



Gem State Gardener

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.

President's Message

The Summer of 2020

The summer of 2020 has become an historical event for sure. We typically took it for granted that we will have to fit as much as we can into our



summer since school will be starting soon and the kiddos will all be back to learning. That meant we had to remember to look for the flashing yellow light while driving in school zones. I use to hear a sigh of relief heard around the world by all parents the first day their children stepped on the bus.

But this summer there is nothing taken for granted. When I think of all the cancelations we have endured, the faces of our club members we have missed, I remind myself, Karen Jean, "When you aren't getting what you want you are getting a lesson." I can't believe how much I have learned about we humans in the midst of a crisis such as never seen before in my lifetime. And that is why I would like to take this opportunity to tell all of you how proud I am to belong to GCII and NGC.

We, as members, have coordinated efforts in following the health guidelines for those that chose to meet when summer arrived. I especially want to thank club members that have seen to it that our projects were maintained. When the going got tough we headed for what we do best, our gardens. We have planted new things and tried others for the first time. Our yards have never had so much attention and it shows. Not to mention some wonderful rains. Yes, this season will be called the Summer of 2020 for many memorable reasons.

What I will remember is what we GCII members of this beautiful state have tacitly known... that life goes on and will return to normal because that's what life does. Love and life are both like the grass, they always come back.

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

GCII Officers 2019-21

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

Photos from Karen Jean Lowe's Garden in July



Clearwater District

Nezperce Good Neighbor Garden Awards

By LeeAnn McMaster



Megan and Kenny Kuther are the recipients of the **Nezperce Garden Club 2020 Good Neighbor Award** for their **floral garden**. Their small but well-maintained yard is vibrant with color throughout the summer months. In the Spring daffodils and tulips bloom in an array of colors and as spring turns to summer the flower beds explode into a kaleidoscope of beauty and symmetry throughout the garden.

The majestic peonies are done now but the delphiniums take their place with blooms of pinkish red, white, and blue just in time for the Fourth of July. Violets line their walkway as rose bushes adorn their lovely home. The lilies are beginning to bloom, as the scent of the tall but elegant Lavender and Salvia create a gateway in the mind that takes you back to a time long ago. These flowers are not only beautiful to the eye but are terrific at attracting beneficials to the garden. I enjoy taking walks by their home and watching the butterflies, hummingbirds and bees doing their part to help in the garden.

Megan and Kenny have very busy schedules but have managed to take the time to transform their garden into an enchanting place to enjoy and be proud of as well.

Keep up the good work Megan and Kenny!

Continued, next page

Good Neighbor Awards, continued

For the second year in a row, **Ashley and Tyler Nelson have won the Nezperce Garden Club 2020 Good Neighbor Award for their vegetable garden.** This year they decided to add another section to their garden. They named the new section of the garden “The End of Time Garden”. It was named this because they have had so much extra time on their hands because of the shut-ins due to COVID-19.

This vegetable garden is outside of Ashley’s place of business which is next to her home. The corn they planted was knee high by the Fourth of July. They also are growing cucumbers, potatoes and squash. The garden is surrounded by galvanized tin three feet high to prevent unwanted critters from getting in and eating all their delicious veggies. They planted beans, carrots, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, tomatoes, zucchini, basil, cilantro, and rosemary in their vegetable garden at home.

On one side of the garden are tall marigolds which act as a repellent to unwanted pests. On the other side of the garden stand giant ten-foot tall sunflowers next to the fence. The sunflowers attract beneficial insects to the garden.

Ashely said she was anxious to start planting the garden this year and started planting the first of May instead of waiting for Mother’s Day like she usually does. The Nelson’s are looking forward to entering their vegetables in the Lewis County Fair this fall but they also know that with the fall comes a lot of hard work. They will be busy picking, freezing, and canning the vegetables to store for the winter months.

But what they enjoy the most about growing their garden together is eating the vegetables right off the vine. The whole family enjoys the fruit of their labor year-round. Wonderful lettuce, cucumbers, and tomatoes make for a yummy fresh summer salad.

Isn’t it refreshing to see that even in the midst of all the chaos on this gigantic blue planet that we call home, God has provided us with the knowledge and skills, and given us free will to make and create beauty and sustenance in our own backyards? We can share our gifts with others and make our little piece of the world beautiful for all to enjoy if they choose to.

Well done Ashley and Tyler!



Nezperce Garden Club Scholarships

By LeeAnn McMaster, Nezperce Garden Club Scholarship Chairperson

The Nezperce Garden Club started a scholarship program ten years ago to help students entering college purchase books or other supplies. The club started out funding the scholarship program by producing their own garden club calendar until 2016. The Nezperce Garden Club received awards every year, winning first place three consecutive years in a row from National Garden Clubs.

The calendars were filled with pictures of local gardens in the Nezperce community, with pertinent information like club members birthdays, club meetings and events, Clearwater District, Garden Clubs of Idaho, Pacific Region and National Garden Club meetings and convention dates. Now the club holds a plant and baked foods sale each year to fund the scholarships.

This year four out of eight graduating students from Nezperce High School applied for these scholarships. Each year students come up with amazingly creative ways to write the essay portion of the application. This year's applicants were no different. The judges had a difficult time choosing just one student to receive the scholarship.

Thanks to the amazing community support of the Nezperce Garden Club fund raisers, the club was able to award two scholarships in the amount of three hundred dollars each to two exceptionally bright students. **Kinyon Keith** and **Eden Hand** are the recipients of this year's Nezperce Garden Club Scholarships. Congratulations Ladies!

For more information on the Nezperce Garden Club check us out on our website at www.nezpercegardenclub.yolasite.com/ or our Facebook Page at Nezperce Garden Club



Sandie Cardwell, Marie Elven, LeeAnn McMaster, Rosalea Figgins, Lorna Inglet



Kinyon Keith



Eden Hand

Southwest District

Children's Museum of Idaho Receives National Garden Clubs Award

By Pat Baker, Executive Director

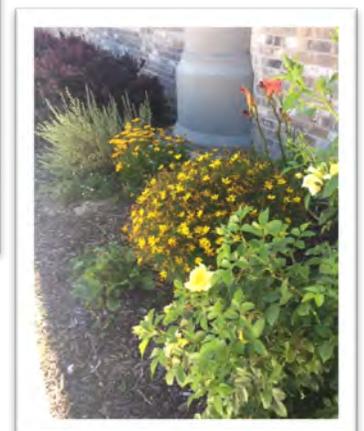
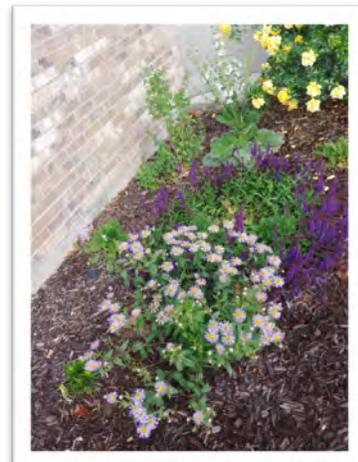
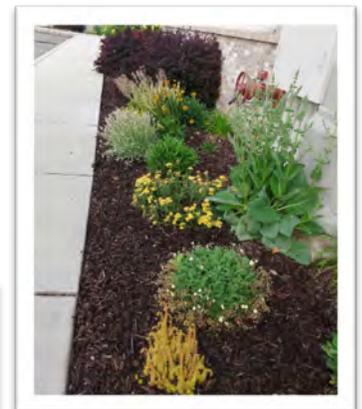
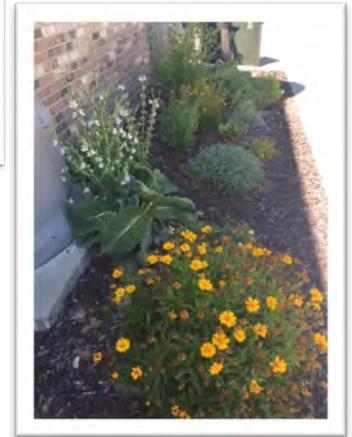
The Children's Museum of Idaho, located in Meridian, was fortunate to receive an \$800 award from National Garden Clubs for a cutting garden at the museum. Pre-COVID the museum held monthly workshops for children ages 2-8 where they were taught about various flowers and how to use them in arrangements. These take-home mini centerpieces were made with fresh flowers that were purchased by the museum and there was no charge for children to participate in the workshops. The museum has reopened and these workshops will resume.

Early this Spring the museum staff incorporated flowers and other plant material that can be used in these workshops, into the Pollinator Garden at the museum. This garden bed had previously been part of the parking lot but was transformed into a beautiful oasis where children learn about pollinators and why they are so important to our food supply.

In addition to plants, compost and mulch was added to this bed along with a new drip irrigation system. The museum would like to design informational displays for the wall of the adjoining barn that will tell the story of a "Pollinator Garden" and the many plants that attract, house and feed the various insects and animals that visit the garden.

The \$800 NGC award has been entirely used to develop the garden and if you or your garden club would like to contribute, please contact Pat Baker, Executive Director, 790 S Progress Ave., Meridian, 83642, patbaker@live.com or 208.870.1299.

The Southwest District is excited and honored to have received the **Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. First Place Award for Wildflowers-Native Flora** for their support of the **Children's Museum of Idaho**. SW District clubs, under the leadership of Director Linda Halstead, have been involved in the planting and maintenance of the museum's pollinator garden.



Golden Garden Club News

By Lisa Artiga

In June, the **Golden Garden Club** of Boise had a safe, socially distanced meeting outdoors at **JoAnn's Iris Garden** in Eagle. Members enjoyed the informative presentation by JoAnn. President **Carol Hill** conducted the last meeting of her term and new officers were elected for 2020-2022. After the meeting members enjoyed a stroll through the acres of beautiful irises.

Members of the newly elected Board are:

President: **Meghan Shepard**

Vice-President: **Denise Lile**

Secretary: **Shauna Marceau**

Treasurer: **Helga Fealko**

Members-at-Large: **Sandy Ford and Anne Clarkson**

We wish to thank and acknowledge the contributions of members who served on the Board from 2018-2020:

President: **Carol Hill**

Vice-President: **Meghan Shepard**

Secretary: **Shauna Marceau**

Treasurer: **Helga Fealko**

Members-at-Large: **Sandy Ford and Anne Clarkson**



The Rich History of the Golden Garden Club Scholarship Program

By Sandra Ford, Scholarship Committee Chair

Twenty-one years ago, the Southwest District of Idaho Garden Club, Inc. presented a proclamation to Don Dick, former manager and part owner of Union Farm and Garden Center on Orchard Street in Boise which was called the Don Dick Scholarship Fund. Any high school graduate planning to attend the Boise State University Horticulture program was eligible.

Don ran the garden center business for 30 years and had a weekly radio show to call in questions anyone had on anything involving gardening. Unfortunately, Don developed cancer and won his first battle with the disease, but not the second round. Garnette Edwards organized a Celebration of Life party in his honor at Edwards Greenhouse in 1999. Over the years, Don's name was dropped from the title of the scholarship fund.

The scholarship fund/program has changed hands over the years between garden clubs, and some years no one applied for the scholarship. During the last 5 years, since Golden Garden Club took

over the program, the club has offered a \$500 scholarship to the horticulture program now run by the College of Western Idaho. Thanks to the very successful annual plant sale each spring, money has been available for this scholarship along with donations to several other charitable organizations.

In 2019, the scholarship program changed again, making it accessible to students in the Southwest District (Ada and Canyon counties) from institutions of higher education that provide programs in horticulture, environmental studies, or agriculture. Golden Garden Club has developed a Scholarship Policy aligned with IRS regulations and an application that is distributed to eligible colleges and universities.

This year's winner was **Bonnie Holtry**, a student from the College of Western Idaho with a goal to obtain an Associates of Applied Science in Horticulture degree and become a Horticulturist with an emphasis in designing personalized landscapes for urban consumers.

Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild News

TVAG President **Allen Deitz** recently communicated good news to our members about our **GCII Awards**. He congratulated members and thanked them for their active support and involvement.

The awards are:

Award #1 -- Standard or Small Standard Flower Show (Club sponsored) - Schedule

for the schedule from our October 2019 small standard show, "Weather: Choose Your Own in Idaho", chaired by Anita Gonzalez

Award #5 -- Holiday Standard Flower Show (Club sponsored) - Schedule

for the schedule from our December 2019 holiday design specialty show, "Holiday Splendor!", chaired by Janet Petersen

Award #11A -- Yearbook - (Under 20 members)

for our 2019-2020 TVAG yearbook

Award #14C -- Youth Involvement – Club involvement with youth

for our youth project supporting the monthly flower arranging workshops at the Children's Museum of Idaho

A Unique Fundraiser

By Lisa Artiga

In June, **Treasure Valley Arranger's Guild** participated in a unique "fundraiser." A local couple requested we create their wedding floral arrangements from their personal cutting garden in exchange for a generous donation to TVAG. The bride and groom wanted a tropical theme for their outdoor wedding and their amazing garden provided an abundance of flowers and foliage. **Karen Martin** coordinated the effort and **Anita Gonzalez** provided socially distant work space in her beautiful garden and the use of her commercial refrigerator to storing the flowers overnight. Members cut flowers on a Thursday morning, created the arrangements on Friday morning and delivered all to the wedding venue on Saturday. It was a wonderful, creative and rewarding experience thanks to the many members who participated.



Janet Petersen and Lisa Artiga



GCI Committee News

Many thanks to **LeeAnn McMaster** for her work as **GCI Awards Chair**. She is pleased to report the winners of the current award cycle:



2020 GCI AWARDS

(2019 Award Year)

Treasure Valley Judges Council

4	Standard Flower Show (Judges Council) – Schedule	1st place	\$100
			Total \$100

South West District Garden Clubs

17B	Wildflowers-Native Flora (District sponsored)	1st Place	\$100
			Total \$100

Nampa Garden Club

10	Civic Improvement	1st Place	\$100
11C	Yearbook - (30-44 members)	1st Place	\$100
14C	Youth Involvement – Club involvement with youth	2nd Place	\$50
14C	Youth Involvement – Club involvement with youth	3rd Place	\$30
			Total \$280

Nezperce Garden Club

13A	Newsletter (Club)	1st Place	\$100
22A	Promotion – Website (Club)	1st Place	\$100
22A	Promotion – Facebook (Club)	2nd Place	\$50
22A	Promotion – Educational Program (Club)	1st Place	\$100
			Total \$350

Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild

1	Standard Flower Show (Club) - Schedule	1st Place	\$100
5	Holiday Standard Flower Show (Club) - Schedule	1st Place	\$100
11A	Yearbook - (Under 20 members)	1st Place	\$100
14C	Youth Involvement – Club involvement with youth	1st Place	\$100
			Total \$400

Valley Garden Club

11C	Yearbook - (30- 44 members)	2nd Place	\$50
22A	Promotion – Facebook (Club)	1st Place	\$100
			Total \$150

Statewide Total \$1,380

Best Gardening Practices

By Sandra Ford, Chair

It may seem strange to see tomato plants growing between my roses, but I found a way to outfox the squirrels. Thankfully squirrels have no taste for roses, so they leave them alone. I no longer have a vegetable garden, but I do enjoy fresh tomatoes on my salad during the summer. Two are ready now.

Deer on the other hand! We planted a five-way apple tree in our back yard 25 years ago. I have yet to enjoy a single apple. The squirrels pull them off and the deer eat them green. They are also very entertaining. At 7:00 a.m., this day of writing, two does and three babies passed through the backyard, heading to neighbors down the street. With three open back yards (longer than a football field), against the Boise River, what could be more entertaining but to watch the babies use it as a racetrack. Free at Last!

A neighbor down the street walking by asked my husband, "How do you keep the deer out of your yard?" He replied, "She sprays the heck out of the yard." You have to know when they are more tempted for a snack. Early in the spring, the new growth is fresh, tender and thornless. Then they go for unopened buds, usually the week of the rose show. They do not eat them once they bloom. Then again they will in the fall when the rose forms hips or Vitamin C. I use spray products like Deer Be Gone, or Repel All, which also works for squirrels and rabbits.

Two annuals I planted this year in pots, which are new to me to grow was a **Bidens Asteraceae** and the star-shaped blooms of a **Phlox Palemoniaceae** called 'Popstars'. Both only grow from 10" to 12". One plant of a Bidens with its brilliant yellow center and dark orange petals filled a 10" pot. Six plants, 3 each of red, white and blue, filled a 12" pot of the Phlox. The Phlox are so lacy in blooms and foliage. Another annual I potted up is a **Salvia quaranitica** called 'Bodacious Rhythm and Blues'. The description on the label says height 1-3', width 24-36," spikes of cobalt-blue blooms on

dark stems. It attracts pollinators and hummingbirds.

One morning I saw a hummingbird trying to get to the inside of one of the flowers. I was surprised that it is an annual, so I planted it in a pot. This fall, I will cut it back and bring it into the greenhouse for the winter. What have I got to lose?

For all the gardeners, the one place so many people like to go during the summer is to the fair to see what grows in Idaho, from livestock, to flowers and vegetables, floral designs, photography to crafts. Not this year! My yard is all dressed up with no place to go.

I had several surprises this year. I buy an **Easter Lily *Lillium longiflorum*** almost every year. When the flowers finish blooming, I cut the stems back and plant it in the yard. Last year's lily just finished blooming with more flowers than when I bought it. Lilies are all over my yard and bloom at different times and some are over 6' tall and require loose stacking. Once I tied it to a post and the wind snapped it off right at the string.

I am not one for advice. I plant my gladiolus, hopefully in time for the fair which is approximately 80 days from planting to blooming. The miniatures bloom a week earlier, and a special one my children ordered from a hybridizer for Mother's Day years ago which they could name and called it 'Sandra Ford'. It looks like a pink wax flower. I have never seen another one like it. It blooms from 100 to 110 days later. It should bloom next week, one month before the fair date if we were to have a fair this year. Go Fish!

Don't miss the photos on next page...



Bidens Asteraceae



Phlox Palemoniaceae



Two views of Sandy's Ford's beautiful garden in front of her home.



Easter Lily

2020 IDAHO NATIVE TREE PROJECT

By Robyn McCarthy

Arboretums, Botanical and Memorial Gardens Chair

I am continuing the promotion of the 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.

Since everyone has had more time to do things they never had time for, I do hope you have planted a native Idaho tree since the ground has thawed. If not, you still have time until the ground freezes to do so and then again in the spring. This project has just been extended until May 31, 2021 thanks to the COVID-19 virus.

IDEAS FOR INCLUDING CHILDREN IN YOUR PLANTING ACTIVITIES:

Ages 2-3 Move like a tree in the wind. Look for shapes and patterns in leaves, bark, cones, flowers and seeds. Talk about the colors in nature.

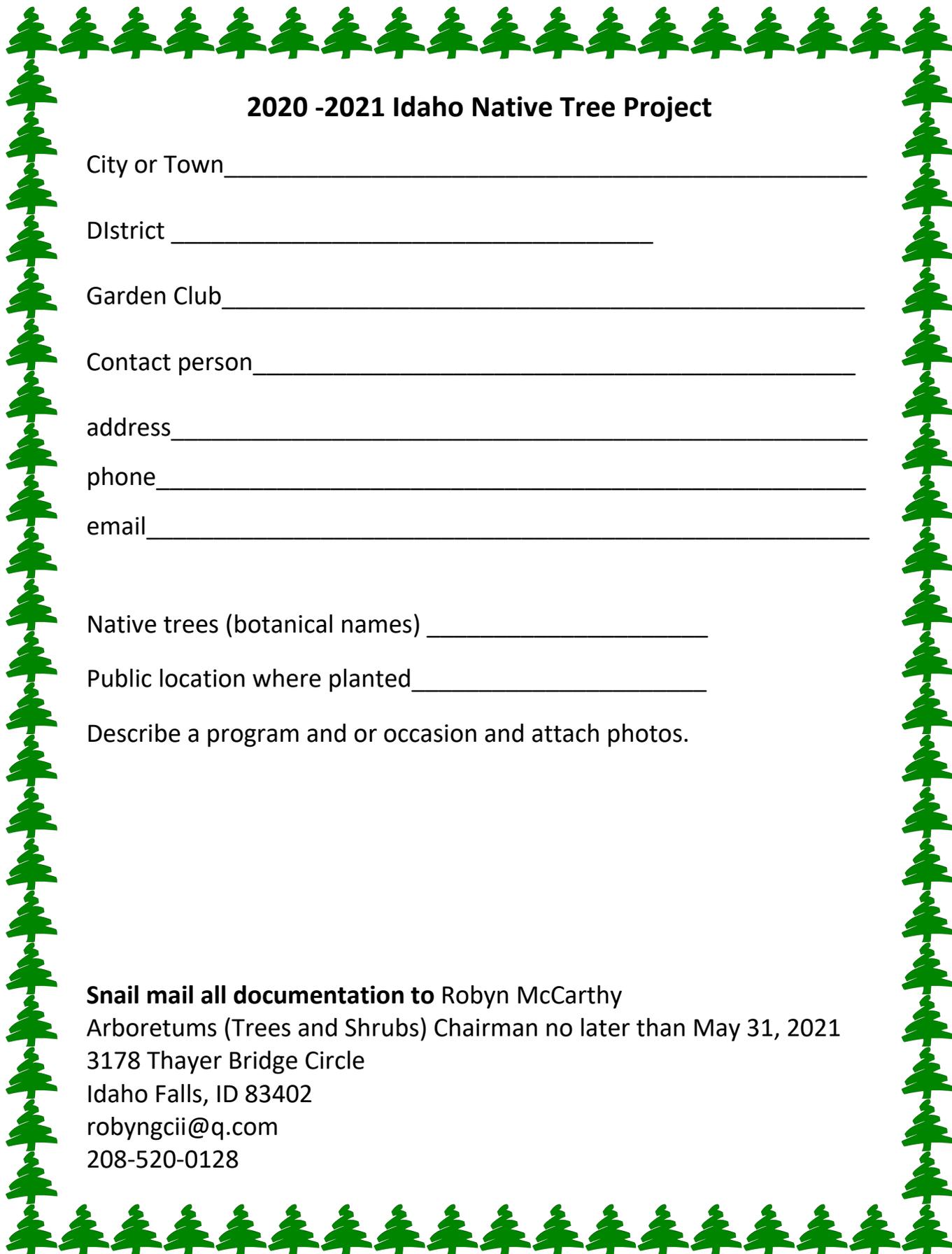
Ages 4-5 Sort cones and seeds. Plant and care for seeds. List colors and natural objects by color groupings.

Ages 6-8 Make nature crafts from bark, seeds, and leaves. Visit botanical gardens.

Ages 9-11 Teach skills such as pruning. Help with tree related activities in scouts and 4-H. Organize a memorial tree activity.

When you send me the Idaho 2020 Native Tree Project form, I can keep track of all the native trees planted in Idaho. This includes those trees already planted in 2019. If you will include photos and descriptions of your project, they will be on display at the 2021 GCII Convention. Please send me your tree count at any time on email robynGCII@q.com. Please refer to the April 2020 Gem State Gardener for more details. Any questions? Call me at 208-520-0128.





2020 -2021 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, 2021
3178 Thayer Bridge Circle
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
rob yngcii@q.com
208-520-0128

Native Plants, Backyard Habitats & Pollinators

By Karen Martin, Chair

Writing an article as Chair of Native Plants, Backyard Habitats & Pollinators took a different twist for this publication. Spring and Summer of 2020 have given me a deep appreciation for my home garden. The garden has been a refuge and a place of escape. It became more important than ever to create a backyard habitat for family members. What was a storage shed became an outdoor patio. Cleaning out closets provided enough décor to begin to decorate walls and furnish the outdoor room. The outdoor room is close enough for watching birds, appreciating the flower and vegetable gardens, and connecting to the neighborhood with sights and sounds. The backyard is now truly a habitat for man, insects and birds.

You hear sayings about encouraging people to explore their backyard. Living in the Treasure Valley affords those who want to adventure out to the mountains, some beautiful habitat in our backyard.

Mores Mountain Trail is above Bogus Basin Ski Resort. The perimeter 3.2-mile hike is designated as an easy hike and it will give you views of the Treasure Valley, the ridges surrounding Horseshoe Bend, and views of Shafer Butte. The trail travels along meadows, rock outcroppings and wildflowers. Lavender Lupine, red Indian Paintbrush, purple Penstemon, Sticky Geranium, white and maroon Sego Lily and yellow Cinquefoil are a few of the wildflowers you can see during summer hikes.

Outside of Idaho City, drive 13 miles on Highway 21 to **Mores Creek Summit**. Take a right turn and drive up a steep, steady climb to the top for the Sunset Ridge Trailhead. Some people choose to hike up to the Trailhead, but this would be a strenuous hike. Sunset Ridge Trail is for hikers, horses and motorcycles. This trail is a little more challenging when you hit the loose gravel areas. The views are spectacular and wildflowers will add to the beauty.



Membership: Connecting and Social Distancing

By Karen Martin, Chair

Chinden Garden Club had their first meeting in July. It had been months since we had been able to meet. This meeting was possible by using **ZOOM**, a free video communication tool. We had those who connected using their Smart Phone, iPad or laptop. A desktop computer is another option, but this device usually does not have a microphone or camera. The microphone lets you talk with others. The camera lets others see you. You can choose if you want to have your face or a scene that is visible to others.

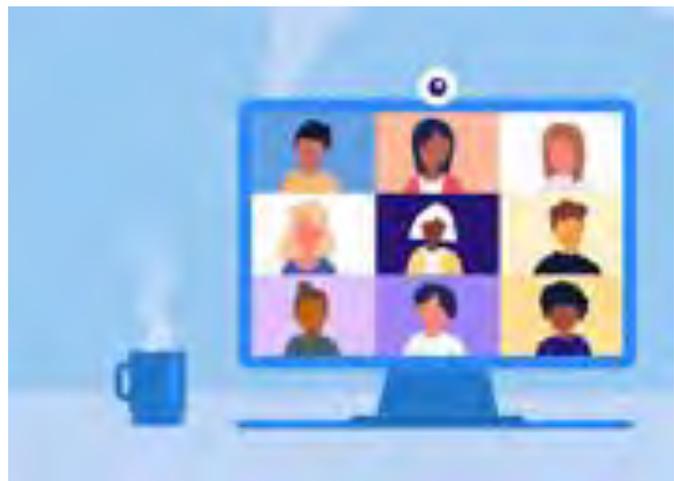
The guest speaker gave a PowerPoint presentation that contained photos and text that members could view from the comfort and safety of their home. There were even video clips that were activated during the presentation. Technology connected us when it wasn't possible to physically gather together. Hearing familiar voices, seeing faces of fellow garden club members and spending time learning about a gardening topic was refreshing.

Garden Clubs, I encourage you to get creative and find ways to continue to educate and connect with members.

******Challenges become opportunities******



Get tips at:
<https://support.zoom.us>





Activities will all be socially distant. Masks are required to participate.
For more information and tickets, visit the Idaho Botanical Garden website:
<https://idahobotanicalgarden.org/>

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:

www.gcii.org

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