

Gem State Gardener

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.



President's Message

Highlights of the Pacific Region Convention August 9th-12th 2021

The Convention was held in Silverton, Oregon, forty miles south of Portland in some sprawling fruit and wine country. We all stayed at the Oregon Garden Resort which is situated on eighty acres that started out as a waste dump site years ago. It was also a ranch that raised Arabian horses in its day. Now it is eighty acres of gardens and home to the Oregon Garden Resort. It was a perfect fit for a garden convention which made it most convenient for all of us to just head off in any direction and enjoy the plant life during breaks. We stayed in wonderful cottages that had a fireplace and individual patios. The best part for me is you could actually open two large windows for some whispering pines at night.

I attended board meetings, workshops, social hours, nightly banquets, and of course team and business meetings. I learned so much and made some new friends in the process.

Our next Pacific Region convention will be held in Las Vegas Nevada in April 25-27, 2022.

It will be Idaho's turn to select a new Pacific Region director coming up in 2023-2025. Heads up for anyone who would like to represent our beautiful state as a new director or an attendee.

GCII Officers 2021-23

President:

Karen Jean Lowe
Southwest District

1st Vice President:

Becky Loomis
Clearwater District

2nd Vice President:

Vicky Torres
Southeast District

Recording Secretary:

Linda Welch
Southwest District

Treasurer:

Kathy Costanti
Southwest District

Parliamentarian:

Louisa Cone
Southwest District

Advisor:

Claudia Hambacker
Southwest District



**Karen Jean Lowe at the Blue
Star Memorial Ceremony**



Images from the Pacific Region Convention
by Karen Jean Lowe



Clearwater District

Nezperce Garden Club

By Rosalea Figgins, President

The Nezperce Garden Club GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD for 2021 goes out to everyone who is working hard to keep our town looking beautiful. We have so many beautiful flower and veggie gardens this year that it was impossible to pick just one. We went all over town and took pictures of as many of the good-looking gardens as we could find. Here are some of the flower gardens!



We got to talk with many of these people while we were out and about taking pictures and met some new faces. What a good time we had! Here are some of the veggie gardens.



The Nezperce Garden Club visited the Lavender Park at Peck Idaho in June of this year. What a wonderful hostess we had and what a wonderful place to visit. When we were done with the tour, we were served lavender lemonade and lavender cookies! YUM YUM!!!!!! She has a great shop there. full of items made from lavender and her sheep's wool. What a great day! We took a sack lunch and were able to eat outside of the curio shop.



We cleaned up the Memorial Garden in Nezperce this Spring and planted red and white geraniums and blue lobelia on the small hill. Despite our best efforts the airplanes taking off just across the road from our garden were blowing our upper plants over and it was hard to keep it looking good. Also, our water source has to be shared with campers in the city park. Seeing our dilemma, the City Council has offered the Garden Club another beautiful area to us that is right on the main street of town which is Oak. We will be meeting with the city maintenance man to talk about the best plants to put there and how to arrange the markers to make it a beautiful Memorial Park. Water is right there and will be enjoyed by many. We cannot wait to get started on this project this fall and see all the beautiful flowers that come up in the spring.



Hill and Valley Garden Club News

Spring Through Summer on the Palouse

By Kathy Cassin

Those living on the Palouse have experienced a rather rough spring and summer for gardening as has much of the northwest. The fall may not be much better. The spring temperatures were cool delaying the warming of the soil. With the short growing season of only 58 days from frost to frost as a rule on the Palouse, a greenhouse would be critical to success it seems in order to get the vegetables going. There was a serious lack of rain in the spring and while there was some snowpack from the mountains, the lack of spring rains really affected region. There was no limit to early plants at the garden centers and box stores with plenty of vegetables, perennials, annuals, fruit trees, nor to the abundance of catalogue choices. As soon as seen in the stores, people were out shopping. With Covid issues, people were anxious to start their gardens.

The hay farmers mainly got one cutting this year as compared to three last year. But again, rain was seriously lacking. Then it went from cool to almost immediately hot, into the 80's to 100's and little cooling off at night. Now the grass is brown, animals are hurting for access to green areas and they are perusing the gardens for food. Those that have access to springs, artesian wells, city water access, irrigation systems, or deep wells with a good flow per minute are surviving with some pretty gardens. Those with low flow wells gave up early and went to containers mainly. Personally, I ran my well down after two hours of watering one day that I got fearful and quit watering unfortunately. Being a Master Gardener, I shouldn't lay claim to the title at least for this season. Bushes died, trees are dying, fruit is extremely small and to replant in the fall may become costly. Dry lightning, light isolated rainfall off and on for no more than 3-4 days has been the order of the summer, and smoke-filled skies, which have at least made for beautiful sunsets. Nonetheless the club has been busy.

The HVGC went in with the Jullietta Elementary school to celebrate Arbor Day and planted a maple

tree near the school playground. The janitor helped to dig the hole and helped with the planting of it.

In May, Locust Blossom Festival happened and while it was decided to not have a juried flower show, as many members were away for that weekend, some members and community members did do some arrangements, and many brought in horticulture exhibits which were quite beautiful. Ribbons were only presented to the elementary children's vegetable garden planters.

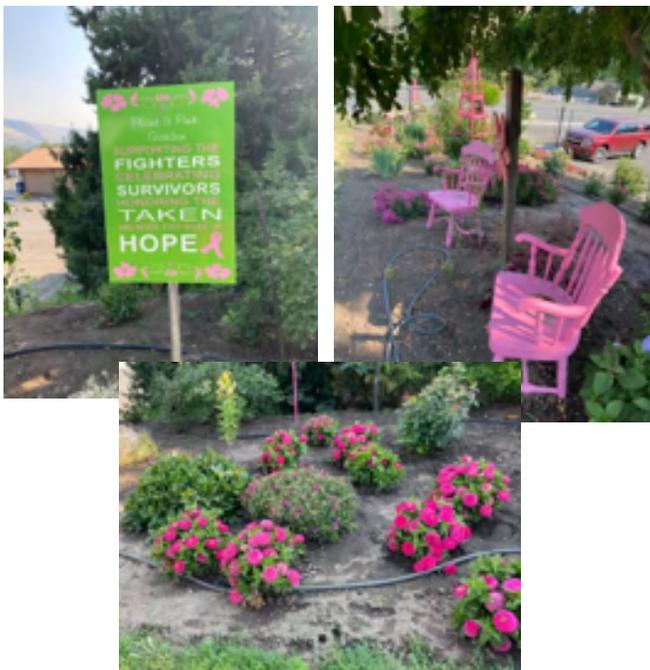
One of our main projects was to redo the town welcome signs at the north and south side of Kendrick. Members also signed up on a monthly schedule to plant and maintain the gardens around each sign, south side is irrigated, north side is not. The club also maintains a native plant garden as well. A committee was formed to design a more modern welcome sign. The design when finalized was taken to City Council for approval and the Voc Ag department at the Kendrick high school to approve it and make arrangements for a student to use the plasma cutter to create the final approved design. It was then off to the paint shop for the powder coating, and then to the town's maintenance worker to get them hung. We had hoped to have them in place before Locust Blossom but didn't quite make it. They are both up now.



Before and After

Hill and Valley Garden Club News continued...

A Memorial Garden for members is being added to near the south sign. It was also decided to plant some container pots for Main Street in Kendrick. The four corners of the central block on Main Street were chosen and several of the businesses were enlisted to keep them watered. They have survived thus far. Several businesses added additional planted containers to the area. In Juliaetta, two of the members, Polly Taylor – Denmler and her mother, Dorothy Taylor have planted numerous containers and keep them watered daily with a water tank on their truck. They also maintain the Memorial Garden at the park and a “Pink Garden” in memory of cancer survivors.



This year two scholarships of \$500.00 each were awarded to graduating seniors. The applicants each wrote an essay and provided references for the scholarship application. One senior is planning on



Memorial Garden at Centennial Park

a program to repair ag equipment and would go to the farms. The other graduate is going to become a pilot and would like to eventually fly a crop duster.

The club officers have all agreed to stay on an extra term due to all the COVID cancellations that occurred over the last two years. That was welcome news. The meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, at the Kendrick grange beginning at 1:00 pm until about 3:00 pm including the speaker’s presentation or activity. The first meeting will be September 28th. Possible topics for the year include Floral designs using unconventional ideas and avoiding oasis, pressed flowers, DIY planter suggestions, Hypertufa planters, drip irrigation possibilities, water-wise gardening, gardening with native plants, and pruning roses. Pruning roses may be our Sept meeting as we get the gardens ready for winter. The club would also like to recognize two new members: Sherill Calhoun and Megan Webb.



Kay Roberts and Becky Loomis

Southeast District

Idaho Falls Garden Club News

By Linda Carter Beck, President

Idaho Fall Garden Club went to the Butterfly Haven in Pingree Idaho last month for our July meeting. Randy and Karen grew tomatoes and herbs in their greenhouse for over 30 years. They sold to grocery stores and farmers markets in the Intermountain west during that time. When it became impossible to compete with produce coming from Canada, they devoted their time to butterflies. They open in the early spring and close in mid-October. The approx. 8,000 sq ft greenhouse is host to hundreds if not thousands of plants and butterflies. Many of us had never seen such tall plants growing in Idaho. It was a fun and educational adventure.

At our August meeting, Robyn McCarthy will teach us about raising butterflies.



Left to right: Linda Carter Beck, Robyn McCarthy, Elizabeth Fallon, Cheri Lee, Stephanie Kelsey, and Maxine Smolowitz



Cheri Lee with a hitchhiker!



Robyn McCarthy



Southwest District

Southwest District News

By Tom Martin, Director

As I write this we are in the middle of summer (mid-July) and many of our garden plants are extremely stressed by the heat. I'm hopeful that all of you were able to stay cool and still enjoy your gardening activities without too much discomfort.

Karen and I try to maintain decorative, vegetable and fruit plants that flower throughout the growing season. Even with the extreme heat, the various species of bees are working the various blossoms that remain. We now have several patches of milkweed that are in blossom and I was surprised at seeing bumble, honey and native bees all visiting. When we provide flowers, water and are alert, there can be so much activity in our yards.

Pat Baker, Linda Halstead and I added mulch to the gardens on the East side of the Children's Museum as part of District project. The plants were healthy and thriving; however, that was before the extreme heat. Hopefully the watering system was able to keep up.



Children's Museum Garden

Our travel this summer took us to Hamilton, Montana (with stops before and after). The Bitterroot valley and river are very beautiful in June and the tourist season doesn't start until July. The Bitterroot valley in several ways is very similar to the Treasure Valley. We enjoyed a hike in the Bitterroot Mountain range, a drive to Skalkaho Falls, a visit to the Daly mansion

and its pollinator garden, a few stops on "the 50-miles of garage sales" and the thriving Saturday morning farmer's market to name just a few of our activities.



As we approached Syringa, Idaho, I commented that Loraine Smith lives here and at about that time we saw her mowing her lawn. We just had to stop and visit with her for a while. We also stopped in Idaho Falls and enjoyed a wonderful evening visiting with Linda Carter-Beck and her husband. Duties for the Southwest District Director have been handed off and I have started working through various items. The planning for the Fall

District Meeting, Monday, September 27th, has begun and likely you will have already received your invitation. We are hopeful that everyone will be eager to come out to this in-person meeting, renew friendships with people you may not have seen for a couple of years and engage in the fun activities being planned and to attend a shortened business meeting. I hope to see you all there! (Note: The planners are very hopeful COVID will not negatively impact our ability to have an in-person District meeting this fall.)

Happy Gardening!

News from Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild



Autumn Glory

*Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer
an oil painting and autumn, a mosaic of them all.*

---Stanley Horowitz

A National Garden Clubs Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

Held in conjunction with a
Horticulture Seminar
presented by Darlene Newell,
Master Gardener and Master Flower Show Judge

September 14, 2021 1:00pm – 6:00pm

**Holiday Inn, Boise Airport
2970 W. Elder St., Boise, Idaho**

Horticulture Specialty Flower Show is Free and Open to the Public

\$25 Fee for seminar

(\$10 for Garden Club Members)

Presented by

Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild (tvag.wildapricot.org)

Member of

National Garden Clubs, Inc. (gardenclub.org)
Pacific Region Garden Clubs (pacificregiongardenclubs.org)
Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc., Southwest District (gci.org)

For more information, please contact:

Pat Baker, Show Chair

208.870.1299

patbaker@live.com

Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild officers for the 2021-2022 fiscal year:

President:	Janet Petersen
1 st Vice President:	Anita Gonzalez
2 nd Vice President:	Happy Ford
Secretary:	Lisa Artiga
Treasurer:	Sandra Ford

Chinden Gardeners Club News



Pollinator Celebration 2021

The Chinden Gardeners Club, in partnership with the Garden City Library, celebrated **National Pollinator Week** on Saturday, June 26, from 9am to noon at the Garden City Pollinator Habitat. The Habitat is a 4,000 square foot garden with over 400 plants, pathways, and solitary bee homes, and is located by the Garden City Library and City Hall.



It was a morning filled with innumerable tasks in setting up tables, chairs, canopies, and an indoor film before the opening. All tasks were directed by Judy Snow, enlisting the club's members and the library's Program Dept.

By 9 o'clock there were informational booths in place, activities for children and adults, items to purchase with a pollinator theme, tours of our beautiful Pollinator Habitat, a Chinden Gardeners Club member dressed as a bee integrating with guests, and drawing forms to fill out for the five free \$50 value gifts from our retail partners:

- FarWest Landscape; 5728 W. State St. Boise
- North End Organic Nursery; 3777 W. Chinden Blvd. Garden City
- Edwards Greenhouse; 4106 Sand Creek St., Boise
- Madeline George Nursery; 10550 W. Hill Rd. Pkwy, Boise
- Zamzows; [multiple locations](#)



Informational booths present were:

- Chinden Gardeners Club
- Treasure Valley Beekeepers
- Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
- Children's Craft-Garden City Library-Program Dept.
- Face Painting for children & adults-Judy's granddaughter & friend
- Idaho Dept. of Agriculture- Paul Castrovillo
- Monarch Butterflies- Idaho Fish and Wildlife, Kristen Lohr plus 1
- Firewise Garden-Bureau of Land Management
- Idaho Plant Doctor-Sierra Laverty
- Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides-Christina Stucer-Grassi
- Orma J. Smith Museum- Bill Clark



The film, "Pollinator Gardens" was shown continuously in the community room of the library. It was produced by the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides and highlights 3 different types of pollinator gardens: farm, home, and public. It became a welcome respite for one to cool off. The Garden City library staff counted 118 guests in attendance on this very hot day.

Judy Snow, chair of Garden City's Bee City USA committee, coordinated this event, with assistance from the Chinden Gardeners Club members and the Program Dept at the Garden City Library.

Nampa Garden Club News

By Sharon Viorel, President

The Good Neighbor Award

In scouting for super gardens in Nampa, we came to find Darren and Joanne Bailey's home at 2218 Nay Drive. The couple has lived at this address for forty years and is where they raised their family.

On the perimeter of the yard we see roses, poppies, salvia, and Thompson grape vines. The lush gardens have an array of larger trees and underneath you will find a large variety of beautiful flowers. As you walk through this shady area you will find coleus with showy colored foliage intertwined with fuchsia of many colors. Throughout the garden you will see not only beauty in the flowers and plants but also the ingenuity of a productive produce garden.

I have raised beds in my yard and thought what a great new invention. Not so. Darren remembers having raised beds for his garden and people would stop by and take pictures. He has recently replaced and modified them to accommodate the vegetables and making them easier to work on.

What is truly remarkable is that this new landscaping transformation has been taking place only in the last three years. There are rows of grass taken out and replanted with rows of salvia, tomatoes, marigolds and peppers complete with drip line irrigation. The majority of the plants come from seed. I was amazed when they mentioned their trial-and-error process. Ultimately, their garden is for the bees. They have three bee hives on their property and make sure that no pesticides are used. It is truly organic.

The Bailey's garden is a reflection of Darren and Joanne... welcoming, friendly, accommodating and the beauty of nature at its best.



Nampa Garden club News continued...

Nampa Garden Club members are pleased to be back in the swing of things after a long pause during 2020. Here are some of the highlights of our year so far.

In May we held the annual Plant and Yard Sale. Although it was a cold and windy day the event was very well attended. The sale date was timed to coincide with Mother's Day. In addition to plants and yard sale items, club members made lots of craft items which could be given as Mother's Day gifts. The day was a huge success and raised over \$2,000 for the club.

June brought much nicer weather – finally! We made a trip to the Idaho Botanical Gardens to see the Fairy House exhibit. The gardens were spectacular with everything in full bloom. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Trolley House afterwards.

In July we presented the “Good Neighbor Award” to Nampa residents Larren and Joanne Bailey. The Baileys have cultivated their garden for over 40 years. They truly demonstrate a love for gardening. Club members were given a tour of the beautiful garden. Larren and Joanne were very gracious and appreciative to be recipients of this award.

Ongoing projects include Penny Pines and maintenance of the Veterans Garden at Nampa City Hall. In July we reached our sixth plantation of pine trees for the Boise National Forest – that's a total of 4080 trees! Our work at City Hall is very much appreciated by the Mayor of Nampa. She often stops to speak with club members and lets us know how much she enjoys the garden.

Nampa Garden Club will host the fall Southwest District Meeting scheduled for September 27th. We are working hard making plans for the event. It will be very special and we look forward to see everyone!



GCIH Committee News

Blue Star Memorial Ceremony

Robyn McCarthy for Louisa Cone, Chair



At the recent Pacific Regional Convention in Silverton, Oregon a Blue Star Memorial Marker ceremony was held. Each state president placed a flag symbol representing a Blue Star Memorial completed in her term. The photo shows Idaho State President Karen Lowe with the GCIH logo flag on the Memorial Tree.

In reality, this was a re-dedication of a former Lewiston Blue Star By-Way Marker. Valley Garden Club member Nan Vance wrote for the December 2019 Gem State Gardener that the By-Way Marker previously installed in 2001 in the front lawn of the Idaho State Veterans Home had not been seen for several years. In 2018 a thorough search to locate the marker was made with nothing being found. The Clearwater District and the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. mutually decided that the By-Way Marker should be replaced.

On October 19, 2019, a dedication ceremony took place in the Rose Garden at the Idaho State Veterans Home. Lorraine Smith, who presided over the dedication, shared the history of the Blue/Gold Star Memorial tradition. A complete history of this event may be read in the Gem State Gardener, December 2019 newsletter.

Louisa Cone reported five Blue Star Memorial Markers and ten By-Way Markers can be found throughout the state of Idaho.

Native Plants, Backyard Habitats & Pollinators

By Karen Martin, Chair

Captured Sightings in the Garden

Bees, birds and bugs have their favorite plants and these are some of them in my garden. I have been fortunate to see a brown and green praying mantis in the yard this year. It is always a welcome sight to have hummingbirds dart into the yard to feed on Monarda, Honeysuckle Vine, and Orange Carpet Hummingbird Trumpet. A Honeysuckle vine grows up a long ranch panel that acts as the trellis for the vines to trail along. A plant called Orange Carpet Hummingbird Trumpet has spread along as a ground cover and catches the attention of the hummingbirds. It takes full sun and can tolerate moderate to dry water conditions. All these plants have long tubular shaped blossoms that are ideal for hummingbirds. A feeder is available as a supplemental food source when blossoms are not available. Hummingbirds are hard to capture with the camera, but even occasionally, they perch on a nearby ranch panel to rest.

Bumblebees, honeybees and a variety of native bees have their favorite flowers. Milkweed attracts bumblebees and honeybees. No sightings of Monarch Butterflies so far this year. Sunflowers continue to attract bumblebees and a wide variety of native bees. Calendula is a Native Bee favorite. Honeybees prefer Oregano blossoms, Borage, Lavender and Raspberry blossoms. Ever-bearing Raspberries provide two seasons for the bees to pollinate. This year was the first sighting of a native bee nest in the ground on my property.

A bird bath, shallow saucer and a small fountain provide water. Gold finches drink out of the saucer. Other small birds are attracted to the sound of bubbling water at the small fountain. Robins flock to the birdbath each Spring season for bathing. Honeybees prefer to come to the edge of the water source to get a drink. Wasps literally land on top of the water and fly off easily when done.

Providing plants that pollinators, birds and wildlife enjoy will reap rewards for the gardener.



GCII Awards

By LeeAnn McMaster, Chair

2021 Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. AWARDS

Roberts Town & Country Garden Club		
10 Civic Improvement	1 st Place	\$100
11a Yearbook - (under 20 members)	1 st Place	\$100
22A Promotion (Promotion-Facebook) (Friends of the Roberts Town & Country Garden Club)	1 st Place	\$100
22A Promotion (Fundraiser-Calendar)	1 st Place	\$100
		Total \$400

Valley Garden Club		
11c Yearbook - (30 - 44 members)	2 nd Place	\$50
22a Promotion (Club-Facebook)	1 st Place	\$100
		Total \$150

GCII Grant to Member Clubs

For the 2021-22 Fiscal Year **only**, GCII is offering a **\$300 grant** to member clubs to support them in re-engaging in club activities. Many clubs paused during the pandemic and are just now getting back to business as usual. The grant may be used for the following:

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

The application is a simple one-page form. For a copy of the application, contact Lisa Artiga gciilisa@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Ada Gardeners** and **Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild** who applied and have been approved for this grant.

Plants to Repel Mosquitoes

Submitted by Linda Carter Beck

Mosquitoes cause the most deaths of any other animal taxonomy per year, killing more than 700,000 annually worldwide. They feed on the blood of host animals, including humans, and transfer pathogens from host to host. In humans they prefer people with type O blood, heavy breathers and pregnant women. Most mosquitoes feed during dawn or dusk and rest during the heat of the day.

Here are several plants which help keep mosquitoes from invading your space without pesticides or sprays invading your space.

Lavender and marigolds emit a smell that deters mosquitoes. You can grow both of these in pots. Citronella is lemon-scented and is used in Citronella candles. Lemongrass is an herb plant that also has a strong lemony smell. The sweet aroma is detested by insects. Lemongrass can also calm nerves, promote restful sleep and reduce digestive stress. Scented geraniums also have the citronella smell.

Rosemary, basil and sage are kitchen herbs which also keep mosquitoes and other pests away from your home. Bee Balm, a pollinator-friendly plant, has a naturally repellent oil. Crush the leaves and enjoy the scent. Catnip, known by most cat lovers, has a pungent smell that repels mosquitoes along with Peppermint. Allium bulbs, a member of the onion and garlic family, also release a strong smell that mosquitoes don't like.



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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