



# Gem State Gardener



Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.

## President's Message



Hello to all of Idaho's garden club members and I hope you are enjoying the lazy days of summer. Although for we gardeners it is hardly a lazy time.

I wanted everyone to know that as your state president I will be learning from all of you so I thought you might want to learn a little about me. I am a master gardener, a gourd crafter, and I have always had a garden. I look to the garden as a pathway to achieve and maintain good mental health.

I also plan to continue on the same path that has been so successfully implemented by all of your hard work under the leadership of Claudia Hambacker, our former president. We have several positive agendas I would like to see continued through. I think communication via Internet tools, which were Lisa Artiga's brainchild, are going to be paramount to the success of our future endeavors.

I am looking forward to representing our beautiful state of Idaho with my First Vice President, Becky Loomis, at the NGC Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri this September. In the meantime, stay cool!

***"Everything you are searching for...  
will be found in the garden."***

## GCI Officers 2019-21

**President:**

Karen Lowe  
Southwest District

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:**

Becky Loomis  
Clearwater District

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:**

Vicky Torres  
Southeast District

**Recording Secretary:**

Linda Welch  
Southwest District

**Treasurer:**

Janice Zabransky  
Southeast District

**Parliamentarian:**

Louisa Cone  
Southwest District

**Advisor:**

Claudia Hambacker  
Southwest District

## Message from GCII 2017-19 President, Claudia Hambacker

At the annual convention I had the opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for their service to Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. during the 2017-2019 term. Their work, their service and their willingness to support and participate in making change was very appreciated and good for GCII.



The atmosphere at the annual convention was different, too. It focused on taking time to talk with those who attended and sharing ourselves. We had no required time to dress up, we relaxed our table manners and pretended we were family. We did not always sit with friends, club or district members. In other words “we socialized.” Louisa Cone described it best— different but very good.

I saw people wanting to talk and meet with their fellow gardeners from other parts of the state. I heard, “well, let’s do this” or “we can do that” attitudes come alive. Everybody had a say and they used it. One thing was evident... the computer, digital, and progressive age has been welcomed by GCII and by darn, they are going to use it! Thank you.

Now it is time that I thank those who are most special... the membership. Without members, GCII could not have been successful in efforts to move forward. You paid your dues, you came to meetings, you had ideas and voiced them, you put in

hours and hours of service to communities and on projects and laughed along the way, and **you** made Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. what it is today.

I have learned so much from the membership. I appreciated being held

accountable for reaching the goals that will help make GCII an even more vibrant organization. Go for it gals and guys! The best is yet to come.

Thank you also for the beautiful “yellow rock”. It has found its place in the front yard. I am so proud to have been a part of listening to and helping GCII’s most valuable asset—you the member.

In square dance, “yellow rock” means to hug your partner. I wish I could give each and every one of you a big “yellow rock” hug as you have so often given me.

### GCII Insurance

**Well, it is done! GCII now has insurance for Directors and Officers. Notification was received when Claudia opened her email on July 4th! The representative at the McDaniel’s Specialty Insurance Services, LLC indicated GCII is now insured by Old Republic Insurance Company. This company has an A+ rating and GCII is covered as of July 3, 2019 through July 3, 2020.**

## Clearwater District

### 2019 GCII Convention

We would like to thank **Lorraine Smith**, Clearwater District Director and Convention Chair and Treasurer, and the many hard-working volunteers from the district's garden clubs who assisted in hosting the annual GCII convention. It was held on June 9-11 held at the Quality Inn and Suites in Clarkston, WA. The theme was "**Planting Seeds of Friendship at the Confluence.**" The convention was a well-organized and educational event enjoyed by all who attended. Presentations included: "History of Wine in Lewis-Clark Valley" by Lynn Devlemming; "The Gender Factor" by Mike Hollenbeck, owner of Floral Artistry; "Botanical Jewelry – the Art of Making Jewelry out of Dried Plant Materials" by Joyce DiGiovanni; and "Trash to Treasures" by Jeannie Ensley.

#### Lorraine Smith extends her special thanks to the following:

- ✿ **Becky Loomis** for receiving registrations and keeping track of all our very important information;
- ✿ **Valley Garden Club** for the creative table favors for each meal;
- ✿ **Kathylu Szabo** for printing the convention programs;
- ✿ **Lorna Inglet** for being Hospitality Chair;
- ✿ **Kathy Cassin** for printing the badges;
- ✿ **CherylN Pankey** and her Clearwater District Ways and Means helpers;
- ✿ **Lewis/Clark Judges Council** for the table centerpieces and room arrangements;
- ✿ **Stevie Westberg** for creating beautiful handmade table place cards and table signs;
- ✿ **Bonnie Wilson** for securing the Clarkston Mayor and VFW Color Guard;
- ✿ **Linda Morrison** for graciously accepting to be Master of Ceremonies;
- ✿ **Leann Wicks** for reading the Courtesy Resolution;
- ✿ **Joyce Parr and Jodene Caldwell** for their expert advice.



#### Installation of 2019-21 officers by outgoing President Claudia Hambacker

From left to right: Karen Lowe (President), Betsy Loomis (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Vicki Torres (2<sup>nd</sup> VP) Linda Welch (Recording Secretary), Linda Carter -Beck standing in for Janice Zabrinsky (Treasurer), and Claudia.

## Lewis-Clark Judges Council

by Linda Morrison, President Lewis-Clark Judges Council

When we first moved to Kamiah in 2006, we didn't know anybody. So when a new friend invited me to a Valley Garden Club meeting, I eagerly accepted. It was an excellent opportunity for social connections in a local gardening circle. Under the leadership of President Lorraine Smith, I felt immediately welcomed and an active part of this engaged community. However, I had no interest or intention of ever becoming a Flower Show Judge. My interests were more with vegetables and herbs. Fast-forward a few years, or so, and two well-respected and knowledgeable members of our club, Joyce Frazier and Jean Carroll, were recruiting all interested members to register for Flower Show School. Because of my respect for these women and my long-standing belief in the tradition of County Fairs, I soon found myself sitting at a desk, taking notes and studying for exams.

I am still hoping for another Flower Show School here in Idaho in the near future. There are so many reasons to participate. Lorraine Smith, Lorna Ingle and LeeAnn McMaster completed courses but are not currently accredited judges. They can still help out with County Fairs that are not Standard Flower Shows. They are much appreciated for their qualifications and availability. For you see, time marches on, and with it, many of our



**Master Flower Show Judges  
Edith Cole, Joyce Parr, and Jodene Caldwell**

Master Judges have marched on too, and gone Emeritus. I feel so honored to have spent my first student judging experiences, shoulder to shoulder with these amazing women. Along with Jean Carroll and Joyce Frazier,

Barbara Hepler and Barbara Paulson have also gone Emeritus

and are no longer judging. Master judge, Ruth Stentzel is now deceased. We miss working with them all.

If the opportunity should arise, I encourage all members to enroll in Flower Show School. You will learn more than you ever expected about how to create a flower design, how to grow beautiful African violets and the best growing conditions for lilacs. And the lessons are not limited to just flowers, we also learn how to judge fruits, vegetables, shrubs and herbs. Every 2 or 3 years we attend a symposium for continuing education. Last November, several of us drove to Clackamas, Oregon where we learned about Aroids (such as *Anthurium*) and Begonias and how to create a Multi-Rhythmic Flower Design.

There were also hints on making judging comments and a new category of "Botanical Arts."

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## Judges Council, continued



Because our judges live throughout the Clearwater district, we have our meetings in Lewiston/Clarkston. At our meetings we discuss judging assignments and experiences, our new Handbook and what changes need to be implemented, upcoming Flower Shows and Symposiums. Sometimes we enjoy creating new flower designs to be critiqued by the other judges. We currently have 7 active members in our Council. Jodene Caldwell, Edith Cole and Joyce Parr are all Master Judges. Darlene Norden has gone Emeritus but is still judging non-Standard Shows. Leann Wicks, Lenette Smith and Linda Morrison are Accredited, Level 2.

So what did we do in 2018? Depending on the size and requirements of each Flower

Show or County Fair, we send 2 or 3 judges to each of them. We start each spring in Washington State with the Asotin County Fair and St. John Stock Show. Next, a Standard Flower Show at the Locust Blossom Festival sponsored by Hill and Valley Garden Club in Kendrick. The majority of our judging is in late summer to mid-fall. Starting with the Idaho County Fair in Cottonwood, then the Latah County Fair, Moscow; Clearwater County Fair, Orofino; Garfield County Fair, Pomeroy; Nezperce County Fair, Lewiston; Lewis County Fair, Nezperce. Our last assignment of the year is a Standard Flower Show sponsored by Garden Club for All Seasons and Hi Lo Chrysanthemum Society. Patt's Garden Center in Clarkston offered one of their large greenhouses for the venue.

## Holiday Magic: A Holiday Design Specialty Flower Show in 2018 by Linda Morrison, President Lewis Clark Judges Council

While attending a Symposium for NGC Flower Show Judges in November, Allen Deitz reached into his brief case and pulled out an upcoming Flower Show Schedule, and handed it to me. It was for a Holiday Design Specialty Flower Show in Boise, December 7, 8, and 9, 2018, titled *Holiday Magic*. "You might be interested in attending," he suggested. "Do you ever get down to Boise?" "I just might," I answered and started making plans to attend. I had never been to an NGC Flower Show in Boise, and this one looked especially intriguing. It was to be a Specialty Show: Designs only,

no horticulture. And it would include the brand new Division of Botanical Arts. They also included an Education Division. Upon closer observation, I realized GCII Past-President, Janet Petersen, was the acting Show Chair. And our Idaho Judges Council State Chair, Allen Deitz, was in charge of staging. The location was in conjunction with Idaho Botanical Garden's "*Winter Garden aGlow*" in the evening and in the dark when the entire gardens are well-lit and decorated with holiday lights and

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## Holiday Magic, continued



cheer. With free hot cocoa, well-marked walking paths and the best Santa ever, this would be a family affair. My daughter, her husband and the 4 children accompanied me to one of the very best venues of the season.

When we walked through the door of the non-descript classroom building, the vision was both 'Holiday Magic' and continued 'Garden aGlow.' Oh my! Both Allen and Janet (with her husband Pete) were there to greet us. All the exhibits were well displayed and organized on green table coverings and each class of designs had a required Holiday Theme and plant material type and space or size requirements that the designer had to follow. For example: *'Little Drummer Boy'* could be any design style and type and free choice of plant material, however it must be 5" or smaller in every direction. On the other hand, *'Let it Snow'* must be a Creative Line or Line-Mass design type, using only dried plant material. In each design class, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons were awarded. Several classes required specific design types: Cascade Design, Transparency Design, and Illuminary Design. And there were also five NGC Top Exhibitor Awards.

In order to award any of these top awards, there must be at least 3 Classes of a minimum of 4 designs in each that qualify for each award. So, in order to offer the Petite Award, the schedule must include at least 3 Classes with size requirements somewhere between 3" and a max of 12".

What grabbed my attention when I first walked in was the new Botanical Arts Division. This division is not flower arranging, but more craft oriented. All exhibits still require some plant material, and no artificial plant material is allowed (same as in Design classes). Class 1 in this Division was titled *"Brown Paper Packages Tied Up with String"* and it was described as a decorated, gift-wrapped package. How fun is that! The two exhibits in the Education Division were promoting the NGC President's project "Plant America" and a local organization, The Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild.

Because all the awards had been given prior to the opening of the show, the designer's name was printed in bold letters in front of each creation. Also, because it is now an NGC rule and also for educational purposes, each designer placed a notecard listing all plant material used in front of each design. Most listed both Latin and common names for each plant. Sometimes I would find myself surprised by how a specific plant was used, as it may not be easily recognized.

If the Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild and Treasure Valley Judges' Council should decide to host a Holiday Flower Show again next year, be sure to mark it on your calendar. Invite your family and friends. You will be so excited and pleased you went!

## Hill & Valley Garden Club Summer Tour by Sharon Harris

Eight of us piled into vehicles at 6:30 in the morning at the Kendrick Park and anxiously departed. We were headed for Wenatchee and Lake Chelan in Washington to tour the homes and gardens that are tended by two of our members Brenda Taylor Walker and Cindy (Taylor) Sangster, professional horticulturalists and designers.

We toured three homes in Wenatchee on Tuesday. Each was an example of thoughtful planning, resulting in stunning landscaping. Every square inch was covered with beautiful pots, water features, metal art sculptures and flower pots created by Hal Walker of Terran Corp. He uses



New garden club President, Barb Heimgartner, kneels in front. Tour members: Kathy Cassin, Delray Mackey, Jo Lind, Mary Lou Taylor, Dorothy Taylor, Carol Roskammer, Sharon Harris, Brenda Taylor Walker, Polly Taylor-Dennler, and Cindy Sangster.

repurposed metal from light poles, which when coupled with plants and trees and shrubs, the end product is an inspiration in garden design. Hal's larger pieces were used to block out a busy street and add privacy to the yard.

We were treated to a delicious luncheon at stop number two and in the evening, Cindy invited us back to her place for a barbeque before we went off to spend the night at the new Hilton Hotel in town.

The next morning we headed for the Lake Chelan cabin and were not disappointed. More beautiful pots and stellar landscaping designs awaited us.

Eighty-five year old Dorothy Taylor can be proud of the girls she inspired to pursue careers in gardening. Her daughter, Polly, has a gardening business raising gourds,

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## Garden Tour, continued

squash, and decorative grasses and plants. Her annual sale at Halloween time is a much-awaited event in this area. Her sale is the last weekend in September and the first weekend in October. Dorothy and Polly are the



inspiration and caretakers of the flowerpots that line the main street of Juliaetta. They were also the inspiration and creators of Juliaetta's Pink Garden that honors cancer victims.

## Good Neighbor Award

by Rosalea Figgins

Sharon Kirkham, our winner of the Good Neighbor Award for 2019, was selected for her creative designs that accented her flowers. A decorated barn door that is changed with the seasons is one. Flowers are planted in coffee cans, a fire pit, an old washtub, and in hand decorated pots. I won for 2017 and 2018 as I planted flowers in an old claw-foot bathtub, old sink, and in a child's bed frame and called it "A FLOWER BED." I also have a three-tiered fountain that I got tired of cleaning the algae out of so I planted flowers in it that after a few months hang over the edge and it is a cutie. This year I picked up a large ceramic turtle that was broken but the pieces were there. I glued it back together and painted it green with orange accents on the shell and a yellow head. I planted three flowers in the center and five others in the outside pockets. Everyone loves it. I took a large old colander I picked up at a garage sale, painted it yellow, lined it with a coconut basket and planted pansies in it. Think I will put that one in the fair. Some businesses and people are using old metal troughs to plant in. I really like the looks of them, especially with large sunflowers.

Next time you go to a second hand store or a garage sale consider some items for accenting your yard or for planting flowers with or in. Let your imagination run wild. I got rid of some old suitcases and realized I could have planted flowers in them. A basket on an old bicycle works plus pots on the pedals and seat. Call it "FLOWER POWER." If you use inexpensive items you can change and swap items every year. Pinterest has a lot of good ideas but it is fun to come up with your own creations, too.

## Lunaria Grant Update

by Kathylu Szabo

In 2016, the Moscow Garden Club gave a modest donation to the McDonald Elementary School's Outdoor Learning Project, after a presentation by Mrs. Deborah Bell, who had started the Project 7 years earlier with three raised garden beds. Last September, Debbie came back and gave us an update on the Project, and we were so impressed that we again voted to make another donation. There are now 10 outdoor raised beds and 6 raised beds in a large greenhouse, along with a raised composter for weeds and debris.

When GCII President Claudia Hambacker sent the Request for Proposals from the Idaho Botanical Garden's Lunaria Grant Program, we contacted Debbie to see if she needed something that would qualify for the Lunaria Grant.

Debbie and Kathylu Szabo met in January for a walk-about, with the snow still on the ground. Debbie explained their yearly cycle: (a) volunteers from the University of Idaho's Saturday of Service and from



Ten outdoor raised beds in January at the Moscow McDonald's Elementary School Outdoor Learning Project.

McDonald's School (both staff and parents) come to prepare the soil for planting; (b) when the weather is conducive, second-graders plant all of the beds; (c) throughout the year, the second-graders weed, water, and watch the progress of their plants; (d) when any vegetables are ready, the second-graders harvest them and bring the cleaned veggies to the lunch room for anyone in the school to eat or take home; (e) during the summer, Debbie has a large team of volunteers who water the beds, sometimes twice a day when it's really hot, and any produce harvested goes to the Summer Lunch Program, Explorer Club, and/or the Moscow Food Bank; (f) shortly after school starts in the fall, the third-graders harvest the potatoes; and (g) clean out the beds to prepare for winter.

Debbie's plan for this year was to add another raised bed specifically for pollinator plants. And, she said, it would be a dream come true if they could install a drip-irrigation system. Kathylu and Debbie worked together to write and send a grant proposal to Idaho Botanical Garden Lunaria Grant Program for the funds to put in the drip-irrigation system. The proposal was favorably accepted, and the Lunaria Grant Program granted the Moscow Garden Club \$1,000 toward this project.

On Saturday, April 20, four Moscow Garden Club members helped at the Saturday of Service, along UI sorority

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## Lunaria Grant, continued

members, McDonald's staff, Debbie, and her ever-faithful husband Steve. The new raised bed was put together and filled with gardening soil mix, and the pollinator plants were planted. In the meantime, Debbie showed us how to turn over the soil and add new soil to the existing beds; and we got to work. With all the help, it took 2 hours to get the jobs done. When the weather allowed, the second-graders planted all 10 beds.

On Sunday, July 14, the drip-irrigation system was installed. The plants were growing very well and had been watered every day by hose. Seven people showed up to dig trenches, cut the hoses, attach nozzles and end clips, and put the system together. After 3 hours, the hoses were blown out to ensure no plastic pieces were stuck in the system; the water was then turned on; and water dripped out of each little hose. There are a few joints that need to be tighten, but the drip-irrigation system works! Brad, the drip-irrigation master, suggested that we set it for 1 hour every 3 days to encourage deep root growth, thereby getting healthier plants and more produce.

Now the Moscow Garden Club will send our report to the Idaho Botanical Garden Lunaria Grant Program thanking them for their help on this project. The students will have more produce to harvest. And the watering volunteers shouldn't have to spend their summer vacations coming to the school to water plants.



April 20, 2019. Volunteers prepping soil in the raised beds at the Moscow McDonald's Elementary School Outdoor Learning Project.



Laying the pipe in trenches next to the raised beds.



July 14, 2019. Pollinator plants growing in their new bed.

April 20, 2019. Some of the workers for the Saturday of Service after prepping soil in the raised beds at the Moscow McDonald's Elementary School Outdoor Learning Project.

## Southwest District

by **Linda Halstead, SW District Director**

Our last District meeting on March 25, 2019, was a busy one. We voted on the 501c (3), had our election of officers, amended a standing rule and voted on our District project. As SW District Director my goal is to get the clubs to work together and they sure have. We worked on our District Project at the Children's Museum. Pat Baker, a member of Golden Garden Club and Treasure Valley Arranger's Guild, is the Executive Director of the museum and it is a huge success. It is the only Children's Museum in the State of Idaho. Our project was to plant native plants at the museum and the District did exactly that. Thirty-six native plants were planted along the 80-foot east wall of the museum building and we got it done in one hour. We had help from Ada, Chinden and Nampa garden clubs. Even our State President, Claudia Hambacker, was out there digging and working hard. The pollinator garden for the children was also being planted at the same time by the Merry Tillers. We all will take turns checking out the gardens and maintaining them.



At Children's Museum of Idaho

Left to right: Janet Peterson, (back) Starr Rausch, State President: Claudia Hambacker, Pat Baker, Mike Russell, SW Director Linda Halstead, (back) Bonnie Winters, Jeanette Corso and Cindy Borron.

On May 23, 2019, we replaced and dedicated a new Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Snake River View Rest Stop on Interstate 84. The original marker was dedicated in 1988. We had a small gathering with a few words from GCII State President, Claudia Hambacker, Blue Star Chair, Louisa Cone, and SW Director, Linda Halstead.



Left to right: Jamie Majors, Happy Ford, State President: Claudia Hambacker, Charlene Hammons, Blue Star Chair: Louisa Cone, Sandra Ford and District Director: Linda Halstead

The SW Garden Clubs have been busy this year. Last September **Ada Gardeners Garden Club** went to the Idaho Botanical Garden classroom for potluck and their annual tomato tasting. Claudia Hambacker was present for that, and also when they presented a check to Michelle from Idaho Botanical Garden for \$1500.00 for their upcoming inmate scholarship program.

**Golden Garden Club** is very generous as well. They donated \$100 to the American Legion Auxiliary, #18 for Girls State as a thank you to Annie Clarkson for hosting their meeting. They also approved a \$1500 donation to the Children's Museum of Idaho and provided a \$500 scholarship to a College of Western Idaho student, something they have been doing since 1999.

**Chinden Garden Club** had an eventful year. They had the opportunity of learning to grow organic vegetables and herbs for two restaurants in Boise. Bonnie Winters gave a talk on frogs and Louisa Cone gave a talk about storing food and making vegetable garnishes.

**Merry Tillers Garden Club** had a busy time learning about mushrooms, the good and the bad, “no till” gardening, pollinators for our gardens and the different birds in their area just

to name a few. Their November charity meeting was an overwhelming huge success. They packed backpacks for the homeless and they had so many backpacks that were so overly stuffed that it took two SUVs to haul them. They also volunteered at Salvation Army helping the families pick out toys for their children.

**Nampa Garden Club** sponsors several projects such as an annual Good Neighbor Award, and Festival of Trees for Meals on Wheels for Nampa and Caldwell. Their tree raised \$2400.00 this last November. They were asked by the Nampa Mayor personally to take over the small Veterans Memorial Garden at the Nampa City Hall and they have planted and are maintaining the Deer Flat Refuge Pollinator Garden. Nampa Garden Club also donated \$100 and two books from National Garden Clubs, *The Frightened Frog* and *The Saved Seed*.



Veteran's Memorial at Nampa City Hall

### Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild

(TVAG) is our newest club. TVAG is a group of flower arranging enthusiasts. Their members study, practice and share what they learn with others through a monthly program meeting. They enthuse so well that several garden clubs participated in the Spring Flower show and did very well!

**By Trowel and Error** says they had quite the year in 2018. They helped with the Lake View Park Rose Garden in Nampa with a rose pruning class and were notified by a resident in Nampa and others that a neighbor veteran needed help cleaning up his yard. They stepped in and did it all in one day. They also planted the vegetable garden and have taken care of the plants at the Home Sweet Home assisted living. In September 2018 President Jamie Majors met with

Bobby Sanchez, Mayor Kling's administrator, and walked the Rose Garden to get her views on re-landscaping the rose garden to make it more accessible to walk through for education and events. This is still in the planning stage. Sadly, By Trowel and Error dissolved in early 2019 due to declining membership. Jamie Majors is now a member of Nampa Garden Club.

So there you are! Hoping this is just the start of what we do as a District and what I call a "Family of Gardeners."

Thank you,  
**Linda Halstead**  
 SW District Director

## Save the date!



### Southwest District Fall Meeting

- Date:** Monday, September 30, 2019
- Location:** Idaho Correctional Industries  
1301 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706
- Hosting Club:** Chinden Gardeners
- Theme:** "Renew, Reuse, Recycle"
- Speaker:** Sierra Laverty, Assistant Horticulture Director, Idaho Botanical Gardens

Registration forms will be available soon.

## Nampa Garden Club's 70th Anniversary: "Let's Have Picnic" Hosted by Nampa Garden Club

It was a perfect day for a picnic, a nice breeze, blue skies and sunshine with a panoramic view of Lake Lowell. The home of Ken & Cindy Borron is a beautifully landscaped acreage of shaded pathways leading to garden treasures at every turn.

Turn one way and you found yourself at the chicken coop where the "Mercantile" held donated items of homemade goodies and other treasures to tempt you. Close by was the silent auction table with handmade pillows, a quilt, an apron & dish towels, a small tote bag and a large basket full of items to help with baking in your kitchen. Down another path was the "Remember When" display. There were household and home decor items you would have found in any home back in 1949.

As with any good PICNIC, the food included chicken, cowboy beans, macaroni salad etc. and best of all pie and ice cream. As everyone was enjoying their food they were entertained by the appearance of a garden club member on her way to a meeting in 1949. She traveled thru time to be with us and shared stories from the past to everyone's enjoyment.

Celebrating with Nampa Garden Club, who were easily identified as they were wearing aprons with their names



embroidered on them, were members from other garden clubs located in the Treasure Valley. Special guests were past state GCII President, Claudia Hambacker, and Nampa Mayor, Debbie Kling.

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**“Let’s Have a Picnic” continued...**



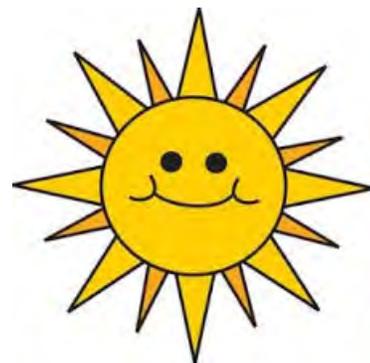
Nampa Garden Club has a rich history in the community. We give out a "Good Neighbor" award every year and donate a tree to the "Festival of Trees" to benefit Meals on Wheels. We started a perennial garden at the veteran's memorial at City Hall this year and visitors and employees alike visit with us as we work and thank us for giving them something beautiful to enjoy. Members also help with the native plants pollinator garden at the Deer Flat Nature Center.

Yes, the Nampa Garden Club has much to celebrate and we thank one and all for sharing with us memories of “70 Years in the Garden.”

**Linda Halstead**

**Charlene Hammons**

“We are a family of gardeners.”



## Southeast District

by Molly Graeber

Greetings from the **Southeast Idaho District**. Our district has three clubs: **For the Love of Growing**, Twin Falls: **Idaho Falls Garden Club**, and **Roberts Town & Country Garden Club**. Members of Idaho Falls Garden Club, Roberts Town & Country Garden Club, and Claudia Hambacker and her husband Greg, attended our district meeting at Camas Refuge. They have a pollinator Garden that has been put in and is tended by volunteers. When we finished the tour of the Gardens, we made bee houses and then had a picnic. We then went to Roberts to have the business meeting and desert. A great time was had by all. The Camas Refuge welcomes any donation of time or monies. For more information, contact Sue Braastad [jscbraastad@gmail.com](mailto:jscbraastad@gmail.com)

**For the Love of Growing** has been busy at the Minadoka Wildlife Refuge. July 6<sup>th</sup> found them planting flowers and ground cover. This next weekend they will be planting 20 different grasses. The refuge is putting in walk and sprinklers. On August 17<sup>th</sup>, which is a Saturday, they will be holding a pollinator workshop to learn about pollinators and their activities. It will be held at Debbie Burke's home.

The city of Idaho Falls got a grant to replace planters and install new baskets in the downtown area. The **Idaho Falls Garden Club** helped by donating one of the flower baskets. You need to come



visit and see how beautiful the downtown looks. They put a drip system for the trees and the planters which is a real time saver and very economical. The baskets have a reservoir in them that keep the flowers moist for a week. Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, a few of the club members went to BYU-Idaho to tour their gardens. On July 25<sup>th</sup> they will be touring members' gardens and yards.

The SE district has a **new director, Jeneanne Smith**. She was installed at the State Convention. Speaking of state convention, we are happy to report that we had five delegates there; four from Roberts and one from Idaho Falls. Vicki Torres was elected second vice president and Janice Zabriski was voted in as Treasurer. As you can see, we were well represented. If you haven't been to the convention, you should plan to go; meet new friends, get reacquainted with old and have a great time. The Southeast district will be hosting it next year in Twin Falls. We hope to see you there.

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## Southeast District News, continued...

**Roberts Town & Country Garden Club** has been busy redoing the room we meet in at the Mustang Event Center. It's the old high school that was gifted to the city but is badly in need of repairs. If you know of anyone who would like to make a donation to fix this gem up, please let us know. We really don't want to lose it.



This spring, we sponsored the Easter egg hunt at the Mustang Event Center. The kids enjoyed themselves and look forward every year to find eggs and getting a prize. The club has also been busy planting flowers at the entrance stones into Roberts, the city park, the senior center, and the Mustang Center. We cleaned the park and did a lot of weed control so the park will look good for Market Lake Day, which is July 20th. We will also have an entry in the parade to make ourselves more visible.

We placed eighteen pots of flowers, which we planted, out in the community. We will meet one more time to clean more weeds from around the Mustang Center and the lilacs at the park. We want to welcome five new members into our garden club; Lisa Jones, Jim & Susan Bradley, Marilyn Barnes, and Jenn Bush. To see more pictures of what we are doing, look us up on Facebook, Friends of Roberts Town & Country Garden Club.



Gcii has its **FIRST 501(c)(3) club!!!** Congratulations to our Southeast District club, **For the Love of Growing** in Twin Falls. The Internal Revenue Service has granted them federal tax-exempt status.

If your garden club is interested in becoming a 501c3 organization, Gcii will help you with the paperwork and fees. For more information, contact GTEP Chair **Meghan Shepard: [gcii.gtep.program@gmail.com](mailto:gcii.gtep.program@gmail.com)**

## GCI Committee News

### Repurpose and Recruit

by Karen Martin, CGII Membership Chair



What once was a child's Activity Center is now a tool to recruit new garden club members. Found at a children's consignment store for less than \$15.00, this chalk /whiteboard just needed a little cleaning. It got a new coat of chalkboard paint to cover up some scratches. It now looks like new. It folds flat for easy transport and storage. Craig's List is another source for an Activity Center at a reasonable price. I recently picked up a second one for \$20.00.

Chinden Gardeners Club is using this as a tool to communicate to the public. It tells anyone walking by who is tending the

local Pollinator Garden. It also invites people to come be a part of the regular maintenance of the Garden.

You can put information about your club, website information, or just thoughtful messages appropriate for the day or month. The tray can hold club brochures or other club information that people can pick up. Small plastic cups could be used to hold flowers that are currently blooming. An easy tool to help people learn about garden clubs, learn about plants and strike up a conversation. There just might be someone who reads the sign, stops to ask questions and is a potential garden club member.

Many clubs have gardens or planters that they maintain. If you don't already, why not consider setting up a sign to let people know who you are? Maybe you can come up with your own ideas of something similar. Lets make sure people know who is working and providing their talent and time to their local community projects.



## Trillium ovatum: A Native Wildflower

by Linda Morrison, Native Plants Co-chair



When I was growing up in western Washington, we often spent time in the woods. Whether with family or school, it was always enjoyable to walk

through the trees, drizzling with rain, smelling musty and fresh at the same time. I remember the lesson of recognizing the Douglas fir tree by the 'mouse feet and tail' on the cones and the Trillium flowers because they grew in 3s: 3 white triangular shaped petals, 3 sepals and 3 leaves, all meeting in the center at the stem. We were allowed to pick up the cones and even take them home, but lived in awe at the warning to never pick a Trillium. It was even against the law. This is still true in Washington and several other states, but only on public land.

According to the USDA plants database, there are 38 native species of Trillium in North America. *T. ovatum* grows up and down the west coast and into Idaho, Canada, and several Rocky Mountain states. They have white flowers that turn to reddish purple as the flower ages. Growing as a perennial herb spreading by means of underground rhizomes, they prefer a rich forest floor and partial shade under such trees as grand fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, big leaf maple, red alder and Sitka spruce. According to flowerinfo.org, the trillium flower has a long history of

medicinal and culinary uses. Native Americans ate the cooked greens. Some tribes also used the roots or other parts medicinally to treat female reproductive issues, skin ulcers, stomach complaints, lung ailments and fevers. Perhaps because of these healing attributes, trilliums are given as a gift to represent healing. They also symbolize the joys of spring since this is when they bloom.

The first time I visited a particular forest near Kamiah, it took my breath away. It was early spring. It looked and smelled like the coastal Western Washington rain forests of my childhood: cedar trees, ferns, moss, mushrooms – a dense wet forest bursting with diversity. Interspersed with wild flowers and heavily decorated with 3 petal white Trillium. It was here that I first noticed how the petals turn a purplish-red as they age. This photo was taken in early May of 2017. After the local fires of 2015, the Trillium had burst into abundance under the remnants of burnt trees.

By July, a fleshy pale green fruit forms with yellow-green seeds inside. Eventually, the sticky seeds fall out where they attract ants that carry them back to their nest and germinate next spring. The following year it will send up a single leaf. It may take up to six years for it to first flower. Many sources say it is a very sensitive plant, and that picking either the

**Continued, next page**

## Trillium ovatum, continued

leaves or flower may kill the plant. For this reason, it is recommended that if gardeners would like to include them in wildflower gardens, they should purchase them from a reputable nursery that

propagates their own plants rather than dig them up from the woods. They transplant best in late summer and grow well in rich soil with plenty of leaf mold in partial shade.

## Native Plants: Penstemon

by Karen Martin, Native Plants Co-chair

We all strive for beauty and diversity in our gardens, especially in our front beds, where people get their first impression of our property. I am trying to bring more natives into my front landscape. I have planted several Penstemon in my garden for a couple of years. Most Penstemon prefer sandy or gravelly soil, full sun and deep, but infrequent watering once they are established

I was able to get new plants for my garden at the Native Plant Society of Idaho plant sale last year. They hold their annual sale each spring. I added three different Penstemon to my garden: (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* is native to west-central Idaho and will have light medium- blue flowers in late May and June. It is low water, moderately drought tolerant and it likes full sun and soil with good drainage. These plants will be attractive and a draw for pollinators to my garden. This year, unfortunately, I have not been seeing a lot of bumblebees visiting my garden so far this year. I miss their low hum and the artful balancing act they do when they land on the flower and it bends low under their weight.

## Best Gardening Practices in Idaho

by Sandra Ford, Best Practices Chair

We may have tired of all the rain this spring, but some plants really enjoyed it. For the second year in a row, the lilacs were so heavy in blooms, they hung over instead of being upright. 'Stella D'Oro' lilies are over-loaded with blooms. Roses in Southwest Idaho are very tall and some blooms have never been so large before. The downside was, it was very late in the spring to plant gladiolas and dahlias. Dahlias especially do not want to be planted in wet soil. Once they break ground and start to grow, then they want plenty of water. Both may not be in bloom for the fair the third week in August here in Boise.

At the Western Idaho Fair two years ago, we had so many



entries of the 'Calibrachoa' in with the Petunias, the class was divided into two separate classes.

**Kabloom Cherry Calibrocha**

Calibrachoa is also known as a trailing petunia

or Million Bells. It is closely related to the petunia that was introduced in 1992. This year, the judges will be challenged again with the new miniature petunias that come in many colors, also double. In a hanging pot I put together, the pot didn't get water for a few days in the hot morning sun and just collapsed. The two calibrachoa plants still held their own and were bright as usual. I may change to calibrachoa

hanging pots only next year because they are more heat tolerant. Now I am watching for the green caterpillars that I already found on one petunia plant.

Robyn McCarthy in Idaho Falls sent me pictures of her back yard this spring. Everything was green and lush also. Her Ghost Vine and Syringa were filled with blooms. Nothing beats the fragrance of our state flower, either the native or the hybridized Syringa or Philadelphia Lewisii, which I have both. Her Sweet William is also quite fragrant blooming next to a wall.

On our way north to Donnelly last weekend, the banks of the Payette River were all in bloom with the Syringa. Just open the window of the car and the fragrance is in the air. Many thanks to Jodene Caldwell and the Moscow Garden Club that sent me their stories of favorite or not so favorite plants the last two years and hope they will continue to do so.



**Philadelphus lewisii 'Wild Mock Orange'**

## GCII Grant Recipients



**Congratulations** to the following GCII member clubs that applied and were approved for a one-time \$300 GCII grant:

**For the Love of Growing Garden Club** in our Southeast District is designing and planting a Butterfly Garden at the Minidoka Wildlife Refuge that will feature native plants. The project involves ongoing maintenance of the 11,000 square foot garden.

**Hill and Valley Garden Club** in our Clearwater District is expanding efforts in the community to support student education and experience in horticulture, agriculture and the beautification of the community in which they live. Their goal is to provide learning opportunities to grade school and high school students. They are striving to increase community awareness by sharing with teachers and parents grant opportunities available for students.

All GCII member clubs are encouraged to apply. It begins with an idea for an eligible project:

- Community projects
- Recruitment of new members and public relations
- Education (speakers, workshop materials, club library, etc.)
- Other activities that promote the goals of the club

The next step is to complete simple one-page form and email it to Karen Lowe, GCII President. The application form will soon be available on the website or you can contact Lisa Artiga to request a form.

**Gem State Gardener** is the official publication of Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. Please visit our website for information about Idaho's garden clubs and available resources:

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