



Gem State Gardener



Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.

President's Message

To Each New Day

By Karen Jean Lowe, GCII President

If there is anything this past year has reminded all gardeners is that we are resilient to the core. I think this is mostly due to our hopeful outlook found in the words of Audrey Hepburn who said, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

Whether you grow fields of flowers in the summer, a pot of tomatoes on the patio, or talk to your house plants while it snows, you are engaged in looking forward to each new day. I can't help myself but I am already going through seed catalogs and cleaning up my plant markers for spring. I look out at my gourd arch trying to imagine what I will craft each one into after they become seasoned by winter. Some gourds cling to the velvet fingers of the cold as a much-needed time for their inevitable change to becoming useful. Some will shrivel and will go to the compost pile. No matter where they choose to land, they are all directing their journey through this life on their terms.

That's what we understand collectively as garden club members. We don't always agree with the conditions that we are required to endure (2020-21 comes to mind) but we have all arrived wiser and I dare say stronger as we move into 2022.

I'm very hopeful for the coming new year... the gardens and greenhouses we will explore, the flowers we will brag about, the friendships made and renewed, with an added appreciation that only comes about in our believing of the value to each new day.

Here's wishing everyone the Happiest of Holidays!



GCII Officers 2021-23

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Karen Jean Lowe
Southwest District

1st Vice President:

Becky Loomis
Clearwater District

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Southwest District



Clearwater District

Hill and Valley Garden Club News

Garden Club Projects Benefit Kendrick and Juliaetta By Raina Weyen

Once again, the Hill and Valley Garden Club had a successful Christmas greens sale on Friday, December 10. The Kendrick Grange was full of beautiful wreaths and arrangements as well as the aroma of evergreens. A big thank you to everyone who was able to come pick out something as well as everyone who ordered with pre-sales. Proceeds from the sale sponsor high school senior scholarships as well as continue to support the elementary outdoor garden area. The club was able to donate \$1000 last fall to help trim trees at the Juliaetta Park. Another \$1000 was donated to the Kendrick Grange which went toward upgrading the AC and heating there. Flower planters were purchased and filled for Kendrick to help give the town a welcoming look.



Contributors to Juliaetta Elementary Outdoor Garden



Mary Lou Taylor making wreaths



Joanne Gertje decorating a wreath

As fall approached this year, the club decorated pumpkins donated by member **Polli Taylor-Dennler**. The pumpkins were then put into the flower barrels on Main Street in Kendrick. You might have noticed the barrels were also decorated with greens, candy canes and colorful Christmas balls in December by **Jan Paterson** and **Rose Norris**. In Juliaetta the planters there also got treated to gourds and pumpkins for fall and greens and ribbon for Christmas by **Polli Taylor-Dennler** and **Dorothy Taylor**.

Hill and Valley Garden Club News, continued

In October club members were joined by students from the high school to clean up community areas and get ready for fall and winter. About 30 seventh graders helped plant hundreds of tulip and daffodil bulbs at the Butterfly Garden in Juliaetta Park. They also trimmed bushes, weeded and did general maintenance on the garden and at the Blue Star Memorial. Other student groups picked up garbage along the bike trail and raked areas around Kendrick. Several high school students helped Doug Harris move, fill with potting soil and plant perennials in the flower barrels donated by the garden club.

The native garden on the north end of town was spruced up as well as the area beneath the "Welcome to Kendrick" sign on the north end of town. Thanks to all the kids and garden club members for their hard work and helping hands keeping our communities beautiful!



Jeannie Ensley working with 7th graders
at Juliaetta Park Butterfly Garden



Jo Lynd with hard-working helpers



Let it be Perpetual

Nezperce Garden Club

By Rosalea Figgins, President

The Nezperce Garden Club has been very busy this quarter. In October **Candace Starkweather** showed us how to decoupage pumpkins. We worked in **Rosalea's** garage and had a soup pot luck beforehand. A good time was had by all.

In December **Lorna Inglet** showed us how to decorate and make swags. She brought boughs off of many different trees to wire together and then everyone brought items to glue or tie on like ribbons, bows, snowflakes, etc. Each person took their swag home for the holidays. Good time with friends.

The club has received two large donations to be used for the beautification of Nezperce. One project the club started working on is moving the Memorial Park. The location where it is now has poor soil and gets too much strong blow-by from the small planes taking off. The City of Nezperce has donated a very nice park to the Garden Club to maintain. We have raked up the pine cones and large needles from under the trees, planted over 300 bulbs for spring, started repainting the benches and removed any shrubs that were not healthy. Holiday lights have been put up for the season. Much is planned for next spring and you can see our progress every quarter.

We have another project in the spring or summer at the Senior Center we want to do if we can get enough volunteers together.



Fun with Gourds



Swags



At the Fair



Memorial Park

Southeast District

For the Love of Growing

For The Love of Growing Garden Club closed the summer Growing season with our Second Annual Pollinator Festival! It was held on October second, 2021! We had a fairly successful day! Our First one, last year, as far as attendees, was those of us who were doing presentations! This year, we had vendors, as well as speakers, and estimated at around 100 attendees throughout the day!

We had several vendors, and my daughter, Alexis Vanderford, came all the way from Oregon with her 4 youngsters to do face painting!

We also had Honey Bee information through Jed McGuire Farms; Chamber of Commerce with Rock Painting; Gooding Community Gardens with Pumpkin Painting; Native Plants of Idaho informational table; University of Idaho Informational and Make and take; Jennifer Stowers with Future Generations Greenhouse LLC; and Native Roots also did an informational speech.

I would say that Steven Paulson, from Native Roots was our biggest cheerleader and very helpful with information any time we needed it.

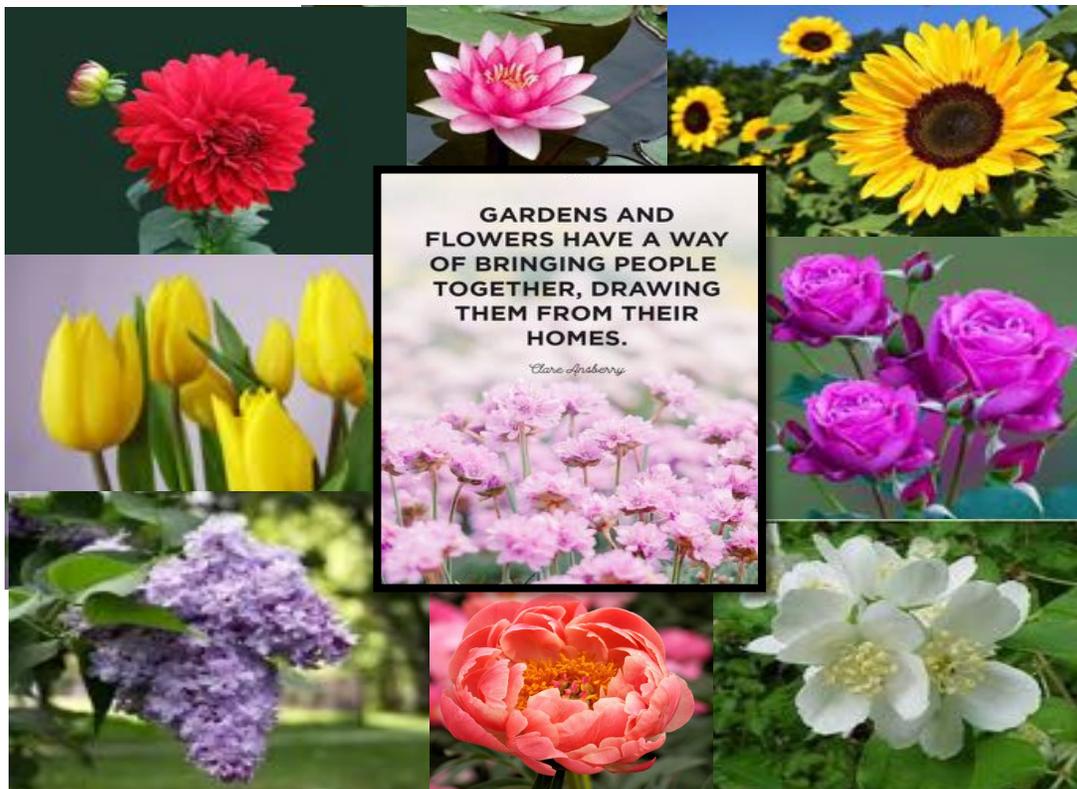
Going forward, we have begun the installation of a small onsite greenhouse for the combination of Pollinator Park/Community Gardens. Michael Burke will complete that installation, all but the plastic, and very soon. The plastic will go on in late February, I hope.

We are very proud of our accomplishments so far in a short period of time.

Thank you all,

Debbie Burke, President

For The Love of Growing Garden Club



Southwest District

Golden Garden Club, Inc. of Boise

This year the Golden Garden Club began the process of reevaluating the condition of the planted areas in the central plaza of the **Cecil B. Andrus Park** and decided it was time to renovate the plantings. The plaza includes a Blue Star Marker and the Let Freedom Ring marker pays tribute to all who serve our country in any uniform. Originally installed with a grant in 2006 under the direction and dedication of **Pat Baker** and cared for over the last several years by **Sandy Ford**, the plants had become overgrown and the spring flowering bulbs were choking out anything else desirable.

Over all these years the Club has been operating under the radar with just a handshake agreement with the Parks & Rec Department, but since we were going to need to bring in contractors and moderately heavy equipment to remove well established trees and shrubs, the city required a formal agreement and liability insurance. Once that was in place the real work began, starting with the tree and shrub removal with services donated by **The Tree Guy**.



Club members pitched in to help by marking the locations of the bulbs, digging out the bulbs and perennials, removing the rest of the roots systems, bringing in compost, and planting some temporary color until the nurseries stock inventory in the spring. Committees formed including the marking and digging groups, designing the replanting (red, white and blue color theme will continue) and caring for the spring bulbs and perennials over the winter to include in our biggest annual fundraiser, the Spring Plant Sale!

Another very appreciated and generous donation from **Pat Baker** was the funds for renovating the bronze Let Freedom Ring marker. These generous donations of funds and services greatly help our budget and certainly helps spread our civic pride. By the way, you get a much better reaction from club members when you call it a “work party!”

~ Submitted by **Denise Lile**



Tree Guy Crew



Happy Ford and Lindi Archer

Shauna Marceau

The **Cecil B. Andrus Park project** was a success due to the collective effort of our members. Many thanks to all who were able to help.

Marking the bulbs and digging out the plants:

Jacki Lindquist
Happy Ford
Shauna Marceau
Lindi Archer
Susan Nelson
Joan Buckmaster
Denise Lile, Chair

"Bulb Sitters" taking care of bulbs and perennials until the Spring Plant Sale:

Jacki Lindquist
Shauna Marceau
Lindi Archer
Joan Buckmaster
Karen Stack (logistics)

Creative Design team:

Joanne Conrad
Nancy Hilbrands
Karen Lowe
Denise Lile, Chair

Golden Garden Club Receives Plant America Grant

Congratulations to **Golden Garden Club, Inc. of Boise, Idaho** for being awarded a National Garden Clubs Plant America Grant in the amount of \$750. Many thanks to **Denise Lile** for submitting the application and to **Pat Baker** for her review and input. The grant will be used for the **Cecil B. Andrus Park** project.

The Plant America committee reviewed more than 100 diverse and unique applications from around the nation. We are very pleased and proud one of our Idaho clubs was selected to receive for this important grant.



The Golden Garden Club Holiday Luncheon was held on December 7, 2021 at the Cottonwood Grill. Members enjoyed the friendship, good food, and the holiday arrangement demonstration by **Georgia Wells White**, owner of Boise at Its Best Flowers. Georgia, an Honorary Member of Golden Garden Club, has been a featured speaker at this annual event for many years.



Nampa Garden Club News

By Sharon Viorel, President

Club members spent most of the fall preparing our donation for the Canyon County Festival of Trees. This event is a fund-raiser for Meals on Wheels with the entire community invited to bid on the beautifully decorated trees. Nampa Garden Club's donation was titled "A Peaceful Christmas...with Friends". The winter scape featured a tree adorned with handcrafted ornaments, snowballs, pinecone clusters and birch tree branches. The tree was topped with a handmade birch star. The setting featured deer and a bear cub in a birch tree, along with other forest friends. This year, the event was held entirely on-line. When the bidding closed, Nampa Garden Club had raised \$750 for Meals on Wheels. Club members are eagerly looking forward to the 2022 festival with the hopes that everything will be back to normal and the public can again view these trees in person!

Club members continue work in the Veterans Garden at Nampa City Hall. Clean-up and winter preparation of the garden took place in October. The mayor stopped by to visit with club volunteers, expressing gratitude for the work we do in this beautiful garden. The space is enjoyed by city employees as well as visitors to City Hall.

During our December meeting, we celebrated Christmas with a wonderful lunch, an ornament exchange and a Christmas craft. We made burlap covered candy canes. Everyone also went home with a special gift made by several of our talented club members. We are very grateful to **Cindy Borrón**, who hosted the Christmas gathering and led us in making the most beautiful candy canes!

We are looking forward to 2022 and spring...when everything comes back to life!



Owyhee Gardeners' Activities 2021

By Pat Benedict, President

Our members generously serve on committees and share the latest info at each meeting, and Committee Reports are looked forward to by all of us. Each month we hear about the latest bird sightings, our Good Cheer Chair tells us about member happenings, and other reports of timely events are given. Our publicity chair reaches out to the local newspaper, and we are featured in articles and are listed in the Current Meetings section of the paper, which often results in prospective members visiting us. We hand them an updated application (the tri-fold brochures encouraged by District leadership), and prospects often sign up and pay their dues on the spot.

We had a popular "Make & Take" Succulent Garden event in April of 2021, where everyone planted an assortment of succulents in a container they brought to club. In May our meeting speaker talked about greenhouses, and we also had a plant sale at two locations, netting \$1543. We had great participation.

State GC President Karen Jean Lowe spoke at our June meeting on "Eco Therapy Gardening", which was very interesting, and she brought excellent visual aids. Our Field Trip that month was to a specialty Mushroom Farm, and we all agreed it was excellent.

One of our members gave a fine talk on Xeriscapes in July. August, we had a member of the Nampa GC talk about "Color Combos of Easy Perennials", which was well received. Our field trip that month was to a Dahlia Farm, where the owner shared growing tips, and everyone picked enormous bouquets of dahlias.

In September we went to Ontario, Oregon to the Four Rivers Cultural Center and were given an excellent tour of the beautiful Japanese Garden. In October a local farmer told us "Organic Ways of Improving Quality of Fruits & Vegetables," and our field trip was to a new Winery in Wilder, where they talked about their pollinator program.

In November 2021, we had our annual Fundraising Auction of new and gently used items, as well as a Seed Exchange among members. In December we enjoyed our annual Potluck, Gift Exchange, and we sponsored a local family for Christmas.

The Program Committee has been meeting regularly to pre-plan the Programs and field trips for next year, and because our club is sponsoring the Spring District Garden Club Meeting, we are having regular committee meetings planning the fun at the end of March 2022!

It's a joy to be the President of the Owyhee Gardeners because the members are so generous with their time and commitment to the club. It results in wonderful friendships and lots of gardening learning. We try to have interesting programs and poll our members about their interests. In addition to regular meetings, we have field trips, on separate dates, in the summer months.

Happy Gardening,

Pat Benedict
President, Owyhee Gardeners



Ada Gardeners

In Remembrance

Michael Russell

1955 - 2021

Michael passed away at the VA Hospital on October 10th, just shy of his 66th birthday. He was born in Las Vegas, NV and later moved around until settling in the Boise area.



He spent 11 years in the Army. He was stationed in Fort Bliss, TX and places in Germany.

Upon his discharge from the Army, he used his GI Bill to attend Cosmetology school. He kept that profession until he injured his leg.

Michael was always into Horticulture. It was a passion in his life. He joined Ada Gardeners Garden Club several years ago and worked his way up to President. He also served as 1st Vice on the Southwest District of GCII. He was president of Ada Gardeners at the time of his death.

He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Saints.

Michael is preceded in death by his step-father, Raymond Callaham. He is survived by his mother, Sharon Callaham, his brothers and sisters, Joni Bostick, Crystal Loughran, Steve and Patti Russell, Debra and Bill Hass, and Ron and Melissa Russell, and any nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services were held the VA Cemetery on Monday October 25, 2021.

He will be greatly missed by all.

Treasure Valley Arrangers Guild

Due to the pandemic, TVAG made the difficult decision to cancel the educational workshop and horticulture show that had been planned for September 2021. TVAG resumed monthly meetings in July and members have actively participated in the monthly programs. TVAG programs are presented by members and focus on various aspects of floral design in accordance with the National Garden Clubs *Handbook for Flower Shows*.

July – Elements of Design, presented by **Lisa Artiga**

August – How to Use Various Mechanics, presented by **Anita Gonzalez**

September – Principles of Design, presented by **Lisa Artiga**

October – Miniature Arrangements, presented by **Happy Ford**

November – Design Staging, presented by **Janet Petersen**

December – Winter Floral Arrangements, presented by **Allen Deitz**



Miniature designs by
TVAG members

Allen Deitz,
ready to present



GCI Committee News

Native Plants, Backyard Habitats & Pollinators

By Karen Martin, Chair

Spending more time in the garden this past year, I was fortunate to capture and observe some creatures that also spent time in the backyard garden. Some were first time residents, so it will be interesting to see if they are observed next year as well.

Praying Mantis

- Natural pest control when you have a Praying Mantis in the garden. Unfortunately, they can eat both beneficial and bothersome insects. Known to dine primarily on insects like flies, crickets, moths, grasshoppers, and mosquitoes.
- Originally named for its resemblance to someone in a praying position. The “praying” stance is the position they take while patiently waiting to ambush other insects.
- Their flexible neck bends easily and this allows them to turn their head 180° from side to side, giving them a 300° field of vision.
- The powerful forelegs have rows of overlapping spikes which snare their prey while they devour it with their strong, sharp mandibles.
- A female will lay groups of 12-400 eggs in a frothy liquid that turns to a hard protective shell. The shell has the consistency similar to polystyrene. This is how these insects survive the winter. Small mantids emerge from this case in the spring. The egg case is called an ootheca. I have found the ootheca on the underside of vertical fence rails, attached to rocks and even on the inside of a flower pot vase just above the soil line.

Locust Borer

- The adult locust borer resembles a wasp or hornet being black with bright yellow markings. A yellow “W” is prominently visible on the wing. Legs are reddish color
- The larvae feed on the Black Locust tree, but don’t affect the Honey Locust. Adults feed on pollen, particularly the goldenrod plant.
- The white colored larvae damage locust trees by weakening the branches of the tree with tunnels they create that either weakens the tree so that it cracks or breaks off or cuts off nutrient and water supply to new growth.

This is the first year I have found this insect in the garden. It was sitting on the leaf of a raspberry plant. The yellow stripes are very distinct, and one might say it was beautiful.



The Banded Garden Spider

- The spider weaves its web in a special spiral pattern. The spiral shape is what led to this species of spider being known as orb-weaving spiders. The radial and spiral lines are alternately sticky and non-sticky. This allows the spider to not get caught in their own web as they only place their feet on the non-sticky parts.
- They do not hunt, they simply wait for prey to walk or fly into their web. Once the victim is caught in the web, the spider wraps the pray in silk and injects venom into the body. The spider may consume the prey at a later time.
- The spider is not harmful to humans. They are generally welcome in the garden to keep pests at bay. The bit will only be mildly painful and can cause a small amount of swelling.
- Their life span is one (1) year.



The first year I have seen this type of spider in the garden. Its web was constructed amongst the vines of our cucumber plants that were grown vertically up jute string. I would often see silk sacks that the spider had surrounded its victim with, hanging in the spider web. I was curious, so I came upon a stink bug that I sacrificed to watch what would happen when prey got caught in the web. The bug struggled for a short time to get loose from the sticky web, but it was not able. Once the spider recognized it had something caught in the web, it moved quickly to attack. Instantly it began wrapping the bug in the silk web and within no time at all, the bug became a cocoon of white silk. One could sometimes find a discarded silk sack on the ground or on leaves below. I assume it was discarded when the spider was finished consuming what it could get from the victim. The spider remained late into the Fall. The web survived wind storms and rain. The web would sway and bounce in the wind with the spider remaining attached to the center of the web. Occasionally the spider would seek refuge under a cucumber leaf during rough rain and wind storms.



Young Gold Finch

The water feature was for our pleasure in the garden, but it was often a favorite of small birds. They preferred this source of water over the still water of a birdbath. The water feature is just outside a bedroom window, so I was able to capture a closeup picture without scaring the bird away. They would drink and bath in the water. Little did the bird know that just below were two small gold fish that inhabit the water feature. A small pump circulates water to oxygenate the water for the fish, and the sound of water splashing attracts the birds. The cascading water also attracts the dog as a source of cool water following a good time chasing a tennis ball at the school yard playground.



Sources of information: * George and Becky Lohmiller Almanac Dec 12, 2021 * Gary Watkins, Student, and Ric Bessin, Extension Specialist University of Kentucky College of Agriculture * Bug Guide Iowa State University-Entomology * Staff Writer; Content ©www.InsectIdentification.org

Membership

By Karen Martin, Chair

A New Year Ahead

Garden Clubs have had many challenges this year. As a group, you might have had the challenge of just finding a location to meet. Members might have struggled with the idea of whether it was safe to meet in person. There are issues of balancing caution with the need to “connect” with one another, which is important for our mental well-being. Technology is a challenge for many of us and the use of programs like Zoom might not have been appealing or well received as a way to get together.

Something for your garden club to consider for 2022, is celebrating **National Garden Week which is June 5-11, 2022**. The National Garden Club website encourages clubs to consider this week as an opportunity to encourage pride in our community, attract new members and work together with other groups to promote gardening and celebrate the benefits and pleasure of gardening. What that celebration might look like for your club is probably as varied as our individual clubs. I hope Nation Garden Week will be a topic of conversation for your club as they look forward to 2022.

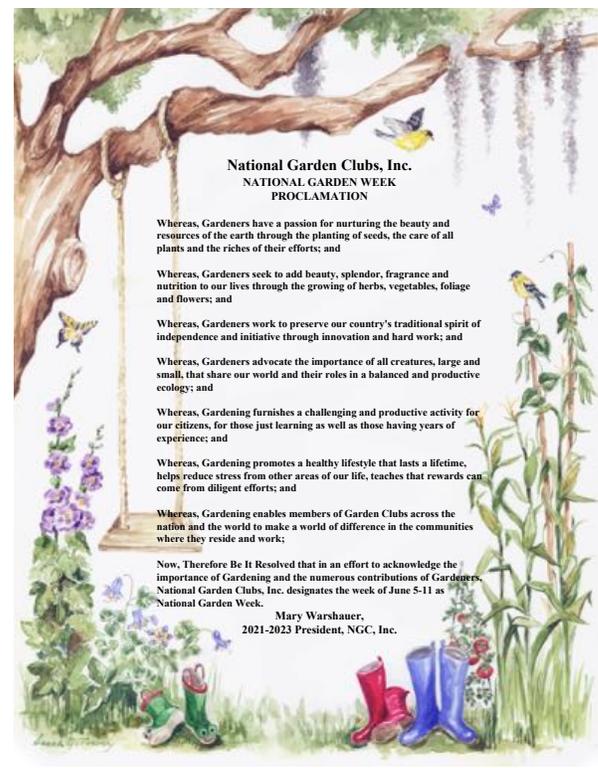
Despite the challenges we face, I am hopeful that we all can remain encouraged and excited about the future of our garden club. Gardening can be a life-long love and benefit to us mentally and physically.

The three links listed below are from the National Garden Club website. They offer posters and a proclamation that can be used for a celebration.

<https://www.gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/fillable-ngw-poster-2022.pdf>

https://www.gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/ngw-proclamation-2022_1.pdf

<https://www.gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/ngw-poster-2022.pdf>



Membership

By Karen Martin, Chair

“A picture is worth a thousand words” is a well know and quoted phrase.

Gardening means different things for each member. Capturing images of club activities is one way to record a history of our projects and time spent together enjoying each other’s company. Photos can capture the beauty and uniqueness of individual plants, garden art ideas, and garden design ideas. I recently found useful information for improving my photography available on the National Garden Club website. Currently on the website are three articles that can help you improve your photography whether your photos are for personal use, brochures to highlight activities about your club, or capturing photos for exhibition and competition.

<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/angle-of-view.pdf>

<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/light-and-exposure.pdf>

<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/painting-with-light.pdf>

Most plants are currently sleeping and in their winter resting period. But winter can still provide interesting and unique photo opportunities. Snow on evergreens and on the branches of plants can be beautiful. Check out the article links above, and the information they have available. Consider purchasing some beautiful flowers from your local grocery store and make an arrangement to enjoy in your home. Take pictures of the arrangement or individual flower. Create your own personal calendar with photos that you have taken and share with family and friends. Get out your camera and play. Don’t forget the camera on your cell phone to capture spur of the moment photos.

Attached are some different photos captured on a digital camera. The A-HDR setting takes three pictures in rapid sequence and merges them together into one photo. It can result in some interesting pictures. Placing a dark background behind your

subject makes the bright color of the subject pop. Try focusing in on details; you can capture some very interesting textures that occur in nature.





SNOW

Snow on the roof and snow on the trees
Snow coming down on my head and my knees
Love snowy outlined of branches in white,
Making snow angels. Snow is all right.
Except for the driving, I slide off the road
Then wait for ages until I get towed.
The beauty of snowflakes I will always love
And treasure the feel of some very warm gloves.

Lana Finegold

Director, Pacific Region Garden Clubs

<https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org>



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