her yard along with some from the nursery to place around the rocks.

A presentation was made to the mayor in July for the Civic Improvement Award that was presented to the Roberts Town & Country Garden Club at the convention in June. We appreciate all that the city council is doing to try and make our little town more inviting and presentable.

An award was presented to the Roberts Town and Country Garden Club during the September City Council meeting in appreciation for our generous support of the community.



Idaho Falls Garden Club was busy as well. They started the summer by planting the downtown planters that was greatly appreciated and are a welcome to whomever visits the downtown area.

July 9th found the club touring flower gardens of Cheri, Elizabeth Fallon, and Kaye Rose and enjoying banana cream pie at Kaye Rose's when they finished their tours. July 12th the club members attended and participated in the flower show held at the Bonneville County Extension 4-H building. The theme for the arranging was to depict the Solar Eclipse. Fun was had by all.

On September 20th the Idaho Falls Garden Club will be going to Sun Valley to tour the Sawtooth Botanical Gardens. We wish them safe travels and a fun time.

The southeaster district meeting will be held in October at the Mustang Event Center in Roberts, hosted by the Roberts Town & Country Garden Club. All are invited. All will have a fun and informative meeting.

It goes without saying, all the members of the southeastern district have been busy in their respective communities as well as their own yards and gardens trying to make this Earth we live in a more beautiful place to live.

Idaho Historical Society

As some of you know, a disgruntled individual destroyed at one time almost all of our organization's history. We do not want this to happen again. The Idaho Historical Society has agreed to take our historical documents and care for them in a secure, temperature controlled environment. The items are available for view by members in a comfortable and secure room overseen by the personal of Idaho Historical Society. Some of our information will be digitally recorded but the majority of the documents will be kept in their original state. This is a free service. After conversation with many members there has been overwhelming interest to do this and to protect our heritage. Member Clubs are encouraged to place their historical documents with those of GCII.

In order to do this successfully, we must have an individual who would be interested in learning how to complete this task. The Idaho Historical Society will provide needed materials and instruction. If you would be interested in helping please contact Claudia Hambacker by email: gci.claudiah@gmail.com

AWARDS

By Linda Halstead, Awards Chair GCII

There are 22 Awards, listed below, for which all Member Clubs may apply. The description of each award and the award application forms can be found at www.gcii.org under the dropdown menu Awards. The **DEADLINE** for all applications with supporting evidence must be received no later than **December 1, 2017**. They may be sent electronically or mailed (postmarked no later than December 1, 2017). stateawardschair17@gmail.com

A complete list of Awards can be found on the GCII website. Please pay close attention to the numbers associated with the size of the clubs. Also, review the Regional and the National websites because numbers do not always coincide.

At the Fall Board meeting the winner amounts were changed to: 1st place \$50, 2nd place \$25 and 3rd place to \$15.

GCII Award Winners for 2017

No.	Award	Member Club	Amount
10	Civic Improvement	Golden Garden Club	\$20.00
11-A	Yearbook	Roberts Town & Country Garden Club	\$20.00
11-B	Yearbook 1st Place	Nampa Garden Club	\$20.00
11-B	Yearbook 2nd Place	Owyhee Garden Club	\$10.00
11-C	Yearbook 1st Place	Merry Tillers	\$20.00
11-C	Yearbook 2nd Place	Valley Garden Club	\$10.00
13-C	Newsletter-Plant Society	Idaho Rose Society	\$20.00
14-C	Youth Involvement by a Club 1st Place	Merry Tillers	\$20.00
14-C	Youth Involvement by Club 2nd Place	Nampa Garden Club	\$20.00
17-A	Wild Flower and Native Flora	Owyhee Garden Club	\$20.00
19	Award of Appreciation of Non-Member Group	Town of Roberts	\$0.00
21-C	Certificate of Performance- Garden Club Person of the Year	Judy Snow	\$0.00
22-A	Promotion: Facebook	Valley Garden Club	\$20.00



Nampa Garden Club "Good Neighbor Award 2017

By Linda Halstead and Bonnie Winters

Nampa Garden Club has been a whirlwind of activity in 2017 and recently presented our favorite annual award, The Good Neighbor Award. This award is given to a private resident that beautifies their own yard without benefit of landscape or to a business that maintains curb appeal. This year two private residents received this award, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Green of Nampa and Judy and Dick Stark of Caldwell.



The Greens relocated to Nampa from the Central Coast of California three years ago. Ron said his love of gardening came from his deceased mother and older brother who's gardens always reflected color and variation. While in California, they received the Beautiful Homes Award from their city! Their yard backs up to the greens of the 12th and 13th hole on a local golf course. They have a beautiful deck planted with zebra grass for privacy and colorful wild flowers, coreopsis and cosmos and dahlias and roses border the edges. Dahlias and roses continue at around the side of the deck along with iris on the right side of the deck are raspberries ripe for picking. I must mention his love for geraniums which he will begin propagating this winter. This friendly couple just celebrated their 46th anniversary.

Judy and Dick Stark moved Caldwell about 2 years ago from Reno. They have a huge yard of more than a 1/4 of an acre where they were able to host a wedding in this summer. The yard has huge mature cotton wood trees and some pine. The gardens surrounding the trees are shaded natural setting. There is a beautiful water feature of an old fashion hand pump spewing water in the well. There are Canterbury Bells that reseed themselves. There are smaller gardens in another part of their yard that with an old canopied swing overtaken by grapes and is now an arbor. Pots with a variety of petunias and grasses along with hanging white petunia basket left over from the wedding adorn the area. Judy also has a lovely and large Mezzo plant. We learned that Mezzo it is a waxy plant and not a succulent and must be taken into the house in the winter. Bonnie and I received cuttings The very sunny side yard has beautiful vibrant red Lincoln roses.



IN REMEMBRANCE

It is with sadness that we report that the following Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. members have died with in the last quarter. They will be officially recognized at our Annual Convention in June 2018.

Nampa Garden Club
Priscilla Turner

Golden Garden Club
Jackie Cooney

National Garden Club's Award of Excellence By Janet Petersen



Congratulations to all Garden Club of Idaho members. Due to all our distinctive work with youth in gardening projects, GCII won the National Garden Clubs *Award of Excellence*. A monetary award of \$500 was presented to Idaho at the National Garden Club convention in Richmond Virginia in May of 2017.

One hundred percent of our adult and youth garden clubs have participated in making Idaho's youth more aware of the importance to love and to appreciate nature. Our engagement with local youth has brought us great joy. As the spirit of wonder in young gardeners rejuvenates our delight in the beauty and grace of growing things, we need to continue our focus on our youth programs. We want our youth to be responsible citizens for their environment. Please keep you amazing projects!

MEMBERSHIP

On behalf of the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. and it membership we welcome the following 19 new members:

Valley Garden

Sharon Dibble
Kate Clayton
Lynn Churchill
Jeri Nixon
Cynthia Gill
Elsie Miller

Ada Gardeners

Carol & Karl Moxley

Nampa Garden

Suzie Dooley
Jenni Jimmerson

Long Valley

Debbie Slack
Kay Snodgrass
Cynthia Berkley

Chinden Gardeners

Tammy Edwards
Tom & Karen Martin

Owyhee Garden

Robin Hollingsworth
Marcia Yiapan
Mary Comstock

Please notify you District Associate Editor of any new members since the last publication of the GEM prior to each publication date.



NGC Flower Show Schools are coming to Boise beginning April 2018!

Are you interested in learning about excellence in horticulture, artistic floral design and flower shows? If your answer is YES, join us for a series of two-day courses sponsored by Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. and the Treasure Valley Flower Show Judges' Council.

This program offers valuable information presented by instructors certified by National Garden Clubs, Inc. The series of two-day courses will take place in April and September 2018, January and May 2019. The classes are designed to stimulate interest and teach how to grow and cultivate plants, specific floral designs, train prospective judges and to encourage educational flower shows of high caliber. Members and non-members may take any, or all, of the classes in order to enrich their knowledge of horticulture, floral design and flower show procedure whether or not they intend to become a judge.

The courses can be taken in any order after Course I and students completing all four courses, and related requirements, are eligible for accreditation as Standard Flower Show judges with certification from National Garden Clubs, Inc.

We are proud to host two exceptional Instructors for Course 1; Dorrthy Yard, NGC National Chairman of Flower Show Schools and Barbara May, author and past president of National Garden Clubs, Inc. We encourage you to join us on April 12-13, 2018 for Course 1.

For information and to register, contact Pat Baker at patbaker@cablone.net or 208.870.1299.

Field Trip to Hops Farm

By Charlene Johnston

On September 19, 2017, the Owyhee Gardeners (most of us from Homedale and Marsing area) went on a field trip to Obendorf Hop Farm's processing facility near the Wilder/Parma area. A large crowd of us—husbands, wives, friends—nearly 30 in all, had a great morning. Brock and Phil Obendorf are fourth generation hop farmers, along with their father, Greg. It was a wonderfully enlightening and educational tour during their harvest time as we watched the trucks come in heavily loaded. Hop vines laden with the all-important hop cones are hooked to pulleys that take them through moving chain shakers and cutters that separate the vines from the hops, which then proceed through a series of conveyer belts and shakers removing stems and leaves, and carried eventually to the drying sheds where they spend from 8 to 10 hours drying to a specified moisture content, and eventually to packing into covered bales to be cooled and stabilized and then off to other processing in the Yakima area, where some are converted to pellets, and some liquefied and shipped to brewers in vials, pellets, or entire bales. It's an amazing process.

Obendorf has nearly 3,000 acres of hops, and has an employee headcount of between 250 in the spring before tapering off in midsummer, and increasing to nearly 200 at harvest. The Owyhee Gardeners thoroughly enjoyed their hospitality—a great learning experience.





Student Awarded \$5000 by National and GCII

By Joyce Parr, Scholarship Chair

Julia Reese, a junior at the University of Idaho has been selected to receive a \$1000.00 scholarship for Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. for the 2017-2018 school year. In addition we are excited to report that National Garden Clubs, Inc. has awarded Julia with a \$4000.00 scholarship.

Julia's major is Civil Engineering-Water Resources and Agricultural Systems Management, with a final objective of Irrigation Engineer. She has worked with farming, Back Yard Harvest, and WSU soil science lab, and interned in the research and development department of a large tree fruit grower.

"I have become aware that the biggest obstacle many encounter is water availability and quality. Particularly in the west, the threat of draining aquifers, drying rivers, and depleted water tables are beginning to cause a panic among farmers and urban residents alike."

"Your support is allowing me to continue pursuing my goal of becoming a valuable member of Idaho's horticultural industry." — Julie Reese

The scholarship program offers financial aid to students majoring in agronomy, plant sciences, horticulture, landscape design, forestry, environmental concerns/conservation, wildlife science, ecology and/or other related or applied subjects. All awards are for one-year scholarships available to junior, senior and graduate students majoring in one of the areas listed above.

Fall Board Meeting Report

by Claudia Hambacker

There were 29 members at the Fall Board Meeting on October 2, including 60% of the Board of Directors. The newly purchased audio/visual equipment was use during the program. Following are highlights of the meeting:

- Tom Martin presented an educational session about using the Zoom, a web conferencing program, and those present with devices were able to connect to the online session.
- Linda Halstead presented information on Awards and how to apply. A motion was approved to increase the monetary Awards to \$50, \$25, and \$15 for 1st, and 3rd place respectively.
- Karen Martin, the new Membership Chairman, presented plans to provide a template that will provide information about each club to prospective members.
- Meghan Shepard gave a GTEP presentation and reinforced that GCII will pay the required fees.

A motion passed to increase the Scholarship program to \$1000.00 annually. Those present were reminded to attend Annual Convention and Fall Board Meetings and also to encourage members to attend. Voting members at these meeting are the Board of Directors. This includes the voting members of the Executive Committee, the District Directors, and Member Club Presidents or their designee as stated in the bylaws under Article VI, Section 5, Subsections (a.) and (b.)

October, November, December Events

October 2017

2 - Fall Board Meeting

19 - Clearwater District Fall Meeting (Nezpearce, ID)

12-14 - GCAS Hi Lo Chrysanthemum Society will sponsor a small NGC standard Flower Show with Horticultural and Design Displays. at Patt's Garden Center, 1280 Port Dr. Clarkston, WA. The show is open to the public Thursday (12) from 1-5, Friday (13) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday (14) from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

No date - Valley Garden club Adopt-A-Highway litter pick-up and painting special message on rocks to be hidden around the area.

November 2017

5 - IRS tax return 990N

27-28 - GCAS wreath-making workshop and fundraiser

Ada Gardeners NO meeting

No date Valley GC annual wreath or table arrangement auction

December 2017

1 - Awards Applications are due to the Awards Chair

4-5 - Garden Club for all Seasons wreath making

5 - Ada Gardeners Club Christmas Dinner @ Golden Corral

6 - Moscow GC wreath workshop for local Care Centers, shut-in club members; make arrangements for McConnell Manson Christmas Open House, donate to Christmas for Kids and local food banks

8 - Hill and Valley evergreen/wreath sale

No Date Valley GC cookie exchange and Christmas Party

2018 GCII Annual Convention	June 10, 11, 12
National Garden Club Dates	Pacific Region Dates
2018 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania May 21-24, 2018	2018 Alaska April 6-8, Chena Hot Springs, Alaska
2018 Orlando, FL. Sept. 25-30 Fall Board	2019 California April
2019 Biloxi, Mississippi April 30 - May 5	2020 Idaho
2019 St. Louis Sept. 22-26 Fall Board	2021 Oregon April

*District Directors, Member Club Presidents and State Chairmen, if you know of special dates that should be included please forward them to the Newsletter