



# Gem State Gardener



Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.

## President's Message

I decided to share with you what I do like about being your president and what I don't like so you will know what to expect when it is your turn to step up as our next state president.

Since I have been elected GCII president I've been in a whirlwind of activity. Mostly learning endeavors from meeting with community members, our bank, clubs, and many of you that have all been helpful. I have been made to feel very welcomed into a family of women and men, none of whom I knew before I joined the Golden Garden Club last June.

I can caution you that if you don't like being given a lifetime membership for NGC by a former president (Claudia Hambacker), if you don't want to meet special people that you have so much in common with from all fifty states, if you don't like the educational presentations, great food, and travel opportunities, you won't like the job.

If you don't want your ideas, creativity, and talents out there for everyone to enjoy while you get the same chances to enjoy others, you won't like being president. If you don't want to be seen by all your friends and family on social media donating your time doing community enhancement projects, if you aren't in need of people you can count on to care for your plants and pets when your down, if you don't like realizing that this organization is more expansive than you ever imagined and you belong, then those are a few more reasons you won't want to be president.

If you aren't one to drive around your community with a wonderful feeling of pride as you view the results of our planning and handwork throughout our many gardens it's just not you. If you get excited for each season that gets you closer to growing into a better human being if you happen to see another soul that could use a timeout in your garden sitting there together sipping tea but it isn't in your playbook then you are just too busy to be president.

If you don't feel a need to share with our "seedlings" coming up in the world, often called our youth or grandchildren, the special understanding that only those of us have achieved by living closely in tune with the earth then, OK.

However, if you realize that the quality of this life is found in the relationships you form then you should be our next president.



### GCII 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

## Clearwater District

### Winter Solstice: A Time for Rest, Reflection, Rebirth

This winter solstice time is no longer celebrated as it once was, with the understanding that this period of descent into our own darkness was so necessary in order to find our light. That true freedom comes from accepting with forgiveness and love what we have been through, and vanquishing the hold it has on us, bringing the golden treasure back from the cave of our darker depths.

This is a time of rest and deep reflection, a time to wipe the slate clean as it were and clear out the old so you can walk into spring feeling ready to grow and skip without a dusty mountain on your back and chains around your ankles tied to the caves in your soul. A time for the medicine of story, of fire, of nourishment and love. A period of reconnecting, relearning and reclaiming of what this time means brings winter back to a time of kindness, love, rebirth, peace and unburdening instead of a time of dread, fear, depression and avoidance.

This modern culture teaches avoidance at a max at this time; alcohol, lights, shopping, overworking, over spending, bad food, and consumerism. And yet

the natural tug to go inward, as nearly all creatures are doing, is strong, and people are left feeling as if there is something wrong with them that winter is cruel and leaves them feeling abandoned and afraid.

Whereas in actual fact winter is so kind. Yes, she points us in her quiet soft way toward our inner self, toward the darkness and potential death of what we were, but this journey, if held with care, is essential.

She is like a strong teacher that asks you to awaken your inner loving elder or therapist, holding yourself with awareness of forgiveness, and allowing yourself to grieve, to cry, rage, laugh, and face what we need to face in order to be freed from the jagged bonds we wrapped around our hearts, in order to reach a place of healing and light without going into overwhelm.

Winter takes away the distractions, the noise, and presents us with the perfect time to rest and withdraw into a womb-like love, bringing fire and light to our hearth.

Author: **Brigit Anna McNeill**  
Submitted by **Lorraine Smith**, Clearwater District Director and member of Valley Garden Club

Members of **Valley Garden Club** gathered Halloween morning near Kooskia, ID, for their Adopt-A-Highway project to keep a three-mile section of Highway 12 litter free. **Lenette Smith, Cheryl Pankey, Nan Vance, Tracy Geiszler, Lorraine Smith, Marci Gerhardt, Leann Wicks, Kay Riga, Sally Carlson and Wendi Thompson.** Group photo by **Greg Smith** who also helped.

Submitted by **Lorraine Smith.**



## Lewis-Clark Judges Council – 2019

by Linda Morrison

In the Lewis-Clark Judges Council, we have six active accredited members, three of whom are Level 2 judges: Leann Wicks, Lenette Smith and Linda Morrison. And 3 of which are Master Judges: Edith Cole, Joyce Parr and Jodene Caldwell. And one active Emeritus member, Darlene Norden. It is a small group that gets a lot accomplished. At each level there are certain requirements as decided at National and printed in our Handbook. One way we can earn 'an optional credit' in exhibiting is to host a 'Bring a new Design' to a meeting which is judged by the other members. This we did at our April meeting. Then we jumped into judging County Fairs: Asotin County and St. John, both in Washington State.

In May, we judged a Standard Flower Show in Kendrick at the Locust Blossom Festival hosted by Hill and Valley Garden Club. Depending on what level each judge has achieved, there are different requirements. But they always include judging at a minimum number of Standard Shows. In June, LCJC made centerpieces at the State Convention in Clarkston, which was hosted this year by the Clearwater District.

And then the County Fairs really get going. Idaho County Fair is in August and usually qualifies as a Standard Show. It is a Fair that is teaming with Valley Garden Club members at every capacity in the Flowers Division. Volunteers serve as Chairmen to Clerks. As with all the fairs, there are plenty of opportunities for members to have fun and learn.

September is the biggest Fair month in our area: Latah County Fair in Moscow; Garfield County Fair in Pomeroy, WA; Nezperce County Fair in Lewiston and Lewis County Fair in Nezperce. The fair in Lewiston is the biggest on our list. All active judges are in attendance plus several non-accredited judges to help in the extensive Youth Division.

Our final assignment for the year is in October: a Standard Flower Show hosted by Garden Club for All seasons and Hi Lo Chrysanthemum Society, with Master Judge Edith Cole at the helm. The venue is actually in an outdoor greenhouse at Patt's Garden Center in Clarkston, WA. It is a wonderful finale with a room full of Chrysanthemums and lots of creative and competitive designs. This year we are pleased to announce Lenette Smith's design won not only 'Best of Show', but several other awards as well.



Lenette Smith's winning design at the Flower Show.

**Congratulations to Hill & Valley Garden Club for being approved for 501c3 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 **Meghan Shepard:** [calawaymeghan@yahoo.com](mailto:calawaymeghan@yahoo.com)

## The Re-Dedication of Lewiston's Blue Star Marker

by Nan Vance, member, Valley Garden Club for Lorraine Smith, Clearwater District Director

About a year ago Lorraine Smith, Director of the Clearwater District Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc., noted that a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker previously installed in 2001 in the front lawn of the Idaho State Veterans Home in Lewiston had not been seen for several years. In 2018 a thorough search to locate the marker was made to no

avail, so this year the Clearwater District and the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. mutually decided that the By-Way Marker should be replaced. A Valley Garden Club member had moved to Lewiston and had contact with the personnel at the Home, so was appointed liaison. Mark High, administrator of the Idaho State Veteran's Home, was contacted and with his approval, the east stone wall in the Veterans facility Rose Garden was agreed upon as an appropriate and lasting site for the marker.

In spring of 2019 at the district meeting we voted to proceed with obtaining information about a stone for the marker and cost. A representative of the garden clubs met with Terry Brockman, the Veterans home activities coordinator, on June 20, 2019 to inform her that the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. and Clearwater District supported the project. Personnel at the veteran's facility under the direction of Marvin Delp, building facilities foreman, gave assurances that it would be properly installed in the agreed upon location.

Shyanna Weber, owner of Garlinghouse Memorials in Lewiston was contacted and a granite monument stone with base were selected as a good fit for the plaque and the garden. The plaque ordered from Sewah Studios was shipped to Garlinghouse Memorials and a date to have the finished memorial marker was set for mid- October. Shyanna had it ready before the date. When a key helper came down with flu, she came out to help install granite marker in the Rose Garden herself.



Hoping to have a dedication ceremony in the Rose Garden at the Idaho State Veterans Home before the fall storms moved in, we aimed for October 19, 2019 and hit the bull's eye. It rained. Terri Brockman, the Veterans Home coordinator, and a veteran herself at adapting, arranged for the ceremony to be held inside.

The veterans Home Chaplain, Chuck Powell, donated his Saturday to give the invocation and closing prayer. We were able to have the cadets of the NGYCP's Idaho youth Challenge Academy come from Pierce and serve as honor guard. Members of the Lewis-Clark Concert Choir in full harmony sang the National Anthem. Mayor Mike Collins accepted his invitation to show his support of the veterans at the ceremony.

Lorraine Smith, who presided over the dedication, shared the history of the Blue/Gold Star Memorial tradition. Lenette Smith along with Jodene Caldwell who designed the wreath with an autumn motif presented the wreath. Garden Club members rose to the occasion with a wonderful variety of homemade cookies. The veterans themselves, many in wheelchairs were able to attend inside in relative comfort (thank you, rain). Over the course of the installation, throughout the dedication ceremony and up to when the last cookie was eaten, the veterans expressed their appreciation.

After the ceremony the intrepid garden club members trooped outside to bear witness to the memorial marker in a place of honor at the Rose Garden. Although we give profound thanks to all the generous contributions by those who made it possible, they would tell you that for our veterans, it was a labor of love.



## Southwest District

### Cecil D. Andrus Park: One of Golden Garden Club's Community Projects

by Carol Hill, President

When I joined Golden Garden Club here in Boise, one of the first things I learned was that our club was in charge of three community projects. A couple of years later, when I was elected President, I found myself wanting to learn in more detail about one in particular... what was then called Capitol Gardens right by our beautiful Capitol building. I knew we had several members involved at the beginning of this project: Pat Baker, Sandy Ford, and many others. It is now called Cecil D. Andrus Park, and Golden Garden Club continues to be very involved in the care of the gardens there. I learned that in 2007, Golden launched "Let Freedom Ring," a \$63,500 beautification project to renovate the park. The goal was to transform the park into more of a central meeting place for anyone working downtown as well as tourists. The project also included a central plaza to honor the men and women who serve our country in the military or public service. Benjamin Victor's amazing bronze bust of Andrus is also on view.



Golden raised \$19,800, which included a grant from the National Garden Clubs/Principal Financial Group. The city of Boise supported the project with a \$21,000 Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant. Sales of bricks, sandstone blocks, plants, and brick pathways generated additional funding. I wish I had moved to my hometown back then as I certainly would have loved to have made a donation in some way! Planting beds with shrubs, annuals, and perennials flank the entrances of the walkway. Golden Garden Club's members are still very much involved in the care of this wonderful area downtown, probably one of the first areas visitors to Boise view as they come into town. The photos show **Sandy Ford and Denise Lile**, members of Golden, sprucing up the gardens and getting them ready for the wintertime. Thanks, also, to **Russell Ford**, the photographer!!! I'm very proud to be President of Golden Garden Club.

## Nampa Garden Club's Good Neighbor Award 2019

by Charlene Hammons and JoAnn Schoonover

The 2019 year so far has been very busy. We have taken on several community projects and welcomed many new members to our growing club. The month of June was filled with planning and celebrating Nampa Garden Club's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In our busyness of planning the big celebration we did not forget one of our favorite summer activities, the presentation of our annual "Good Neighbor Award." This Award is given to a private resident who maintains their own yard and beautifies their neighborhood.

This year's award went to George and Donna Asselin of Nampa. Donna plants and maintains the flowers while George mows the lawn and takes care of the waterfall and pond in the back yard. As the years have passed, they have removed most of the ground level flower beds and have made raised beds using several whiskey barrels, large pots, wagons and wheel barrows. They have re-purposed old ladders adding shelves to hold potted plants and whimsical art pieces. Donna is known for her yard art and takes pride in changing the yard décor for each season and holiday. Yes, we all have to make concessions to age and health, but Donna has not given up on style.

Each year, our club looks forward to honoring community residents with this award. Visiting with Donna and hearing how they created and then recreated their yard designs through the years is really inspiring.

The names of the award recipients will be placed on Nampa Garden Club's Good Neighbor Award plaque located at the Nampa City Hall.



## Let's Put On a Show!

by Allen Deitz, President Treasure Valley Arranger Guild

"Weather: Choose Your Own In Idaho" was the theme of the small-standard flower show staged by the Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild as the program for our October club meeting.

Member Anita Gonzalez, show chair, graciously hosted us at her home, providing all the tables and tablecloths for the show, as well as opening her gardens and inviting members to enjoy a garden tour while the show was being judged. After the judging, everyone enjoyed the show while indulging in delicious refreshments.

We all learned about a variety of design types and polished our techniques for entering shows – while preparing for the show, *and* during entry and viewing of the show. Members gained experience and confidence, and judges earned judging credits. Three of our members were unable to attend the October meeting. Of the 15 who did attend, ten exhibited and five judged. We were joined by one guest judge.

The show met NGC standards for a small-standard flower show with 35 horticulture exhibits and 13 design exhibits. Three top exhibitor awards were awarded at the section level – two in horticulture and one in design.

Our club is now looking forward to our next show, "Holiday Splendor!" It will be a holiday design specialty show, December 6 - 8, at the Idaho Botanical Garden's annual *Winter Garden aGlow* event.



## Golden Garden Club Participates in the Festival of Trees

by Carol Hill, President



Several members from Golden Garden Club, Inc., here in Boise, decided it was about time that Golden got involved in making a wreath to donate for The Festival of Trees! Deb, Ina, Susie, and Shauna went to work collecting donations and gathering materials to create their wreath! They planned it down to the color scheme that they wanted... red, gold, and green. After several meetings at Deb's home, the wreath was completed; and it is truly magical!!! All of Golden Garden Club's members thank this special group for their time and energy. The wreath will be donated and sold with proceeds given to St. Alphonsus Hospital. Happy Holidays!

## News from Ada Gardeners, Boise

In July Ada Gardeners held their annual picnic in Kleiner Park. We were honored to have in attendance GCII's past President **Claudia Hambacker**, GCII's current State President **Karen Lowe** and our Southwest District Director **Linda Halstead**. For the meal the club provided chicken and guests brought a side dish. We had a coloring contest for ages 4 to 84 and all had fun hanging all the pictures around the canopy. Everybody went home with a trophy, color book and pencils.

## GCII Fall Board Meeting Recap

by Lisa Artiga

**Karen Jean Lowe**, GCII's new president, presided over the Fall Board Meeting on October 7, 2019 held at the Candlewood Suites in Meridian. Karen gave a Power Point presentation with an overview of the National Garden Clubs Board Meeting she attended in St. Louis, MO in September. Karen Jean shared handouts on membership engagement and NGC's Plant America project. She entertained the group with a reading of *Freddy the Leaf* accompanied by a slide show of beautiful photos. After lunch, participants enjoyed the "Organic Gardening 101" presentation by David Thompson, Urban Agriculture Specialist from the Boise Urban Garden School (BUGS). The meeting was well attended and very informative. Many thanks to all who assisted behind the scenes... especially the clubs that provided door prizes and members of the Executive Board and Golden Garden Club who helped with set up, clean up and breakfast refreshments.

## Save the date!

### Southwest District Spring Meeting



Registration forms will be available closer to the meeting date.

- Date:** Monday, March 30, 2020
- Location:** Idaho Correctional Industries  
1301 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706
- Hosting Club:** Golden Garden Club
- Theme:** "Native Plants"
- Speaker:** Sean Finn, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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## ~ The Creative Corner ~

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Two original poems by **Sharon Callaham**, past president of Ada Gardeners:

### **Gardeners**

**Written for the Memorial Service at the SW District Meeting**

When we lose one of our gardening pals for whatever reason  
It seems as though we have come to the end of a season.  
Our gardening pals go where all gardeners go  
Up yonder where all gardens always grow.  
We honor our friends and remember  
As I light this candle on this day in September.

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### **The Garden**

**Written just for the love of gardening**

I planted some seeds with hope for the summer,  
Watering and waiting, also praying that my seeds were not a bummer.

Wow, what I thought was a plant of mine,  
No, Mr Weed you are not going to mess up prime.

Out comes the hoe, and the weed is gone,  
Now I just sit back and listen to the bird's song.

The waiting seems forever, but finally seedlings appear,  
Now the bounty from the effort is near.

Mr. Weed has friends that want to be in the game,  
They are trying to show that all that effort was lame.

So, war it is...you are not going to win,  
One by one, I put you in the garbage bin.

Finally, the wait and the work were long,  
Harvest the bounty...nothing too much went wrong.

Vegetables and flowers are the bounty,  
Zucchini...surely there is enough for the county.

Would I put in the effort next year?  
I am waiting for the seed catalogs to get here!

## Southeast District

by Molly Graeber

**Season's Greetings** to all from your fellow gardeners in the Southeast District. It is hard to believe summer is over and Christmas is just around the corner. Our members enjoyed the warm weather and gardening while it lasted. It turned so cold too fast, and now we are having beautiful fall weather again and all our beautiful flowers are history.



The Idaho Falls Garden Club hosted the district meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Arugula Deli in Idaho Falls. Constance Blythe did a program on center pieces, and those who were in attendance made their own with great food and friendship.

The Idaho Falls club met in August to discuss the state fair and items to enter. Entries were made and fun was had. The club met in September at Elizabeth Fallon's home for a social and talk about gardening.

Summer found the Roberts Garden Club busy with caring for the park, entrance planting to the city, and pots.

Because of the efforts made by the club, Roberts was a more attractive place to be. Members of the Idaho Falls Garden Club met with the Roberts Town & Country Garden Club in September at Sunnyside Gardens to learn about good insects and things to plant in the fall. Members walked away with greater knowledge and plenty of plants for their yards.

In December the clubs are planning to get together in Idaho Falls for a Christmas Party which should be lots of fun with food, gifts, and lots of laughter.

Don't forget to save the date, June 7-9<sup>th</sup> for the state convention to be held in Twin Falls.



## Save the Date!

**What:** GCII Annual State Convention

**When:** June 7-9, 2020

**Where:** Twin Falls, Idaho



**More information to follow as the date approaches.**

## GCI Committee News

### Best Gardening Practices in Idaho

by Sandra Ford, Best Practices in Idaho Chair

As winter is now upon us, it's time to look back at what new plants I tried this summer and what to plan for next spring.

October was the coldest month I can remember and a good test of what survived when our evening temperature dropped to 20 degrees for several days. Of the eight hanging pots on my patio and deck, the plants that survived the best were the Calibrachoa and the Littletonia. The little petunias were both single and double, solid or striped color. I even brought a branch of a Littletonia in the house which continued to bloom and produced two new flowers for another three weeks.

There are 22 classes to enter petunias in at the Western Idaho Fair that range from 1" to 4" or over, single, double, striped, veined, bi-color and picotee. I filled a 20" pot with all the unusual types I could find, but in the end, I rarely had three sprays to enter which the classes called for. It was such a fun challenge to go to my favorite nursery, Edwards Greenhouse, which is only three miles from my house, to buy any new petunias that came in during the week.

According to the instructions of how to grow Gladiolus, you should wait to dig them up in the fall after a killing frost and they turn brown. With the early freeze, I dug up all my glads and my dahlias at the same time. I covered my dahlias to keep them from freezing, but I lost the battle. Everything multiplied or doubled in size, so I may have to pot some of these plants up

for our garden club spring sale. It was all worth the work.

I have successfully overwintered my dahlias for years. Fortunately, I have an insulated garage which never goes much below 40 degrees. Gardening books tell you never to pack bulbs in plastic bags as they will mold, but I always do. I just don't seal them up. When they are dug up, it takes a few days to dry them out even if they have not been watered for several days. The biggest problem is getting all the fishworms out from between the tubers and back in the garden. A few years ago, I protected my roses with the leaves from my huge maple tree, then covered the leaves so they wouldn't blow away with organic garden soil. Now my garden always has a lot of fishworms in it year-round. The tubers are not divided and can weigh several pounds. They are laid face up and buried in peat moss and vermiculate with one or two tubers in old milk carton crates. The label is tied to one handle of the grocery bags for easy identification in the spring.

Gladiolus were also a challenge to grow and bloom in time for the fair which is 90 days. I count back 90 days from the entry date to be sure to get them in the ground in plenty of time.

As usual in dealing with Mother Nature, the miniature glads were through blooming before the fair. Years ago, my children saw

Continued next page

**Best Practices, continued**

an ad for naming a Gladiolus that a hybridizer offered for a Mother's Day gift. They had several pictures to choose from. The one they chose is dark pink with a white edge and looks like it is waxed. They named it "Sandra Ford." It takes 100 to 120 days to bloom. I started with 10 bulbs and now have almost 50 of them. Maybe I'll put a few in a pot for a door prize at the convention next year.

On a gloomy day, I can head to my greenhouse which is packed with blooming geraniums, or better yet, I head to Edwards

Greenhouse which is a mass of color of thousands of blooming poinsettias. What a great place to tour before the holidays. You can do the same if you live near a nursery that sells house plants as well. Looking forward to spring!



## GCII Scholarship

by Joyce Parr, Scholarship Chair

The updated GCII Scholarship Guidelines and Criteria (GCII.org) will be sent out soon to all 4-year colleges/universities in the state of Idaho. The students MUST be residents of the state of Idaho but they can attend schools outside the state. Please get the word out if you know of students who may be eligible for this award.

As of fall 2020 the student must be a full time junior/senior or graduate student (pursuing a Master's degree) in areas such as Agronomy, Horticulture, Landscape Design, Environmental Conservation, Forestry, Botany/Biology, Land Management or other related or allied subjects.

The \$1000 GCII Scholarship is for the 2020-2021 school year. Those students who meet all criteria and are chosen by the GCII Scholarship Committee may also be eligible for the Pacific Region (\$1000) or the GCII (\$4000) scholarship. All applications must be processed through the GCII Scholarship Committee.

Applications and accompanying documents must be received by Joyce Parr, GCII Scholarship Chair, by February 1, 2020. Individual clubs are also welcome to contribute to the GCII scholarship fund.



## Standing Rules Committee Report

by Claudia Hambacker, Blue Book Chair

As many of you remember, a bylaws committee was formed in 2015 to entirely redo the bylaws and these were voted upon and accepted in 2017. An anticipated update of GCII's Standing Rules during the 2017-2019 term was not accomplished, so a Standing Rules Committee has been formed to complete this task over the next two years. The committee is composed of Allen Deitz, Janet Petersen, Meghan Shepard, Janice Zabriskie and Claudia Hambacker. The committee has met once and has agreed the majority of the work, formatting, researching and writing, can be accomplished independently. Sections to work on have been chosen by each committee member. Allen will also be functioning as the "computer person." Once sections are completed, they will be submitted to other committee members for review and comment. If portions of the document are directly related to a currently active committee or if a GCII member is available and has experience or knowledge relating to the section, the committee will also send it to that person. This experienced person will have the opportunity to review the document and make suggestions or comments. Once the section has met the satisfaction of the Standing Rules Committee, it will be forwarded to the Executive Committee of the GCII Board of Directors for review and acceptance. It will then be entered into the Standing Rules Manual.

### What is the difference between Bylaws and Standing Rules?

The bylaws are the rules that GCII (an organization) follows. For example:

~ *GCII will have an Annual Meeting*

~ *GCII will have dues*

Standing Rules relate to how GCII functions administratively. Because GCII is an organization and not a business, the term Standing Rules is used rather than Procedure Manual. However Standing Rules are very similar in manner to Procedure Manuals used by a company, hospital or institution. Changes to the bylaws is a lengthy process and a defined quorum of the Board needs

to be present to change the bylaws. Standing Rules may not need a vote to be changed or a simple majority of those present. The Standing Rules must be clearly written because they are the specific guidelines for how things are to be done (how work is to be accomplished) within the organization. In the case of GCII, we need to do a better job of keeping the information up to date for our members, thus our Standing Rules Committee.

Take a look at the example below to better understand how Bylaws and Standing Rules interface. GCII bylaws states:

**"Article III – Members and Associates**

**4. Dues a. GCII will have paid dues."**

The Standing Rules more clearly defines the process:

**"C. GCII Member Club Dues**

**1. Annual dues a. who sets the dues, b. when dues are to be paid, c. to whom they are paid etc."**

This could also be applied to your individual club's bylaws and standing rules. Clubs may wish take a look at how their bylaws and Standing Rules interface to be able to make changes to process easier. For example, have you ever wanted to change the meeting day of the month that the meeting is held or even just the time of the day but cannot because the bylaws state it will be on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:45? What if the bylaws just stated that the meeting will be held monthly? Think of the flexibility it would give your club. If bylaws were stated more broadly and allow changes to be made within the standing rules, your club may have greater flexibility in the decision making and planning. The possibilities are endless. There are some areas where very specific wording must be written in our bylaws such as that for the IRS. But in many areas, we can provide our clubs greater flexibility that may help us to better meet the needs of our members.

Another important benefit of keeping the Standing Rules Manual up to date is that individual members should be able to find answers to their questions before they contact the President, Webmaster, State Treasurer or others. Check the Standing Rules Manual first.

## Membership Engagement Idea

by Karen Martin, Membership Chair

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, members and friends of SW District Garden Clubs, came together to decorate bowls as a donation to charity. Empty Bowls has been an Idaho Food Bank Fundraiser for many years. Those who gathered together contributed their time and talents to paint ceramic bowls.

A Way With Clay, a local ceramic shop in Boise, provided instruction on various embellishment techniques to decorate the bowls. Everyone in attendance shared a common goal of creating a beautiful bowl to help the local charity. Each bowl ended up being unique and will help raise funds to feed Idaho’s hungry population. Your District or Club might be able to find a local charity that needs help. Be creative, and share your ideas or projects, so that other Districts or clubs can see what you choose to do as a group to help a local charity.



## Native Plants, Backyard Habitats & Pollinators

by Karen Martin, Co-Chair

**“A Garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness, it teaches industry and thrift: above all it teaches entire trust.” Gertrude Jekyll**

**“Sometimes it is the quiet observer who sees the most.” Kathryn L. Nelson**

This past gardening season, I spent time being an observer of what was happening in the garden and making a few notes in my garden journal. I was especially pleased with the number and variety of bees that were frequenting the sunflower plants growing in my back yard. Some sunflowers were volunteers, compliments of the birds, and others were intentionally planted. To my pleasure, the sunflowers were popular with a variety of native bees and bumblebees, and occasionally a few other insects.

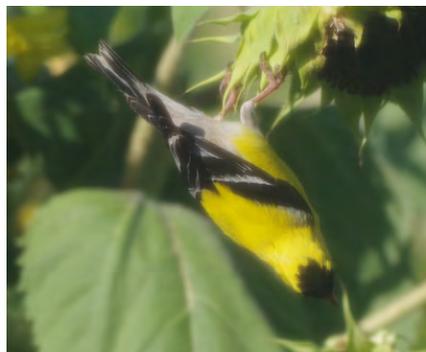
The native bees and bumblebees went about their business, not bothered by my camera, or by me just standing close and observing them. Bees and bumblebees,



multiple of some varieties, were busy on the same sunflower head. I got a lot of pleasure from observing their activity. Sunflowers will definitely be on the list to plant again next year.

A second benefit to growing the sunflowers was the Goldfinches. The finches came into the garden to eat the seeds. The sunflowers seemed to turn their heads downwards, as if to try to protect the seeds (that is what I tell myself). The Goldfinches, not to be detoured, were comical to watch as they perched on the sunflower edge, hung upside down, and pulled the seeds from the head. The Finches provided daily entertainment.

Spend time in your garden next season and see what activity you can observe. Note what plants grow well and provide habitat for bees and birds. You might have stories to share with your Garden Club members of what you observed in your garden.



## Idaho's Arboretums, Botanical and Memorial Gardens

by Robyn McCarthy, Chair

Our GCII President Karen Lowe graciously has given me the Chairmanship of Arboretums, Botanical and Memorial Gardens. I will begin with the basics of differentiating these three gardens.

An area devoted to specimen trees and shrubs is an Arboreta from the Latin *arboretum*, from arbor, tree. This would be a collection of

many varieties of woody plants grown there for research, education and ornamental purposes. Often, specimen trees and shrubs will be accompanied by a label which includes the common name,

the scientific Genus and Species, the common family name, the scientific family name, and the native habitat. The plants are cultivated for exhibition which distinguishes an Arboreta from a forest, nursery or park. Arboreta provide a place where endangered trees and shrubs can be protected and propagated to preserve their biological diversity.

I am only able to locate one official Arboretum in Idaho. That is the University of Idaho Arboretum in Moscow.

Idaho hosts four botanical gardens. A botanical garden is generally a well-kept garden or a park which contains a wide variety of plants which may be labeled with their botanical names. They can contain collections of special types of plants, such as cacti, herbs, or plants from certain parts of the world.



University of Idaho Arboretum in Moscow

Idaho has about 16 major memorial gardens. These gardens provide a long-lasting tribute to a loved one who has passed

away, as well as offer a place for the survivors to remember and to heal. The garden can be as small as a single tree or perennial plant or as large as an oversized flowerbed or contain many different plants.

For a list of all three of these types of gardens in Idaho go to the GCII Home page at <http://www.gcii.org>. You will find the addresses and descriptions of each garden under Arboretums, Botanical and Memorial Gardens.

# Holiday Splendor!

Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild  
presents a

## Holiday Design Specialty Flower Show

in conjunction with the  
Idaho Botanical Garden's  
"Winter Garden aGlow"

2355 Old Penitentiary Dr., Boise, ID 83712  
[www.idahobotanicalgarden.org](http://www.idahobotanicalgarden.org)

December 6, 7 & 8, 2019  
6:00 - 9:00 pm

**in the classroom building**

Open to the public  
free with admission to IBG's Winter Garden  
aGlow

Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild  
([tvag.wildapricot.org](http://tvag.wildapricot.org))  
is a member of  
Pacific Region, National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Southwest District and  
Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.  
([www.gcii.org](http://www.gcii.org))



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