



GEM State Gardener

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. Established 1953

Spring/Summer Edition 2018 Volume 8 Issue 2

President's Message

Claudia Hambacher, GCII President

Have you heard rumors of what you missed? The GCII 8th Annual Convention was held June 10, 11, and 12th hosted by the Southwest District. The committee worked very hard to make this convention a memorable one. There were some great tours and thanks to Tom Martin who was our bus driver we could sit back and relax. The food, raffles, auction items were amazing. There was a wonderful reception and dinner on Tuesday evening and a rare opportunity to meet our National Garden Club President, Nancy L. Hargroves. This was not just a working convention for delegates only, but an opportunity to network and meet other amazing women and men from across the state with the same love of conservation, plants, and many with the tell-tale hands of a gardener. There was learning, laughter, origami butterflies, educational speakers, and much more. The full report will occur in the next newsletter. **Mark your calendar now for next year in June when we travel to the Clearwater District.** You really don't want to miss it.

This is a very busy time of the year for everyone. Not just for opening our planting gardens, deciding what to plant where and when, but also for our individual clubs. New officers are being installed and many are beginning to take on new roles and new challenges. It is the responsibility of each of us to help our new officers to be successful. Some clubs are choosing themes for the next year or two and this is an excellent way to choose programming options, set directions for club projects and for bringing the club members together to work on the selected goals. Share your individual club goals with other clubs in your district. Think about inviting another club to one of your meetings. This is a great way to get to know your fellow gardeners and exchange ideas or collaborate on programming choices. Have a social along with the joint meeting. Go on a progressive lite snack feast from home to home visiting each others gardens. Make Garden Club fun!

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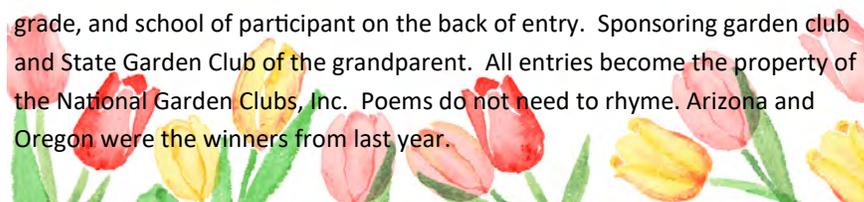


"POP GOES THE SEED!!"

Poetry competition sponsored by the National Garden Club is now open for entries. The deadline for entries is December 1. The Pacific Region is made up of 8 states. The deadline for the regional chairman to receive entries is February 1, 2019. Let your creative juices flow. Mail entries from the local clubs to:

Kathy Cassin, 1561 Cedar Ridge Rd. , Kendrick, ID 83537 A committee from the GCII will review the entries and select the winners to go on to the region.

"Pop Goes the Seed" is the theme of the competition for this year. All entries should be sent to the state Chairman, endorsed by the local club who sponsors the submission. Please encourage the children and teens from your area to write. The competition is open for those in grades K—9, General Education, Special Education, and English as a Second Language. The national winners will be published in a booklet. Each of the winners will receive a copy of the booklet. All entries must be typed and titled. Include name, address, age, grade, and school of participant on the back of entry. Sponsoring garden club and State Garden Club of the grandparent. All entries become the property of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poems do not need to rhyme. Arizona and Oregon were the winners from last year.



(con't from page 1)

It is also an active time for travel. I have had the opportunity to visit and install the officers of our newest club **For the Love of Growing** located in the Buhl area. Anticipating a few members was a very wrong assumption.

The room was packed with guests and four legged friends. It was a fun event. President Debbie Burke and Vice President Lea Shanahan had an evening prepared with a lecture from an Herbalist and Naturalist, Dr. Jones and some tasty looking pies.

The Pacific Regional Convention was held at Chena Hot Springs Resort about 60 miles north of Fairbanks, Alaska. There were representatives from five of our eight Pacific Regional member states. If I were to give a comparison of the Regional meeting it would be very similar to a District meeting but lasted for three days. The fellowship was strong, there were opportunities to share ideas and information and of course there were reports! UGH. If you were fortunate to have attended the Leadership Training presented by Robin Pokorski when she spoke in Boise, our educational exercise was to use the word **MENTORING** to define the characteristic of one who mentors. Words such as, trustworthy, a leader, reliable, communicator, educator, creative, and many more positive and action words were shouted out by the participants. It was a good learning exercise because it promoted open discussion among the participants. Besides learning activities we were always on the look out for moose and the aurora borealis and many of us saw both. The wonders of mother nature's winter were on display. The landscapes were beautiful.

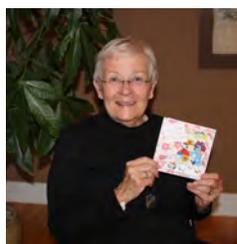
Most recently a visit to the Southeast District offered a beautiful quiet drive from Boise to Idaho Falls across route 20 with a stop for a great peanut butter milkshake in Fairfield, fantastic views of the snow covered Sawtooth Mts., the lava fields of Craters of the Moon and the flat drive while sneaking a peek at the Three Buttes near the INL. There are some real perks to being President. The Southeast District meeting was lots of fun and good food. Meeting fellow gardeners and their families is a wonderful part of being your President. The long hours in the car driving provides the opportunity to evaluate, plan, and be thankful for such an opportunity.

So come and join us at the 9th Annual Convention of the Garden Clubs of Idaho. Meet and greet, share and care, and give and get lots of hugs from your fellow GCII garden friends. You will not regret it.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT MEETING



District Meeting at a member's home with a wonderful dinner. Approximately 15 attended including President Claudia Ham-



Claudia with her card from the District



Kay Rose and Linda Carter Beck

- District pictures by
Linda Carter Beck



The beautiful Twin Falls

PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE CHENA HOT SPRINGS RESORT



Buddy



Hydroponic Garden
Vegetables are grown
year round



The Ice Hotel with
Appletini's



Aurora Borealis



Dressed for the
Viewing



Gardens In and Around Idaho



TIPS FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR REGARDING SUBMISSIONS

Please send all pictures as JPEG's. It is easier for me to work with the images. **Any text that is sent should be put into a word document and removed from any text boxes.** Please eliminate the text boxes and texts sent as PDF files. I am unable to separate pictures out or do any separation of text when sent as a PDF file.

I am using the latest edition of Word (2016) and Publisher in Office 365. Therefore any older editions of Word will work as well. The font is Times New Roman 12 for the most part, but I can easily change the font and size. Thanks so much.

Please use the specific subject content or name of picture so I can easily determine how to file it. Make sure when you save, use .jpg for pictures and .doc or .docx for articles.

Also, please let your extension offices have my e-mail address in case they are planning any classes or events that they would like to post in our newsletter. Thanks.

Kathy Cassin
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208-289-4640 (Home)

BLUE STAR MEMORIALS ACROSS IDAHO

As we approach the summer holidays it is fitting that the Blue Star Memorials be recognized in the GEM Newsletter. A history of the memorials and the locations around Idaho are included. Stop at one or more over the summer if you can and remember all those that that gave their lives and their time to serve, to continue to protect our freedom; those veterans from World War I, World War II, Korean and Vietnam , and the veterans of the wars in the Middle East. Many men and women have died as well as many more participated in defending our country and promoting freedom for others.

These memorials are a tribute to the armed forces and are now in the hands of the National Garden Club and the state and local affiliates. The idea of recognizing these groups began in 1944, when the New Jersey State Council of Garden Clubs began a program for planting some 8000 dogwood trees on a 5 ½ mile stretch of US 22, a four lane highway, between Mountainside and North Plainfield. This is an important east-west highway crossing New Jersey. The purpose was to recognize those men and women that served in World War II from New Jersey, one dogwood to represent each person who served.

Two sections of the highway were known as Blue Star Drive and designated to be a permanent memorial. The Blue Star was chosen as it was the star on the service flag hanging in windows of the families who had a son or daughter in the service during World War I and again the flag was used in World War II to honor the same. The flags are still found in use today.

The Garden Club wanted a living memorial, so plantings were considered. The funds were raised by the Garden Club, for the purchase of the trees and the selection, planting, and maintenance was handled by the State Highway Department. The Highway Department flattened a number of the backslopes and where there wasn't sufficient room the trees were planted to also check erosion and slides.

The dogwood was selected because it was New Jersey's most beautiful native tree. Additionally, it provided two full seasons of amazing display with the white flowers in the spring and the bright red berries in the fall. Other trees were also planted to enhance the display of the dogwoods.

At the close of World War II, the National Council of Garden Clubs was seeking a project that would beautify America and preserve the country that for which these men and women had given their lives. The New Jersey Highway Commissioner, Spencer Miller, Jr. was the guest speaker at the National Council of Garden Clubs in 1945 and suggested this become a national project, "that we are helping to redeem our times and to build a civilization which is fit for free men, for we shall be helping to build America the beautiful." The National Council of Garden Clubs was most willing.

The National Council made a study of the inter-regional highways in the US. A Blue Star Highway system was outlined for one east-west highway and seven north-south highways which has grown since that time. The Highway Commissioners were contacted as well as each of the state Garden Clubs and were invited to participate. It was desired that both groups were too work together to ensure success. A uniform marker was designed and adopted to show the memorialization, the design a gift from Mrs. Frederic Kellogg, founder of the National Council.

The project was "organized as a demonstration of roadside beautification, to show what could be accomplished through united strength, as a protest against billboards, to educate the public to higher standards of roadside development, and to determine how the National Council could best work with the civil authorities for major achievement." It was suggested that native plantings be planted at the marker locations and markers be placed at roadside rest areas, bird sanctuaries, playgrounds, and blighted areas be eliminated. These recommendations were in the original outline for the project.

(con't on page 5)

In 1951 the program was expanded to include all men and women, who had served, were serving, or would serve in the United States armed forces. The Blue Star Memorial Highway covers over 70,000 miles in the US and in 39 states including Alaska and Hawaii.

By-way Markers were added to the Highway Markers in 1981, to be used at locations such as National cemeteries, parks, veteran's facilities and gardens. In 1996, a third marker was added known as Memorial Markers. It is identical to the highway marker with the word highway eliminated. These are posted at national and veteran's cemeteries, VA medical centers and hospitals, and other civic sites. (<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/blue01.cfm>)

The signs are the same as the original with a copper colored background. The National Garden Club Logo is mounted on top, a prevalent blue star is visible and includes the wording in gold leaf letters stating this sign is "A tribute to the Armed Forces that have defended the United States of America." The sponsoring garden club is also identified.

In Idaho we have 5 memorial markers to date and 10 by-way markers. The first of the markers was placed November 11, 1962. It was placed by the Clearwater District and Orofino at Lenore, ID.

Southwest District - Rest stop area off I-84 at the Idaho-Oregon Border, May 12, 1988 (voted to replace 2018)

Southeast District and Roberts - Roberts, ID Roberts Community Park, May 20, 1989

North Central GC/ Clearwater District Lewiston, ID - US Hwy 12 Levee by-pass, August 3, 1990

About our Club

Fifty-seven (57) years and our Moscow Garden Club members are still beautifying our community, supporting community gardening, participating as Master Gardeners, designing floral displays, and staging the Latah County Fair flower show.

Along with our continuing projects in 2005/06 at the post office, Latah County Historical Society, Latah County fairgrounds, and the UI Arboretum, the club supported Idaho Garden Club projects through donations to the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity (landscaping), and the state scholarship fund.

A special THANKS goes back to the community for supporting our annual plant sale which makes our contributions possible.



In October, 2005, our club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Mineral Mountain Rest Area on Highway 95 north of Moscow. These memorial have been erected by garden clubs all across the United States since World War II, in honor of the men and women in the Armed Forces of the United States – those who previously served, are currently serving, or would serve in the future.

Magic Valley - Agricultural Museum outside of Jerome, ID, off Route 93 (no date noted)

By-Way Markers:

Golden Garden Club—Veteran's Hospital Boise, ID May 16, 1998

Grubby Knuckles GC— Idaho State Veteran's Home, Lewiston, ID June 11, 2001

Moscow Club—Mineral Mountain Rest Area Hwy 9 Oct 19, 2005

Southeast District—Idaho Falls, Petersen Sportsman Park, Sept 23, 2006

Golden Garden Club—Capitol Park "Let Freedom Ring Garden" Boise, ID May 20, 2007

Nampa Garden Club—Marsing, ID "Let Freedom Ring" Butterfly Garden, June 30, 2007 and moved to Homedale—Marsing Cemetery, American Legion Kiosk, Oct. 2, 2014

Valley Garden Club—Kooskia, ID Kooskia Kiosk Rest Area, May 15, 2010

(con't on page 6)

Clearwater District



Clearwater District—Lenore Rest Area, the first memorial in Idaho 11/11/1967 moved Oct 1998 to this site



By-way Marker at the Kooskia Kiosk Rest Area at the junction of Highway's 12 & 13 Valley Garden Club



Service Flag indicated a child in service. If the child died, blue star covered with a gold star.



By-way marker at the Juliaetta Centennial Park Hill & Valley Garden Club



Nezperce—Memorial Park, the newest marker

(con't from page 5)

Southwest District - Boise Airport, Boise, ID May 11, 2011

Hill and Valley Club - Juliaetta Centennial Park Hwy 3, Nov 10, 2012

Nezperce Club - Memorial Park, Nezperce, ID May 30, 2016

Blue Star in Lewiston along Route 12 Levee By-way



Southeast District



Roberts Community Park Roberts, ID



700 W. Jefferson St. Boise ID



And we have a winner!



The GCII Scholarship Committee has chosen Camille Werner to receive our \$1000 Idaho scholarship effective September 2018.

Camille attends Brigham Young University—Idaho in Rexburg, majoring in Horticulture: Production, with a cumulative g.p.a. of 3.98. Once she earns her Bachelor's degree she hopes to work as a grower for a wholesale nursery that produces trees and shrubs for garden centers across the country.

One internship included Disney World Epcot Center working with hydroponic systems in the Living with the Land attraction. Her other practical experiences are across the board with herbicides, weeds, soil preparation, planting and cultivating, pruning, new variety testing, pests and diseases, landscaping, and propagation in addition to related work assignments in a wholesale nursery in Oregon. She's a teaching assistant at BYU-Idaho. Her letters of reference state she is committed, focused and enthusiastic. Her attributes include responsible, passionate, and dedicated with a positive attitude.

As the GCII 1st place winner she becomes eligible to apply for the NGC scholarship. We have facilitated her NGC paperwork and that outcome is announced at the NGC National Convention in Philadelphia May 20-24, 2018. Good luck to our outstanding candidate.

Applications were impressive this year and the committee identified a second place winner which we have chosen to forward to the Pacific Region requesting she be considered for the Pacific Region Scholarship of \$1000.

*Joyce Parr,
GCII Scholarship Committee Chairman*

More great scholarship news...

April 12, 2018

Erika Alvarado was one of our outstanding scholarship applicants this year and ranked second in our Idaho competition. As you all know Idaho has only one \$1000 scholarship to award each year. But we were so impressed with Erika's credentials we advanced her application to the Pacific Region Garden Clubs to be considered for their \$1000 scholarship.

I am beyond excited to say that Erika has been picked the winner of the PR Scholarship for 2018-19.

Erika's love of nature came about at any early age beginning with huckleberry picking, mushroom hunting and hiking around in the forest. *"My childhood experiences instilled within me a wonder of the natural environment and a curiosity to explore nature."*

Erika is now a senior at the University of Idaho in the College of Natural Resources, majoring in Ecology and Conservation Biology with an objective of research and education. Her work experience is diverse and meaningful. Her recommendations are impressive, and pay tribute to her accomplishments, motivation, and attitude.

Garden Clubs of Idaho is happy to support our awesome young scholarship applicants.

Joyce Parr, Scholarship Chairman GCII



TOMATOES

*Kathy Camden
Nez Perce Sprout*

There really is nothing quite like eating a beautifully ripe tomato, fresh out of your own garden. Whether the flavor is actually better or it's just the taste of sweet success is hard to say. What isn't hard to prove is that growing your own tomatoes is relatively simple, and it's a great way to save a little extra cash on the grocery budget.

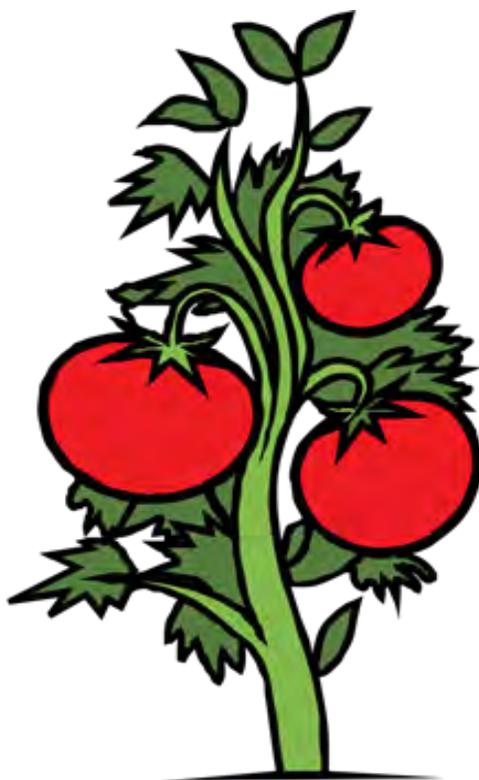
If you're going to try your hand at growing tomato plants, you might as well do it right and get some

1. Plant them deeply

[Our Roots Run Deep](#) recommends planting two-thirds of the plant underground. While this may sound counterintuitive, tomatoes are a bit different from most plants.

2. Plant sideways if you can't go deep

If you can't or don't want to dig deeply (or the soil is too thick), plant the tomato on its side, angled slightly downward. Just make sure the buried portion is at least 5 to 6 inches deep.



3. Keep the tomatoes well-fed

Give your tomatoes plenty of sunlight and lots of healthy soil. This means regular fertilization and about an inch of water per week. This should help you get bigger tomatoes too, according to [Rodale's Organic Life](#).

4. Offer them support

Once the tomato plant is large enough (if it isn't when initially planted), you'll need to add a stake or other form of support to tie the plant to. Tomatoes are

heavy and can bring the plant down, so it needs a bit of extra support to stay upright.

5. Use natural fertilizer

[Kelly Smith Trimble](#) recommends grinding up eggshells and coffee grounds and adding them to the soil with the plant. This helps keep slugs away and makes the soil more nutrient rich. For an added boost, you can also mix a raw egg in the bottom of the hole before you bury your tomato plant.

6. Keep 'em trimmed

Keep a close eye on your tomato plants. Remove dying fruit and leaves, and make sure the tops of your plants don't get too heavy.

Tomatoes are a great plant for growing in containers or in the ground, and while you can grow tomatoes with relatively minimal maintenance, a little extra care will ensure that your crop is bigger and better.



EGG SHELLS

*Kathy Camden
Nez Perce Sprout*

Maybe it's just good old-fashion thriftiness, but these days it falls on us all to take a second look at things we might have thrown away yesteryear. (It's one of the [saving secrets we learned from Grandma!](#)) With this in mind, we've collected a few uses for that staple of trash cans everywhere: the egg shell.

1. Fertilize the Garden

Rinse and remove the clear inner membrane of eggshells. Store dry eggshells in a large, secure container.

We promise it won't stink. (If you're eating [these tasty omelettes](#) regularly, the jar will fill up quickly!) Mash them down to fine bits with a steel or wooden [spoon](#). Then you can load up on eggshells again. Once the spring temperatures soften the soil, you can sprinkle and mix the ground eggshells you've been saving in your garden for a great source of calcium carbonate for the soil. An added bonus: they reduce soil acidity.

[Here's 9 more ways to grow a greener backyard.](#)

2. Create a Nontoxic Abrasive

Cleaner

You vowed to steer clear of powdered household and industrial cleaners (goodbye, Ajax!) but have no clue what to use instead of these powerful chemicals. We spotted a non-toxic and gentle-on-your-nose cleaner on [Real-FoodRN.com](#).

Firstly, collect the eggshells of



about a dozen eggs. Once you're ready to prepare the cleaner, wash the eggshells and line them up on a [baking sheet](#). Dry the shells outside in the sun or on low heat in the oven for a few minutes. Use a mortar and pestle, coffee grinder or high-speed blender to blend into a fine paste. You should have about 1 cup of powder. In a mason jar, add 3 cups [baking soda](#) to the eggshell powder.

To clean, just mix the powder with vinegar (or water). Use this formula

on pots and pans (with baked-on food), shower doors (with months of gunk), toilet bowl rings and grout.

[Try 50 clever ways to clean with baking soda.](#)

3. Start the Herb Garden of Your-

Dreams

Daydream about covering every

inch of your winter home with happiness, green indoor plants? Here's one step to realizing that dream. For your next weekend brunch, cook up a super yummy egg dish ([eggs benedict casserole](#) is always a winner). When cracking each egg, cut the top of the shell and pour the egg out of the shell to preserve most of the length of the eggshell. Gently rinse before storing. Remember to save the egg carton—this is where your herb starter plants will grow.

Once the shells have dried, use a sharp needle or awl to poke a hole in the bottom of each (for water drainage). Place an eggshell in each carton divot. Fill each most of the way with soil. Place seeds into soil, according to seed-sowing instructions. Moist soil with spray bottle and keep carton in full sun. Water regularly and keep an eye out for sprouts. Once it's time to transfer into a pot or

(con't from page 9)

into soil, according to seed-sowing instructions. Moist soil with spray bottle and keep carton in full sun. Water regularly and keep an eye out for sprouts. Once it's time to transfer into a pot or garden, you can transplant as-is. Psst! [Learn how to start your garden using Starbucks cups, here.](#)

4. Remove Stains From Thermos
If you use a metal thermos, you've totally experienced this problem: A brown film on the inside of your favorite beverage container. And no matter how hard you scrub, there's no diminishing the patina. Here's a solution... you guessed it: eggshells. Add a combination of warm or hot water and crushed eggshells about a third of the way. Close thermos and shake well for a few minutes. The mixture should help break down stains.

5. Make DIY Sidewalk Chalk
Win the best mom award (for the millionth time, right?) and attempt homemade sidewalk chalk with these recipes from [The Children's Museum of Indianapolis](#). The main ingredients are eggshells, flour and food coloring. We can promise it will be fun—but we can't promise it won't be messy.

6. Add to Coffee Grounds to

Mellow Out Brew

If your roommate (or husband) complains about the coffee being too bitter—but you still have a pound of coffee in the pantry, try this tried-and-true hack. Mix in a crumbled eggshell (that has been thoroughly rinsed in vinegar and then water, and dried) to the coffee grounds tomorrow morning. The eggshells, rich in alkaline calcium carbonate, help neutralize some of the coffee's acidity.

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7. Feed the Birds

You can also be an incredible neighbor to your local birds with [this great tip from Birds and Blooms](#).

A PRIMER ON ROSES

*Over! The sweet summer closes.
The reign of the roses is done..*

- Alfred Lord Tennyson
(1809-92)

Do you know how to identify the various roses? It seems only fitting that in July when roses are at their peak, a discussion of the various types of roses takes place.



Throughout Idaho, rose gardens abound, from the Northland Rosarium in Spokane to the gardens of Lewiston, Julia Davis Rose Garden in Boise, Nampa City, Caldwell Rose Garden, to the Idaho Botanical Gardens and all the smaller sites in-between. Apologies to any of those areas that may have been missed.



Wild roses also known as SPECIES ROSES. The distinguishing characteristics are the loose 5 petal structure for the most part

When you have enough eggshells to cover a baking tray, bake them at around 250 degrees until dry. They will be brittle enough to crush easily. Spread the mixture in a feeder or on the ground for the birds to munch on. It's a great source of calcium for the birds—especially for females during the spring, prime time for laying eggs.

With all these great ways to recycle empty eggshells, you're this much closer to a more sustainable household.

looking like an apple blossom, and blooms in early summer, although there doesn't seem to be a clear cut definition as to what a species rose is. They aren't genetically identical but rather cross-pollinated plants grown from seed, sexually reproduced yielding a wider variety in offspring. There is greater variety within these species roses. They have hybridized to some degree and achieved some stability. But variations are still relatively common.

They are hardy roses as one can determine by looking at where these roses are found. They exist in fields and often form thickets. One can find these roses mostly pink, but also in white, red, yellow, and maroon or mauve. Many individuals have discovered making wine from these rose petals.

Cultivars on the other hand are basically clones. The cultivars are more easily distinguishable since they are genetically identical plants. They are asexually reproduced. ([H. Scott Hansen, October 1990 - "About Species Roses"](#))

Modern roses are those that have been bred since 1867. Generally they are categorized by growth and flowering characteristics.

Roses (con't from page 10)

They differ from old garden roses in that they bloom continuously, whereas, old garden roses bloom once. Many old roses were the They differ from old garden roses in that they bloom continuously, whereas, old garden roses bloom once.

Climbing Roses



Climbing roses have stiff and upright canes. These long canes may be trained along a trellis. They grow between 3 and 20 feet. If trained to grow horizontally, they are more prolific over those grown vertically. One may see them on walls, fences, arbors, and trellises. They are generally repeat bloomers, blooming most of the summer. They tend toward larger flowers although there are miniature climbing rose bushes as well.

These roses will bloom twice, once on old canes and then on the new growth for the year. Remove any diseased, thin branches. Do the annual pruning in the mid to late winter. Remove any crossing canes that could injure the rose. Also trim any woody canes that never produced. These roses require regular pruning if there is the desire to keep them under some type of control.



Shrub Roses—A mix of roses that fail to fit in any other categories. Many are reflected as a cross between the Old Garden Roses and

the Modern Rose so a great variety exists due to the cross breeding. Traits are evident from both groups. They are generally hardy and easy to care for compared to some of the higher order roses. Fragrance levels vary as do blooms.

Many will bloom all summer and have a strong tendency to spread 5 - 15 feet in any direction. The blooms are most often clustered. This group also includes the English roses that were hybridized by David Austin. These bush roses can be used to accent large landscaped or garden areas.

Tree Roses - These are not naturally present but require knowledge of grafting to be able to create this category of rose. They are a result of taking a favorite rose bush and grafting it onto a sturdy standard cane stock. If the top of the rose tree dies, you will not see those same roses produced. It will revert to the standard cane stock. They do not do well in cold climates for this very reason. If the top freezes which is likely in the cold climates, one loses the reason for growing the rose tree in the first place.

Miniature roses - These are relatively hardy even the right environment grown on their own roots. They can range from small compact bushes that do well on patios and containers to heights between 15 and 30 inches.

The reference to miniature refers to the size of the blooms rather than the size of the bushes.



Three things to consider when deciding on a rose to plant.....

- 1) Zone—Southern Idaho very different from Northern Idaho
- 2) Where are you planting it?
- 3) Characteristics that you desire
 - fragrance
 - disease resistance
 - rose hips
 - bloom time —once or continuous
 - thorniness
 - stems
 - bloom style
 - own root or grafted
 - deadheading needed?

Enjoy your beauties next spring.

CLEARWATER DISTRICT MEETING

Thursday, October 18th, 2018

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1212 19th Street

Lewiston, ID

Theme—"One Yard at a Time"

Registration: \$10.00



Program: Steve Purcell on gardening and creating healthy soil for gardening



Inspiring Gardens Across The Americas

The theme for NGC President Nancy Hargroves's administration is Plant America, a singularly focused initiative on gardens and gardening. Both a call to service and a description of what NGC clubs do, Plant America supports the main reason people say they join a garden club - to learn about gardening! Covering any and every aspect of gardening, horticulture, garden design, and community service, it applies to every kind of garden: Blue Star plantings, vegetable gardens, community gardens, container gardening, neighborhood plantings, urban farms, low-water xeriscape gardens, etc.

Projects in local communities are what distinguish us from the work of other gardening organizations. Towns, cities, neighborhoods, and roadsides across the United States are all beneficiaries of National Garden Clubs projects.

In order to provide a vehicle to financially support the activities of our member clubs, a new grant program entitled "**Plant America Community Project Grants**" is being established to provide funding for new or existing projects of NGC member clubs in their respective communities across the United States. This fund will be permanent with grants being awarded during each two-year administration. The goal for the fund is to become a self-sustaining endowment fund like the NGC Scholarship fund, providing funding levels that make a significant impact in large projects.

In order that the members of National Garden Clubs see the immediate benefits of this grant program for their projects, the first grants will be given during the 2017-2019 administration.

Not only will the community projects funded from it enhance our nation, but, through project publicity, signage and materials bearing the Plant America logo, it provides the possibility of making our organization more visible. Visit the National Garden Club website, gardenclub.org for more information.



Any Gardens in Idaho created with these funds, please be sure to share with the newsletter. Members across Idaho would be grateful to see the outstanding gardens you all create.





The Saved Seed A Journey Through a Seed's Life

The Saved Seed is National Garden Club's second early reader book written to educate elementary children about the life cycle of seed plants. A North American based fall staple for thousands of years, the pumpkin is treasured in our society for being not only a food source, but a Halloween favorite! There are dozens of varieties ranging from tiny ornamental varieties, to those weighing in at over 100 pounds each!

The Saved Seed follows the journey of a smiling pumpkin seed from Halloween pumpkin through the year, becoming a seedling, a vine and then a new pumpkin! Along the way, children learn through beautiful illustrations how to care for their own pumpkin seeds and become successful pumpkin gardeners! The NGC Website has children activity ideas to be used with the book.

Children's Activities



What's Your Favorite Pumpkin Color?

Green Yellow White Red Blue Tan Orange

Which part of the pumpkin can you eat? The flowers, leaves or seeds? Answer: All three!

What is your favorite pumpkin dish?

Pumpkin pie?

Pumpkin bread?

Pumpkin muffins?

Pumpkin pancakes?

Pumpkin soup?

Pumpkin seeds?

How long can a pumpkin vine grow?

Answer: up to 30 feet!

How much can a pumpkin weigh?

Answer: According to Guinness World Records, the record for heaviest pumpkin was set in 2010 with a pumpkin that weighed 2,323 pounds!

Purchase The Saved Seed from the NGC website!

For the Next Issue:

If any members did any projects over the past year, I would like to feature the articles and pictures in the next issue. If you have pictures from the spring and a follow up for the end of the summer, please submit them via e-mail using the guidelines on page 3. It can be pumpkins or any other project in which you worked on with the children.



Hot Composting for Organic Gardening

"The composting process also naturally kills weed seeds. Properly managed, a compost pile should easily reach 140 F, which breaks down all organic matter, including weed seeds." Aggie Horticulture



If you are working toward organic gardening, increasing yields, naturally controlling pests and reducing wastes, then hot composting is a must! It is so much faster than other composting methods and it will kill most weed seeds. Adding compost is the most effective, inexpensive and natural method available to improve any soil quality.

So how do you make your compost pile hot? You make it BIG. At least 3 feet in all directions, but preferably 4. Strive for a carbon/nitrogen (C/N) ratio of 2 to 1. That is 2 parts carbon rich input, known as browns to one part nitrogen rich input, or greens. Carbon-rich browns are usually dry and help to aerate the pile, including wood chips, small branches, sawdust, straw, chopped corn stalks, shredded newspaper, leaves and pine needles. Nitrogen-rich greens are usually moist and get the process started including grass clippings, kitchen waste, garden trimmings (including weeds), and farm manure. Other additives include coffee grounds, wood ash, crushed egg shells. You may want to put an activator in the middle to start it working. Activators include comfrey, nettles, yarrow, fish emulsion or old compost.

The smaller the input pieces, the quicker the pile will break down. It is best to layer your browns and greens as you create your pile. And most important to moisten each layer as you go. Start with a high moisture content. Then every 4 to 5 days turn the pile by bringing the outside layers into the middle and the top layers toward the bottom. Use a long handled pitch fork and lightly spray with a hose on every layer. You want it all moist, not wet, with no dry pockets or cool pockets. Cool and/or dry pockets are not active. You might want to cover to control the moisture and temperature levels.

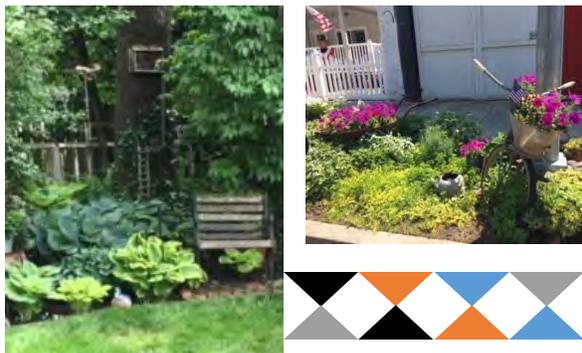
You will want to monitor the soil temperature with a long pointed soil or compost thermometer. You will find the temperature dips immediately after you turn it or add moisture. The following day it should be back to optimum, hopefully between 130 and 145 degrees F. At 145 or above, bring the temperature back down by turning the pile and spraying each layer. If you don't have a thermometer, you can dig a hole into the center of the pile. If it feels hot to the touch, then it is! If you have trouble raising the temperature, add more material. If it feels dry, it needs water and/or more greens. If it smells bad, add browns and turn it. If it shrinks fast, it needs more browns. If it is breaking down too slowly, turn it more often.

So the next big question is: does hot composting kill weed seeds? It is a good question, with an answer of 'it depends'. According to wssa.net, "time, temperature and turning are critical factors". Most weed seeds will not sprout if kept in a really warm compost pile of 130 degrees F for a week or more. But tougher weed seeds will require temperatures of 140-145 F for 30 days or more. Some of these tough weeds include: common groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), bird's-eye speedwell (*Veronica persica*), round-leaved mallow (*Malva pusilla*), common lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*), spiny sowthistle (*Sonchus asper*), ladythumb (*Polygonum persicaria*), wild buckwheat (*Polygonum convolvulus*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), and broadleaf dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*).

Hot composting allows more in-puts to be effectively included. Plus, it is a healthy addiction. The bigger the pile, the warmer it gets. The warmer it gets (up to a point) the faster it works. Seriously, you will want to pull your weeds!

- Linda Morrison Organic Gardening Chairman

Shade-Hosta's



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Native Plant or Noxious Weed

WHAT IS IT?

Go to page 17.



So much for Hosta's



<https://www.ars.usda.gov/pacific-west-area/logan-ut/poisonous-plant-research/docs/poison-hemlock-conium-maculatum/>

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/poison-hemlock.aspx>

<https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/poison-hemlock>

WHAT IS A WEED?

A PLANT WHOSE VIRTUES

.....,HAVE NOT BEEN DISCOVERED.

-RALPH WALDO EMERSON



Plant it Pink Garden
Juliaetta, ID



NEXT MEETING
 FALL BOARD MEETING
 EDUCATIONAL FOCUS
 Tuesday, October 9, 2018
 Idaho Corrections Industrial Building
 Boise, ID

Native Plants - Penstemon

Linda Martin

We all strive for beauty and diversity in our gardens, especially in our front beds, where people get their first impression of the property. I am trying to bring more natives into my front landscape. I have had a Penstemon Venustus *Lovely Penstemon* in my garden for a couple of years. It has a nice clumping growth habit, tubular, lavender blossoms, and is a favorite of bumblebees. A picture shows what it looked like at the end of April, a picture of it in blossom last year and a close up picture of the leaves of the plant. Most Penstemon prefer sandy or gravelly soil, full sun and deep, but infrequent watering once they are established



There are over 300 species of Penstemon. After attending the plant sale of the Native Plant Society of Idaho, on April 28th, I now have 3 different Penstemon to add to my garden. My three new varieties are (1) Penstemon Fruiculosas. *Shrubby Penstemon*. This is a low-growing woody, semi-evergreen subshrub. It has blue to lavender tubular flowers in June and July. It prefers sun but not our severe afternoon sun. It will be a shorter penstemon only 6" to 8" tall. It has a stiffer, shorter leaf attached to the woody stem even at only 6" tall. It attracts pollinators, especially bumblebees and hummingbirds. (2) Penstemon rydbergii *Rydberg Penstemon* will have indigo flowers and is excellent for rock gardens. It also attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. (3) Penstemon payettensis *Payette Penstemon* which is native to west-central Idaho will have light-medium blue flowers late May and June. A low water, moderately drought tolerant it likes full sun and soil with good drainage. These plants will be attractive and a draw for pollinators to my garden. I look forward to seeing more bumblebees visiting the garden. I enjoy hearing their low hum as they move around the garden. I hope that I will be have an opportunity to get pictures of a variety of pollinators that visit these plants.



Committee Chairs at State Meeting

A request was made at the Zoom Meeting to have the Chairs have an opportunity to meet together at the Annual Convention. Arrangements were made for Tuesday morning at 7:30 am in the rear of the meeting room. Claudia Hambacker was present but Janet Petersen, Immediate Past President functioned as the facilitator.

This was the first opportunity to meet each other in person. This year

As a group the focus is on Chairmanship development. Claudia is has requested descriptions of what individual chairs believe are the responsibilities they have, should have or want to have as chairs. Chairman of interest areas are very important and are the key to programming within the organization. They are not individuals who have a title within the organization and do nothing. Many chairs may not understand just what it is he/she are suppose to do. Where can you find information that would assist you with your job? So many questions and sometimes not too many answers. Hopefully we work together to change this over the next 12 months. We may only get the descriptions finalized but it will help the next person or you if you choose to follow through with the next administration.

Post Meeting Consensus: Resounding success and never enough time!!!!



ANSWER: Noxious Weed

Poisonous Hemlock (Conium maculatum))

Other lookalikes: Queen Anne's Lace, Giant Hogweed, Spotted Water Hemlock, Cow Parsnip, Wild Parsnip, parsley, fennel, carrots, parsnips wild versions of these herbs

Native to Asia, Europe, and Africa. Grows throughout the US but invasive to North America. All parts are poisonous to both people and animals whether green or dried. Toxic to sheep, cattle, swine, horses, and domestic animals. Toxicity symptoms can appear between 20 minutes and three hours. Amount of toxin higher in sunny areas. Symptoms: dilation of pupils, dizziness, trembling, CNS displays paralysis and death could follow.

Description: White flowers on erect stems that grow in clusters, umbrella shaped, rounded cluster rather flat topped. Each flower develops into a green, deeply ridged fruit that contains several seeds. Fruit turns grayish brown. Leaves are fern-like and do not exhibit hairs. Begins to grow in early spring flowering in late spring. It is a biennial except in favored conditions which allows it to be a perennial with hollow stems, hairless, with purple blotches. The plant can grow 8 feet or taller.

Family: Apiaceae

Location: Moist, waste places, fence lines, irrigation ditches, trails, along roads

Uses: Disrupts the Central Nervous System by acting on the nicotinic acetylcholine receptors. Considered a poison. Alkaloid - Coniine

Wear gloves and mask when digging or mowing it to avoid skin contact.

POISON CONTROL: 1-800-222-1222

Veterinarian for animals

DID YOU KNOW.....

There is a conservation pledge we abide by as part of the garden club.

“I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife.”

Publication deadlines for submission to the newsletter.

August 15, 2018

November 15, 2018

February 1, 2019

May 1, 2019

August 1, 2019

November 1, 2019



GEM NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

The GEM Newsletter will be published 4 times annually: March, June, September, and December.

Please send all Club reports, Chairman reports, articles, photos, and change of e-mail addresses to:

gciigemnewsletter@gmail.com

Remember this is your publication to get your information to the membership. Thanks for all you do to keep the members up-to-date. This should make it easier for all. The newsletter will be e-mailed out under this address and hopefully I can keep better track of submissions by having a separate e-mail account just for the GEM.

Moscow Food Co-op, Backyard Harvest and University of Idaho Extension Present

HOMEOWNER GARDEN



SERIES 2018

FREE HANDS-ON CLASSES

Learn by Doing!

Materials provided, including University research information.

Latah County Fairgrounds Grange

1021 Harold Street, Moscow. *unless otherwise noted

Landscape Design

Landscape design techniques for homeowners. Includes low-water use concepts and native plants.

*Thursday, March 28 @ 5:30pm

Weed Identification and Management

Special guest Alan Martinson, County Weed Supervisor. Free plant ID materials. Herbicides and alternatives including biocontrol discussed. Tools demo. [hoe, twist tool & broad fork light tilling tool]

Wednesday, April 18 @ 5:30pm

*Latah County Annex Conference + Garden
2nd Floor, Room 200 South Almon Street

Transplanting Seedlings

Learn to transplant seed starts. Bring your seed starts and hand transplant them into larger pots to support seedling health. Seedlings will also be provided for practice.

Wednesday, April 25 @ 5:30pm

Sustainable Lawn Care

Maintenance techniques and soil improvements. Learn how to minimize inputs.

Wednesday, May 30 @ 5:30pm

Soil Health and Transplanting Seedlings

Learn various ways to improve your soil fertility. How to get your soil lab tested. Hands on workshop planting seedlings into garden beds for best chance of success.

Wednesday, June 13 @ 5:30pm



University of Idaho
Extension

Drip Irrigation

Hands on drip irrigation installation workshop.

Wednesday, June 20 @ 5:30pm

*Latah County Annex Conference + Garden
2nd Floor, Room 200 South Almon Street

Hamilton Garden Tour

Long-term gardeners share their processes and techniques for high yield gardens

Wednesday, July 18 @ 5:30pm

*Hamilton Community Garden, East F Street

Palouse Rose Garden Tour

Roses of downtown Palouse with rose expert and Master Gardener Mary Estes

Wednesday, July 25 @ 1:00pm

*Meet in downtown Palouse at
Heritage Park on Main Street

Seed Saving

Techniques for collecting and saving seeds for next year's garden!

Wednesday, August 22 @ 5:30pm

*Hamilton Community Garden, East F Street

Harvest Celebration

Food preservation techniques and potluck

Wednesday, September 26 @ 5:30pm

Winterizing the Garden

Prepare your garden beds for better soil fertility and earlier yield next year.

Wednesday, October 24 @ 5:30pm

REGISTER VIA FACEBOOK EVENT 

"Landscape Design Workshop" click going

or Email: imayes@uidaho.edu

or Call: 208-883-2267

To enrich education through diversity, the University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational institution. In compliance with the American Disabilities act of 1990, anyone attending this program that requires auxiliary aids or services should contact Iris Mayes at least two weeks prior to the event.

Idaho Gourd Festival

Oct 27, Sat. 9-5
Oct 28, Sun. 10-4
\$4 Admission, Kids 9 & Under FREE!
7311 W. Potomac Dr., Boise, Idaho
THE CLUBHOUSE EVENT CENTER

- Gourd Art Competition
- Silent Auction
- Demonstrations
- Fun for All Ages
- Much, much more
- Gourd Tools & Art Supplies
- Original Gourd Art on Display & for Purchase
- Holiday Gift Items
- Make & Take Activities for kids & adults
- Vendors

For more information about our 19th festival visit:
<http://idahogourdsociety.org>

WINGS, FLOWERS & LEAVES
Theme

GARDEN CLUB for ALL SEASONS

And HI-LO CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

In cooperation with

Patt's Garden Center, 1280 Port Drive, Clarkston, WA

Presents a HORTICULTURE & DESIGN DISPLAY

Ribbons to be Awarded in the Various Categories

Arrangements and Exhibits may be submitted

Wed., October 10th (1:00—5:00 pm) and Thurs Morning.

Show begins Thurs. October 11th (1:00—5:00)

Fri. October 12th (10:00—5:00) and

Sat. October 13th (10:00—4:00)



No Admission charge.