



Gem State Gardener

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.

President's Message

GCI Officers 2019-21

The Best Laid Plans of Spring 2020

Hello everyone and I only hope you are all well and safe. As I ponder on what we are all facing this spring, I am reminded of the saying adapted from a line in "To a Mouse," by the renowned Scottish poet Robert Burns: "**The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.**" No matter how carefully a project is planned, something may still go wrong.

As I am writing this today instead of working at the **Boise Flower & Garden Show**, his saying becomes even more evident. I would have been looking forward to our **Southwest District Meeting** just two days later. My prepared talk, forty party favors that Susan, Shauna, and Susie helped me make, and two raffle gifts are tucked away in a quest room until... whenever. I had paid for my **Pacific Region Convention** and was so excited I would be meeting Sandra Ford and Janet Peterson in Silverton/Portland Oregon just a few weeks later. I had also reserved flight, hotel, and convention registration for our **Perfect Vision 2020 NGC 91st National Convention** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Needless to say, we have all been displaced and rather mystified by the unfolding of events or I should say folding of events due to the Coronavirus this spring. If it had to come, I am so glad that the virus raised its ugly head to arrive now allowing us to be out in our gardens instead of hitting in winter. We have also had a wonderful jump on the spring season this year. We can all escape to the garden!

Continued, next page

President:

Karen Lowe
Southwest District

1st Vice President:

Becky Loomis
Clearwater District

2nd 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

President's Message, continued

On rainy days I've cleaned closets, organized my seeds, tools, pots, and languished through garden catalogs. I have even had time for gourd crafting and since my supply of gourds is dwindling, we have made a trellis out of two ranch panels. (16' x 5') each. The height can be adjusted while putting them in place. I chose eight feet. They are easy to put up and you are able to hide in them during summer when they grow over. If anyone wants pointers, just call me. The trellis makes a great playhouse for the kiddos and is therapeutic to sit under with green gourds and yellow blossoms hanging over head while the bees hum to you.



My new gourd trellis

This down time has allowed me lengthy phone conversations with distant family and some club members while perched on the patio always surveying the garden. Although I am enjoying the rest, I can't wait to see all of you again! Listen, we Boise dwellers have noticed almost no sirens. We are all aware that the quiet will not remain, we will all get to meet again and take up where we left off. I think of you all several times a day and somehow just know we will get through this because we share a powerful secret, **"Everything you are searching for...will be found in the garden."**

Karen Jean Lowe



This planter is a cannon ball gourd fashioned with clay features fashioned to resemble the Man on the Moon.



Used a gourd burner to decorate this birdhouse gourd with a preying mantis...

Clearwater District

Hill and Valley Garden Club Winter to Spring Events

By Kathy Cassin

The **Hill and Valley Garden Club** is open to all residents of the Kendrick Juliaetta and Seven Ridges communities as well as Orofino and the surrounding communities. This is a very informal group and you do not need a formal invitation to join. You are cordially invited to attend the meetings held at the Kendrick Grange Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month beginning at 1:00 pm unless otherwise indicated on the <https://gcii.org> website under the club. Light refreshments are served prior to the meeting

On March 19th, just about 1/3 of the HVGC members were planning to attend the **Spring Meeting of the Clearwater District** hosted and planned by the Nezperce Garden Club. That is a recent record attendance for the club. However, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the District Meeting, luncheon, and speaker has been **postponed to April 16th**.

The HVGC club will be joining with the Juliaetta Community Library in celebrating **the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22nd**. The presentation will include a seed and plant exchange beginning at 4PM. The garden club members will present information on Earth Day, recycling projects for the garden, read a book to the children about a butterfly and how it develops, discuss the importance of pollinators and what can be done to preserve them. The pollinator information board will be displayed from the U of I Latah County Extension Master Gardener Program. Attendees are encouraged to bring seeds and plants to exchange with neighbors. This is the third year HVGC has participated with the library.

A reminder that **April 24th is Arbor Day**, so plant a native tree. Visit the National Arbor Day Foundation at <https://www.arborday.org> or the

University of Idaho Franklin H. Pitkin Nursery in Moscow, ID <https://uidaho.edu/cnr/cfnr> for trees at a reasonable price. Both ship orders. Trees use energy from sunlight to make glucose from carbon dioxide and water (photosynthesis) to produce an equal number of molecules of oxygen which benefits the planet.

The April meeting will be the final planning meeting for the Standard Flower Show at the 60th annual Locust Blossom Festival. Judy Cuddy will present a program on **“Competitive Flower Arrangements.”** It will also be our **Garden Workday**. The membership will come together to clean up the city gardens on either side of Kendrick and Juliaetta. The workday will begin at 10:00 am and the meeting will immediately follow.

On Friday, May 29th, starting at 10:00 am people may begin bringing in their entries for the Standard Flower Show, held at the Grange Hall in Kendrick, that is a significant part of the Locust Blossom Festival. Judging will begin at about 1:00 pm on Friday. The youth from Juliaetta Elementary participate as do other youth in the area. **On Saturday, May 30th** join the club to see the beautiful arrangements, horticulture and youth exhibits.

Previous educational programs held earlier this year included Annette **Brusvan** from Spring Valley Farm in Troy. Her presentation was **“Do You Know Your Evergreens and Cones?”** There was a great identification activity at the end. She was an excellent speaker preparing the members for the wreath making activities. Judy Cuddy presented a program on **“Dry Arrangements”**. Everyone was asked to bring dry items to use in an arrangement and some type of vase or item to support arrangements. Judy brought plenty of extra items as well.

Hill & Valley Events, continued

Each person had the opportunity to put together an arrangement and hopefully the community will have an opportunity to see many of the beautiful arrangements at the Flower Show in May. In November Judy Cuddy and Germaine McCutcheon talked about the wreath sale. Judy showed us how to put together **Holiday table arrangements and centerpieces**. She made it look so easy. For the February program, Kim Sarff, Master Gardener, presented a program entitled “**Attracting Odonata to Your Garden: Welcome Damsels and Dragons**” Did you know these insects are effective mosquito hunters? They have a 90% kill rate and at least 79 species in Idaho. Kim instructed us on the necessary elements of a pond or water source to attract these beautiful beneficial insects and how to identify them.

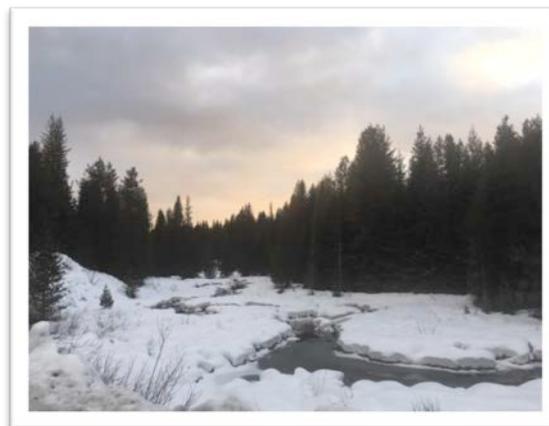
The March Meeting will be presented by Polly Taylor-Dennler, member and Master Gardener on “**Seed Starting with Soil Blocking**” The Kendrick High School FFA students will be joining the HVGC to hear this effective method of starting seeds, especially with Idaho’s short growing season. Polly and her mother Dorothy maintain the beautiful containers and public gardens in Juliaetta. Polly is especially active with the Youth Gardening programs at the high school and elementary school and is one of the state co-chairs for the Youth Gardening Committee.

The main community project for the year is to redesign, build, and plant the garden in Wallace Park around the Kendrick sign at the southern end of town. The plans are for a Memorial Garden to remember deceased garden club members. More will be written about this in a later newsletter.

Three members who have served as past presidents of HVGC have been voted by the membership to be recognized as Life Members. Not only have they been officers but also extremely active in the garden club. Congratulations to **Germaine McCutcheon, Becky Loomis, and Dorothy Taylor**.

Images of Clearwater

Provided by Kathy Cassin

*Route 3, headed to Kendrick**Above the clouds toward Orofino,**Moose Creek Reservoir*

Hill & Valley Garden Club's Wreath Sale was a SUCCESS!!

By Kathy Cassin

Sharon Harris, Treasurer for Hill & Valley Garden Club reported an increase in pre-sales for the 2019 wreath sale and financially it turned out to be another



successful year. The one-day wreath sale is the primary revenue source for HVGC funding of student gardening grants, scholarships, and community beautification projects.

The light poles in Kendrick had a new look this year for the first time. There were new fresh wreaths courtesy of the HVGC.

The members began working on the project beginning with the November 19th meeting. Judy Cuddy, a member from Orofino with design experience was the main speaker and everyone joined in with painting and glittering various sized pinecones to be used in

both arrangements and wreaths. This was successful to getting much preparation completed before the actual workdays began.

Germaine McCutcheon, Chairman, and Raina Weyen, VP took on the major responsibility for prepping the clubhouse above the Grange to create an efficient workspace for the members to design and produce the many wreaths and arrangements needed for a successful sale. The membership was grateful and found it extremely easy to locate the supplies that were needed as the workdays progressed. They worked like a well-oiled machine completing more than 745 hours of volunteer time.

The wreaths and arrangements look better and better each year. Throughout the year the members gather ideas and bring them to the clubhouse to create beautiful holiday décor. Wreaths come in 10 in, 12 inch, and 16-inch sizes with most in the \$25-\$30 price range. There were also porch pots, swags, mailbox covers, snowflakes, and candy canes. Larger wreaths made to order can run upwards of \$60.00. The wreaths and arrangements provide for a wide selection of choices and prices that all can afford. The workdays are quite the social event too for the club with much laughter as they work and the sharing of soup and dessert recipes. People sign up for a day to make the soup for lunch and Jeanne Ensley bakes wonderful rolls to have with the soup. This year the workdays began November 23rd and culminated on December 6th.

Beth Cannon did an outstanding job with contacting the businesses in Kendrick and Juliaetta that support the sale. Ann Nilsson managed to garner the greatest number of individual presales. Barbara Heimgartner, President, was quite pleased with the overall 2019 results.

Polly Taylor-Dennler and her team of volunteers prepared and served the soup and salad on December 6th. Her acclaimed clam chowder was available along with Taco soup and a vegetarian selection. Rolls, a green salad, and donated various pies made by the members offering a wide selection of choices. The money from this luncheon is specifically directed to the student gardening projects at the elementary and high school. **More pictures can be found on the HVGC's Facebook page.** Plan to join us for the first Friday in December 2021 for the annual sale and a

wonderful lunch at a reasonable price. Entertainment as always was provided by Marsha Schoeffler and Marcus Smith, members of the "Tune Wranglers", much to everyone's delight.



Marsha Schoeffler and Marcus Smith

Southwest District

In Remembrance Julia Jean Burham



Julia Jean Burham (Dyer), age 78, passed away peacefully on January 26, 2020. She was born in Nampa, Idaho, to Mark and Mary Dyer on December 1, 1941.

Julia grew up on the family farm outside Melba, Idaho, graduating from Melba High School in 1960. Following graduation, she married Norman "Bud" Skeen. They relocated from Melba, Idaho, to Heyburn, Idaho, and together they had five children during their 19 years of marriage.

In 1979, Julia started the second chapter of her life when she married Darryl Burham. With Darryl's four children they created one big, blended family. They relocated from Idaho to Selah, Wash., in 1979.

Julia started her career as court recorder for Yakima County and served for 14 years. When the couple later moved to Pendleton, Ore., she served as court recorder for 5 years. Upon retiring, they returned to Idaho and settled along on the Snake River in Marsing, Idaho.

Wherever Julia lived, she was a very active volunteer in her community. Most recently, Julia was a founding member of the **Owyhee Garden Club** and contributed her time and energy to the Owyhee County Sage Hens, the **Nampa Garden Club** and served on the Lizard Butte Library Board.

Her greatest loves outside of her family were cheering on the Seattle Seahawks, cooking, canning, sewing, gardening and reading. You could often find her at the end of the day out on the deck watching the river go by with a cold gin & tonic and would gladly offer you one, if you were to stop by. She will be remembered as a devoted mother, grandmother and the love of Darryl's life for 40 years.

A celebration of her life was held on Saturday, February 15, 2020, at the Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall, 1101 E. Cleveland Blvd, Caldwell, ID.

Jan Batt, Treasurer of Owyhee Garden Club said "Julia was one of the original members of the Owyhee Garden Club. Most recently Julia led the group in providing large pots of flowers in front of Marsing businesses. This was done last spring when the main street and bridge were being redone. We always enjoyed Julia's outgoing personality and all the knowledge she shared about gardening. She will be missed."

The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives. –
Gertrude Jekyll

Golden Garden Club Focuses on Education

By Carol Hill, President

As President of Golden Garden Club here in Boise, I have so enjoyed the challenge of arranging for educational programs for our members. I wanted to share about our March 3rd meeting. We have been fortunate to have Karen Zamzow Trail join as a recent member. Karen suggested that I contact her brother, Jim, as a speaker for a future program.



Zamzow Inc. was started back in 1933, during the Great Depression, with Jim, Karen, and Rick's grandparents, Gus and Carmalita. Having grown up in Boise, I was familiar with the Zamzow name and the Zamzow stores, but I wanted to know more so it seemed a good time to do some Internet research.

What an incredible history this family has, and what an incredible journey they've been on through the decades. Gus and Carmalita's first store was on the corner of Fairview and Liberty. This is also the site of the more recent building that was constructed in 1970. Jim and Rick bought the business from their parents in 1978, and that business certainly has grown tremendously.

I knew our members would eagerly ask Jim all kinds of questions in order to improve their skills as gardeners, and I was right! Some of our members have been members for thirty plus years, and they know a lot. To have access to Jim in an informal situation was just delightful!

Jim spoke about the evolution of chemistry to identify the best fertilization process for plants and shared the story of how THRIVE and CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOIL products add nutrients to the soil that are similar to that which is added by compost. Also, we learned about the key role of indigenous

microorganisms and their important to the health of our plants. THRIVE is a fertilizer that increases the minerals and micro-nutrients in the soil that make fruits and vegetables taste better, BUT it can be used on any plants, shrubs, or trees. Jim was asked many great questions from our members! We really appreciated his time and his willingness to share his knowledge.

If you would like to learn more about the Zamzow family, check them out online. The fourth generation is stepping up now to continue their legacy.



Work Day at Children's Museum of Idaho

By Linda Halstead



The **Southwest District Project** for 2019 was the Native Plant Garden at the Children's Museum of Idaho in Meridian. We planted over 36 Plants or more and will have to replace and add more for 2020. We will continue to maintain the garden with SW clubs signing up to come and help weed and make sure the native plants thrive.

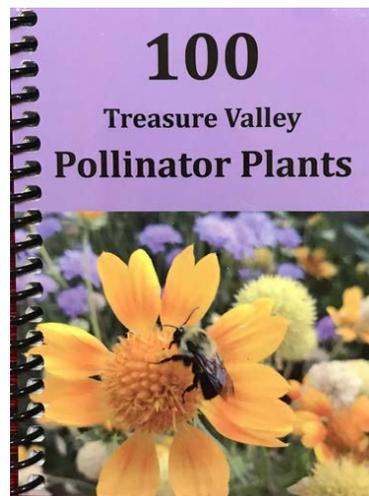
Pollinators Need Our Help!

A new guidebook has been published by Bee City USA-Garden City, Idaho listing one hundred plants that thrive in the Treasure Valley that provide food or ideal habitat for pollinators.

Why be concerned about pollinators? To quote from the book, "The natural habitat of insect pollinators has been steadily replaced by concrete, buildings, and sterile subdivision yards. These environments do not support pollinators. Pesticide use has also played a role in pollinator decline. We depend on pollinators ... and they need our help"

Take This When You Shop for Plants

This book will be very useful while making a trip to your local nursery to buy plants to fill in your garden. The book covers trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals, the plant's common name, as well as the botanical name, and a short description. It also shows when the plant is in bloom, with photo icons depicting which pollinators enjoy that particular plant. **At only five inches tall,**



this guidebook will easily fit inside a small handbag or in your back pocket.

Where To Get 100 Treasure Valley Pollinator Plants

The book will be available to check out at all local Boise, Meridian, Garden City Libraries. However, you are going to want to have the book available when you need it.

So why not purchase it? It is for sale here:

- Far West Landscape & Garden Center
- Draggin' Wing High Desert Nursery
- North End Organic Nursery
- Madeline George Garden Design Nursery
- Idaho Botanical Garden
- MK Nature Center



“Holiday Splendor” Flower Show

By Allen Deitz, President Treasure Valley Arranger Guild

The Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild celebrated the end of our first full year as a new club with a Holiday Design Specialty Flower Show. We sponsored the show – titled “Holiday Splendor” – in cooperation with the Idaho Botanical Garden’s *Winter Garden aGlow* holiday light festival.

The show was staged the first weekend in December and featured 40 very creative floral designs, 12 artistic craft entries celebrating the season, and two education displays. Fourteen of our members (the other four were all out of town) and one member of the general public entered their exhibits. The Idaho Botanical Garden education staff provided one of the education displays.

Several hundred *Winter Garden aGlow* visitors were surprised and delighted to discover this added attraction to a popular Boise holiday event. The Garden staff worked diligently to spread the word and helped direct visitors to the classroom where the show was held. And discussions have already begun on how the traffic flow and information can be improved for next time.



“All aGlitter” – Petite Design



“Frosty the Snowman”



“Holiday Lights”



“White Christmas”



**Flower Show Symposium
Boise, Idaho**

Jo Krallman, Design Instructor:
“Inspired by Imagination”
Featured Plant Material, Multi-Rhythmic,
Abstract, and Duo Designs
Allied Topic: “Design Techniques -
How Do They Do That?”

Darlene Newell, Horticulture Instructor:
Dahlias, Sprays, Trumpet Shaped Flowers
Allied Topic: “Botanical Arts -Horticulture”

September 8 and 9, 2020

Sponsored by Treasure Valley Judges’ Council and Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.

Detailed schedule/registration form available at:

<https://www.gcii.org/index.php?content=events>

Location:

Holiday Inn at the Airport
2970 W. Elder St., Boise, ID 83705
Phone: 208.344.7444

Room rate \$99 plus tax including full buffet breakfast. Limited number of rooms available at this rate. When making reservation, **mention Garden Clubs of Idaho** to obtain group rate.

Registration Information:

Make check payable to **Treasure Valley Judges’ Council (TVJC)** and mail with registration to: Sandra Ford, 6575 W Plantation Lane, Boise, ID 83703

Fees:

Full course (2 days) with exam/audit fee and lunch included each day: **\$150**

One day—Tuesday with lectures, lunch and horticulture workshop: **\$75**

One day—Wednesday with lectures, lunch and design workshop: **\$75**

Late Registration on or after September 1, 2020: **\$35**

Jo Krallman has been a National Garden Clubs Instructor for twenty-six years and has taught in forty states and Mexico. She served as the Arkansas State Flower Show Schools and Credentials Chairman and is a former Arkansas State President. For NGC, Jo served as the Design Instructors Chairman and the Flower Show Achievement Awards Chairman, the Reading Exam Committee, the School Data Committee, the Vision of Beauty Calendar Committee and Handbook Committee. She has given numerous programs, workshops and symposiums in many states and has her designs published in *Designing by Types* book by Harriet Osborne.

Darlene Newell is a National Garden Clubs Master Flower Show Judge, Horticulture, Flower Show Procedure, Symposium Instructor and Daffodil Judge. She has lectured in over twenty states. She is a life member of West Virginia Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs and a member of the American Horticulture, Hosta, and Daffodil Societies. She serves on the NGC Board of Directors as the Horticulture Instructors Chairman and on the state level as the West Virginia Flower Show Chairman.

Southeast District

GCII Annual Convention in Twin Falls is on Schedule “The Magic of the Valley”

Save the dates!! As of April 1, the annual GCII convention in June is still planned to take place. The Convention Committee will be meeting soon and additional details will be finalized and communicated to members. Following is a **TENTATIVE** schedule:

Sunday, June 7

3:00 p.m. Tour to Shoshone Falls, outside of Twin Falls (could include picnic)

7:00 p.m. Dinner on your own (or social hour if we picnic)

Monday, June 8

8:00 a.m. Start Meeting in Buhl

9:00 a.m. Tour of Dr. Patrick Jones gardens and make tinctures. Dr. Jones is a practicing veterinarian, Clinical Herbalist and traditional naturopath

12:00 noon Lunch in Buhl, short talk by Chamber representative

2:30 p.m. Tour of **Orton Botanical Garden** in Twin Falls

7:00 p.m. Dinner and Awards - Location TBA

Tuesday, June 9th

9:00 a.m. Business Meeting continued

Hotel choices:

The Oregon Trail Inn in Buhl 208-543-8814 (very close to Dr. Jones)

Quality Inn Suites in Twin Falls 208-800-5293 (22 minutes to Buhl)

La Quinta, Twin Falls 888-312-2399

Camping opportunities at Thousand Springs, Miracle Springs, or Banbury Hot Springs

Pricing will be similar to past conventions...approximately **\$130** per person.



GCI Committee News

Best Gardening Practices in Idaho

By Sandra Ford, Best Practices in Idaho Chair

The Plants of the Year 2020 (Proven Winner) were chosen at Cultivate 19 in Columbus, Ohio at the National Garden Bureau. Plants that are chosen are based on their popularity, ease of growth, adaptability, versatility and genetic diversity.

Lantana - *Verbenaceae*

The first on the list is an Annual for us, but in warmer year-round climates, it grows as an evergreen shrub or groundcover. Most importantly, it is a pollinator flower that attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. It is related to the verbena and blooms all season. The winner is called 'Hot Blooded Red'. It is an amazing color mostly in bright red with some yellow petals around the center. The other one is 'Bloomify Mango' which is orange and yellow. These plants can be found as Proven Winners in big box stores this spring and most nurseries, but you can also find similar plants with a different name, but still the same brilliant colors. According to the label you will find on the Proven Winner containers is that it possesses iconic style and performance unmatched by lookalikes.



Lavender – *Lavandula* Lavender is the Perennial of the year. This one I will buy for myself even if I have to pay the higher price, because it will be potted as a Proven Winner. The lavender is called 'Madrid Lavish Pink'. The flowers are massive and even the foliage is fragrant. The flowers are not small which is easy to scrap off when it dries like the ones



we probably already have in our garden. The second on the list is 'Bandera Deep Purple' and is compact and bushy and needs no pinching to keep it that way. It blooms for a long time and is self-cleaning and can also produce a second flush of flowers. Lavender requires sun or part sun with at least 6 hours. During our hot summers, it prefers some shade in the afternoon. Blooming begins in early summer and lasts until frost. It blooms on new wood. Cut the whole plant back by 1/3

each spring to promote new growth. Shredded bark for mulch is helpful as it is a shallow rooted plant.

Hydrangea – *Hydrangeaceae* The hydrangea is the Shrub winner. 'Invincibelle Wee White' is a dwarf Annabelle type of shrub. It is low maintenance, grows from 1' to 2.5' and is a tidy mound. It starts blooming a blush pink before turning white and blooms from early summer through frost. I checked my favorite nursery and it will be available this spring in Boise. My Hydrangea is called 'Pee Wee' and is 27 years old and blooms with very large flower heads. I rarely even fertilize it. If I cut a branch off while it is pink, it stays a light pink after drying. Another hydrangea winner is called 'Summer Crush' described as a rebloomer with a profusion of large raspberry-red or neon purple blooms. It grows from 4' to 9' but is compact and can be grown as a patio container plant.



The *Plant America* Community Project Grants Program

By Janet Petersen, *Plant America* Chair

The *Plant America* Community Project Grants Program is sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. for new or existing club projects in their respective communities. The project may be a joint venture with another organization. The project may include: beautification, school gardens/classrooms, implementation of environment practices, horticulture or environmental education plus several other choices.

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. has had several clubs submit applications for this grant. I am very happy to announce the application submitted by **Pat Baker** and the **Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild** for a "Cutting Garden" at the Children's Museum of Idaho, Meridian, Idaho received a \$800 *Plant America* NGC Grant.

The Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild supports a monthly floral design workshop offered at the Children's Museum of Idaho for children ages 2-8 and their parents or caregiver. The workshops, which are offered free of charge, are taught and guided by Guild members. The children make and take home a mini floral centerpiece that coincides with the month's theme such as



Earth Day, Valentine's Day, etc. The sessions are well attended with more than 50 adults and children participating each month. Currently flowers and foliage are being purchased for these workshops and it is the goal of the Guild to design and plant a cutting garden with the children, so plant material for the workshops can be grown onsite.

In what was once a parking lot, the garden is located just outside the gates of the museum so it can be viewed by the public. Children will work alongside Guild members to label plant material as it is planted, learn how to cut and condition flowers so they can transfer this knowledge to their home gardens. In addition to annual and perennial plants grown for flowers and foliage, pollinator plants will be included which are also contained in the pollinator garden adjacent to the proposed cutting garden.

This project will impact more than 70,000 annual visitors to the museum in addition to the 600+ workshop participants that will directly benefit. The garden will serve as an example to promote the love of gardening to both adults and children that view and work in the garden.

Now the fun begins! Planting a cutting garden at The Children's Museum of Idaho.



GCII Scholarship

By Joyce Parr, Scholarship Chair



Congratulations to **Katherine Woodhouse** who has been chosen as the 2020-2021 GCII scholarship winner. A graduate student in her first year, Katherine is attending the University of Idaho, Boise, with a major in Landscape Architecture. Additional studies include Horticulture, Biology, Technology, Ecology, and Research. Katherine's goals are to design urban spaces for ecological health, including pollinator gardens and native plants, and spaces that provide recreation and horticultural education with consideration of wetlands and small habitats.

Your Garden Club is a Support Group

By Karen Martin, Membership Chair

Research shows that happy adults usually have a support group of like-minded individuals. Luckily, one such group is your Garden Club. Club members give their time, talents and share their passion with fellow club members and gardeners alike. Perfect strangers can connect when gardening becomes the topic.

Talking gardening with neighbors and friends, opens the door to inviting someone new to come visit your Garden Club. Many current club members joined their club after having been introduced by a friend or family member. Reach out to potential members by inviting people who are gardeners, or who want to learn about gardening, to visit one of your club events.



Native Plants, Backyard Habitats & Pollinators: Bringing the Outside In

By Karen Martin, Co-Chair

If you are like me, you are trying to be mindful of the plants that you grow, so that you pick plants that are beneficial to our wildlife and native pollinators. What I have over looked, was the beauty and grace that those very same plants can bring to me, inside my home.

The next time you look outside your home and see a beautiful fall colored branch, or you can gather up some branches pruned off a bush; bring a branch or stem inside your home and place it in a vase or jar. A single stem, or multiple branches showing some buds beginning to swell, can be a beautiful thing displayed in a simple vase.

As flowers begin to bloom, don't forget to cut a flower for you, and bring it into your home to brighten your spirits. The backyard does not need to stop at the door to the house. Bring nature into your home and be inspired and amazed.

This idea was brought home to me when I checked out the new book by Joanna Gaines, *Homebody: A Guide to Creating Spaces You Never Want to Leave*. Joanna Gaines and her husband Chip have the HGTV home remodeling show Fixer Upper. Studying the pages in Joanna's book, you will find inspiration for incorporating a simple green branch from a bush, or a selection of branches. These can be a decoration and accent piece to your décor.





ORTON BOTANICAL GARDEN, INC

By Robyn McCarthy, Chair Arboretums, Botanical and Memorial Gardens

Save the Date! June 7 – 9, 2020 is the GCII Annual State Convention in Twin Falls. On the itinerary of the convention will be a tour of the Orton Botanical Garden, Inc. which is a non-profit garden that specializes in drought tolerant and native plants.

As stated in the introductory brochure, the mission of the garden is to (1) demonstrate cacti and succulents that can withstand very cold temperatures, (2) educate people of all ages about cold hardy succulents, native and drought tolerant plants and their importance in the natural and human environment, and (3) encourage water conservation through the demonstration of arid landscaping.

This is 5-acre garden housing 23 varieties of Yuccas and 50 varieties of cactus. Drought tolerant plants include evergreen trees and shrubs, deciduous trees and shrubs, perennial flowers and groundcovers, grasses, and succulents. Many of the plants you will see growing are for sale.

Check the website at Orton Botanical Garden, Inc. www.ortonbotanicalgarden.com for more information. See you there!



2020 IDAHO NATIVE TREE PROJECT

By Robyn McCarthy, Chair Arboretums, Botanical and Memorial Gardens

I am promoting National Garden Clubs initiative to reach out to all members of their communities in the **Plant America with Trees** effort. The NGC goal is to plant 165,000 trees each year of the 2019 – 2021 administration. All it takes is each member to plant one native tree.

According to Victoria Bergesen, NGC Climate Change Chairman, each tree planted reaches far beyond the physical planting. Studies are finding that climate change causes depression. Even planting a small native tree in a small garden provides an opportunity to talk with neighbors about choosing a tree, planting and nurturing it. However large or small your tree planting project may be, it is important to include community education and especially children into your plans. We are focusing on native trees because not only do they sequester more carbon, but they support wildlife, increasing insect populations that are vital to nesting mother birds and chicks.

You can find resources for native trees of Idaho on the internet for all southern, eastern, northern and Boise areas.



Plant a Tree

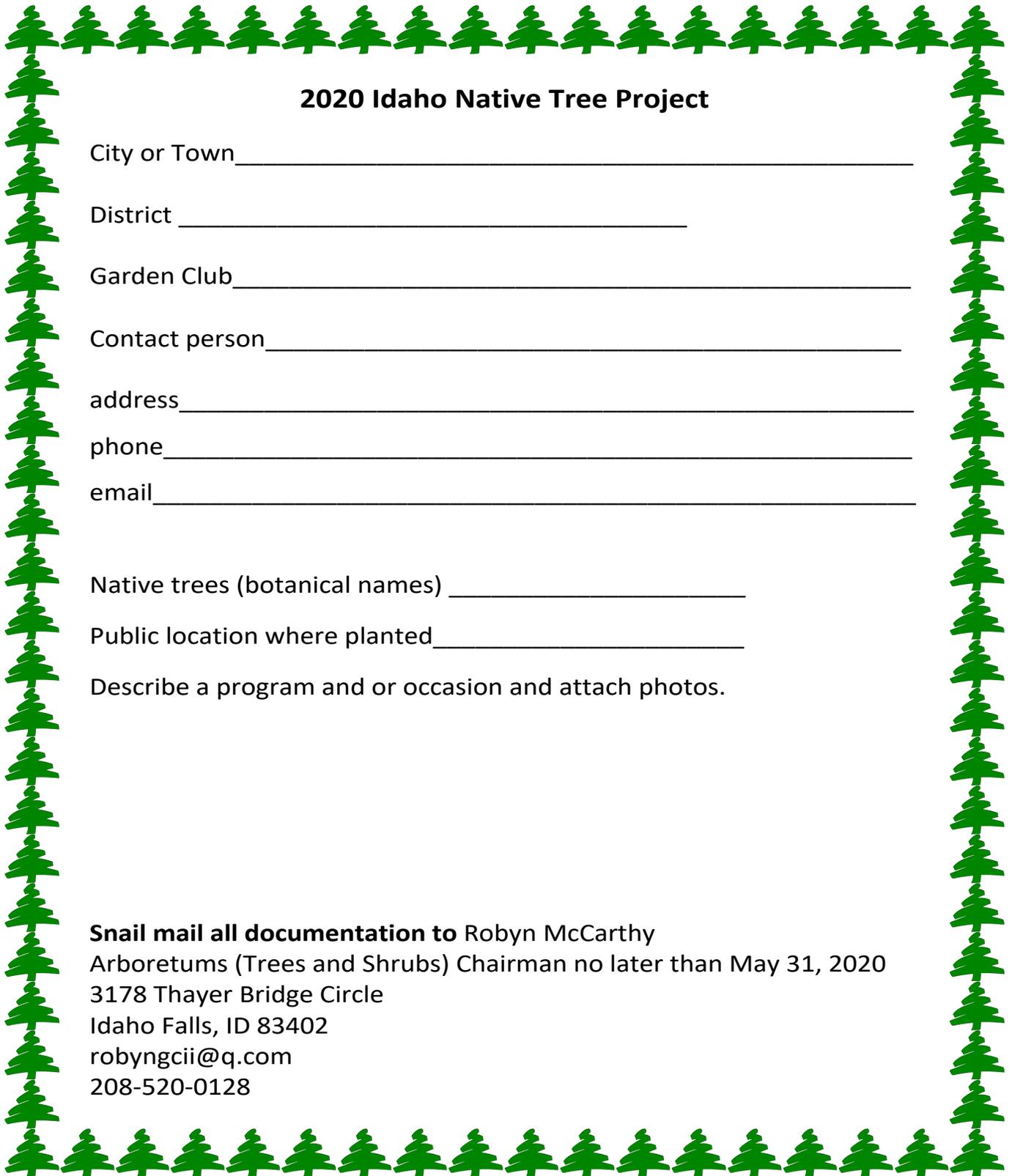
Photo from Sawtooth Botanical Garden

You could be just in time for Arbor Day on April 24th. Did you know that if you become a member of Arbor Day Foundation (see The Time for Trees - arborday.org) you may receive 10 free trees for your zone area? They are sent bare root and can be started in pots for later transplanting. Even if we are still dealing with the COVID -19 virus you could have a small gathering with your family or a few friends because you will be outside and easily practice social distancing.

I will keep track of all the native trees planted in Idaho. This would also include those trees already planted in the autumn of 2019. If you will include photos and descriptions of your project, they will be on display at our coming GCII Convention. Please send your tree count to me at any time on email robynGCII@q.com . In

addition, if you would like to share your project with the state and send me photos, please fill out the 2020 Idaho Native Tree Project form. I will bring a trifold poster to the GCII Convention in Twin Falls with a display of your projects.

A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in. – *Greek proverb*



2020 Idaho Native Tree Project

City or Town _____

District _____

Garden Club _____

Contact person _____

address _____

phone _____

email _____

Native trees (botanical names) _____

Public location where planted _____

Describe a program and or occasion and attach photos.

Snail mail all documentation to Robyn McCarthy
Arboretums (Trees and Shrubs) Chairman no later than May 31, 2020
3178 Thayer Bridge Circle
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
robbyngcii@q.com
208-520-0128



Wishing all our members and their loved ones the very best for staying well during this most difficult time.

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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