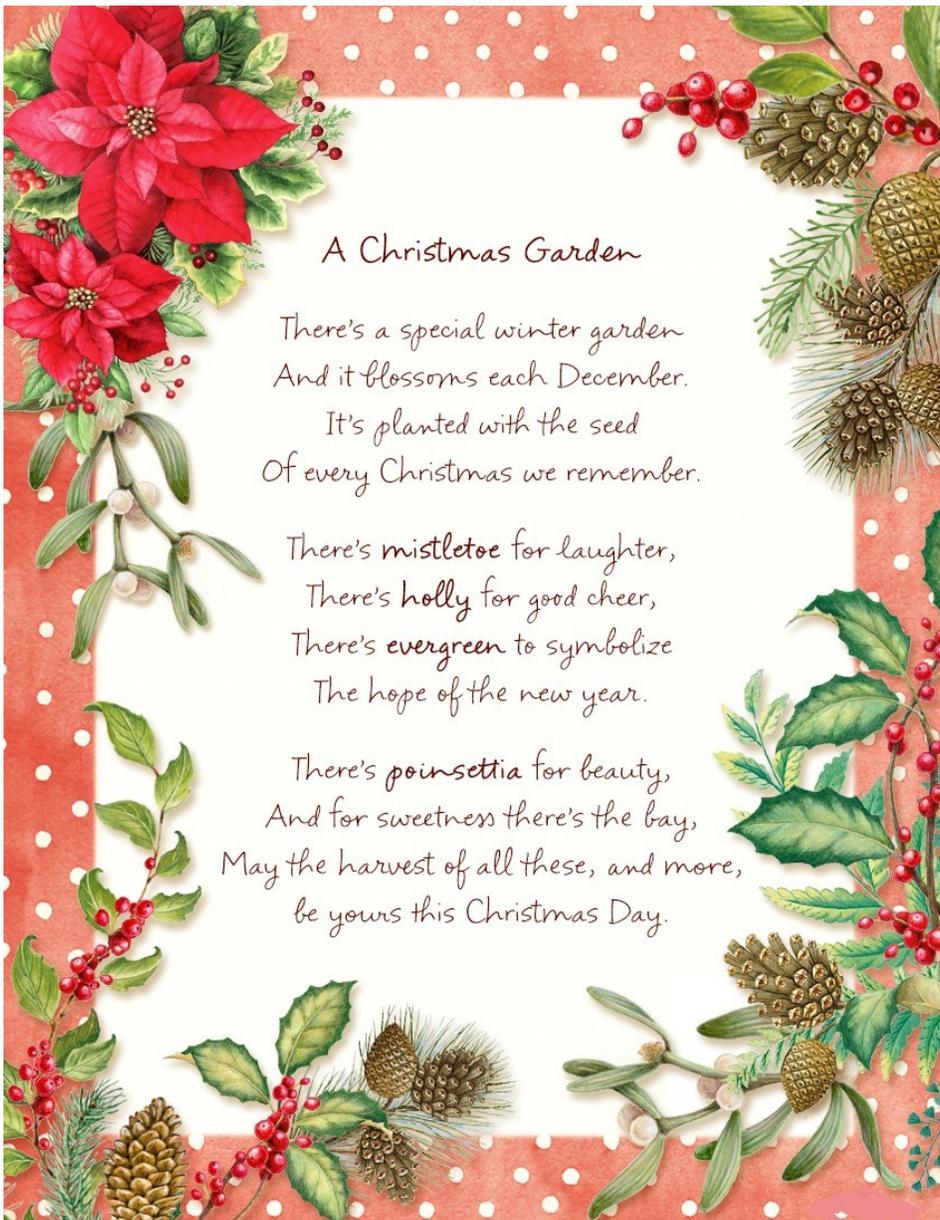


# Gem State Gardener

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.



## 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



## Clearwater District

### Garden Club for All Seasons By LeeAnn McMaster

We would like to wish club member and acting President, Carol Entze a very Happy Birthday. Carol's birthday is November 16<sup>th</sup> and she will be turning 79 this week. Congratulations Carol!!!



Russie Hastings

At our October meeting club members agreed to allow \$200 to be spent at the Nez Perce County Fair for a judges choice award in memory of long time member Russie Hastings, who died last year. The award will be \$25 per year for four years. The Club will also pay for a youth judges choice award for \$25 per year for four years. Payment has been sent in the amount of \$200 to the fair board to be effective at the 2023 Nez Perce County Fair.

In November the club will meet to make Christmas wreaths for themselves. Club member Bonnie Konrad will provide the greens needed and all other members are asked to bring decorations to make the wreaths.



We would like to take the time to wish our fellow gardeners a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

We can't wait to see what the coming year will bring!

## Hill & Valley Garden Club By Becky Loomis



**Locust Blossom celebration:** This year gave the Hill and Valley Garden Club a chance for members to show their green thumbs and artistic talent in making flower arrangements. We chose to have the community judge and select the People's Choice Award. It proved a great success by involving the community. We had many visitors during the event and provided a raffle for a \$75 tree during the Flower Show. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class submitted vegetable gardens as well as the magical fairy gardens.

**Beautifying Our Community:** HVGC members were busy all spring and summer tending the public gardens and flower barrels that the club purchased as one of our community projects. Flowers graced the Wallace Park Memorial Garden and the Welcome to Kendrick sign on the north end of town. We tended gardens throughout the summer.

We celebrated April 29<sup>th</sup>, Arbor Day, by joining the Juliaetta Elementary classrooms to read selected books to the students. The books reflected Arbor Day themes and were donated to the school library. The club purchased a tree that will be decorated each month by different classes.

Another community project was to plant hostas and flowers by the Kendrick pool. The club donated \$1000 to the city to purchase new winter decorations and hangers for the light poles on Main Street.

**Speakers and Summer Tours:** We enjoyed exceptional speakers at our meetings the last couple of months. **Colleen Taugher from Melliflora Farms near Troy** joined us in February and gave us great ideas on which flowers dry well and work in dried arrangements and wreaths.

In March, **Tammy McGreevy of Lavender and Thyme in Moscow** came and showed us new and different ways to anchor flower arrangements in vases. Both speakers were outstanding and very informative.

In October we had a very informative presentation by Nora and Gary Pearson on Bees. The topic was "Bee Business" and we learned interesting and valuable information about those friendly honey bees and their hives.

## Hill & Valley Garden Club News, continued

Last summer we visited a local garden that grows many herbs and flowers. The gardener did not till her soil and has had great results. She obtained a grant for a greenhouse.

**Recruitment:** We have had a focused effort to increase our membership. We have been able to increase our membership, adding members with excellent talent. One new member, Sherill Calhoun, volunteered for the membership committee and has brought wonderful ideas to recruit and retain members. She updated our membership brochure and reinstated our welcome bags for new members.

The garden club lost three life members over the past year: Donna Weyen, Edith Cole, and Mary Edwards. They will always be remembered in our Memorial Garden.

The Penny Pines - HVGC raised money for reforesting forests in our area. Becky Loomis gave a brief presentation. This year the money went to a memorial fund. for Shirley Richey. HVGC agreed to give the money to the Nez Perce Forest



**Annual scholarship and Wreath Sale:** The club committed to provide at least one scholarship a year to a high school senior. This year the club was able to award a scholarship for a \$1,000.00.

This scholarship is made possible by funds raised from the annual Christmas Wreath and Table Arrangements sale each year. The members spend several weeks preparing, collecting greens, and decorations; and working on the Christmas wreaths and table arrangements. This is our club's favorite event. We work hard, laugh, and enjoy great soups made by all our members.



## Moscow Garden Club

### By Kathylu Szabo, President

Sponsoring the Floriculture exhibits at the Latah County Fair each year is one of our garden club's really fun projects. It's a busy one starting out in the spring when the club writes up the rules for the show and suggests design categories to match the fair theme. This year "A Fair in Paradise" translated as design titles: Pina Colada, Oasis, Pair-A-Dice and Mirage. What fun!

For years the exhibits were housed in the "kitchen" area of the fair building. Visitors always loved to come in to see the flowers because it smelled so good (especially if they had just come in after touring the barns!!)

But this year we were in for a surprise. During our May meeting, Jim Logan, fairgrounds manager, proposed that the Floriculture exhibit would set up in the larger room and share the space with Poetry and Food Preservation.

In September, a week before the fair, club members set up the staging in our "new" space, covering tables with black plastic, attaching risers, and placing labels for horticulture and design exhibits. We checked in exhibits on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning with judges coming in at 10 am Thursday to begin judging.

Throughout the 4 day fair, Club members take 2-hour shifts to hostess, to answer any questions, chat with visitors, keep the exhibits looking good, and clean up the occasional mess. There's a cat who lives across the street and thinks that he owns the entire Fairground. Sometimes he jumps on a table and meanders through the flowers or any other exhibit he feels the need to check out. Very entertaining. We need to give him an appropriate name like... "Buttercup" or "Tiger Lily."

The positive comments from visitors about our Floriculture exhibits in our new space were great. It was bigger, brighter, and more visible. *In past years*, some people didn't even realize there was a flower show because we had been tucked away in the kitchen and easy to miss. They were delighted to see the beautiful flowers and floral designs. Because there was so much room, it was very easy for wheelchairs and baby strollers to meander through the exhibit. And of course we laughed at this one: Club members as well as Exhibit visitors commented that they have flowers in their yards that they should have entered, and they plan on being more proactive next year. Let's hope so.

At our October meeting, the consensus of all the members was that they were delighted with this space and happy to look forward to it being our permanent home.

This year, instead of having one award for all of Youth Design, we added "Most Creative Design" to all three youth age classes.

## Moscow Garden Club News, continued



**Top left photo:** Best of Show, Design  
(with Food Preservation in the background)

**Below photo:** Best of Show, Youth Design



**Below photo:** Youth Horticulture Table



## Moscow Garden Club News, continued



Above: More Youth Horticulture

Below: Houseplants



## Valley Garden Club By Cheryl Pankey, President



Valley Garden Club had the honor of working with the Kamiah American Legion to install a Gold Star By-way Marker honoring families of the fallen. The dedication took place on Sept. 24, 2022. The marker is located on the front of the Kamiah American Legion Post 75 on Main St, in Kamiah, Idaho.

In the spring we plan to place a bench and install solar lights to shine on the marker. We had a great attendance from the local Chamber of Commerce, VFW members, Valley Garden Club and locals. After the dedication we served Sloppy Joes and pie as a thank you to those who joined us in this great honor.



## Southeast District

### Idaho Falls Garden Club By Linda Carter Beck, President

The Idaho Falls Garden Club has had a slow year but we are surviving. There have been a few interesting meetings, we have enjoyed the companionship, and have tended to our yards and gardens.

A couple meetings stand out. In April we joined some of the Roberts Town and Country Garden Club members at Sunnyside Gardens and learned more about pests and beneficial bugs. Sprays, oils, fungicides, and nutrients were all discussed and we were reminded to always read the label. We found more natural ways to get rid of pests including rolled up damp newspaper to get rid of earwigs and eggshells for slugs.

In July we learned about drying flowers and foliage from Brian Schuetz, manager of the Horticulture Department of the Eastern Idaho State Fair. He talked about the various methods of drying, pressing and preserving flowers and foliage and then displaying them. One of Brian's favorite methods is using oolitic sand for drying as it is round and doesn't crush your flowers. He then talked about entering items in the fair and some of the new categories he has added. It's all about "Texture, Texture, and more Texture" as that is what brings the eye into your arrangements. He mentioned using figurines, ribbons etc. to add that texture. It's a fun way to make your arrangements stand out.

Linda dried flowers from her own garden



A Pond Lily and a Dahlia that Linda picked later died.



## Idaho Falls Garden Club, continued

In August, Robyn McCarthy hosted the club and gave a presentation on the Butchart Gardens. It was interesting to learn about what one woman, Jennie Butchart, could do when she was tired of looking at the old quarry. One woman's vision forever transformed our notion of a garden. With a former quarry as a canvas, Jennie Butchart envisioned transforming this space into a beautiful garden haven, overflowing with lush greens and colorful blooms. The result of her vision is The Gardens, which are still family run to this day. Now Jennie's dream lives on through her grandson Ian Ross, who was gifted the land on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and through his children and grandchildren, who have turned these gardens into a Canadian treasure. Robyn talked about her trip there and how much there was to see at every turn.

Our club members continue to meet when able and enjoy the camaraderie of long time friends.

Jennie Butchart 1865-1950



## Southwest District

### Chinden Garden Club By Robyn Dawson, President

Pictured are some of our hard working Chinden Gardeners Club members who take care of Garden City's Pollinator Habitat from Spring through Fall.



# Chinden Garden Club News, continued

## Chinden Gardeners Club Potluck Garden Party 2022



Chinden Gardeners Club has taken on another Civic Project, the “West End Meadow” in Garden City. We have planted 250 Pink Chintz Creeping Thyme plants along with Golden Currants and Pink Muhly Grass. This is an exhibit of growing alternative plants other than planting a lawn. The Thyme will grow together and produce a beautiful pink meadow in the Spring with low water requirements once established. It will never need mowing and attracts many pollinators.



## Golden Garden Club

### By Pamela Lowe, President

Kathy Costanti



Here is a photo from Golden Garden Club's November meeting. Kathy Costanti is posing with the wreath she is creating for Golden Garden's Club submission to the Festival of Trees. Kathy came up with the design of the twig base that will be covered with succulents. The wreath was a work in progress at our meeting, but Kathy gave the members the preview of our submittal and the club members thought the wreath looked amazing.

Looking ahead, we are getting ready for our annual Holiday Luncheon at the Cottonwood Grille, where Georgia Wells-White from "Boise at Its Best Flowers" will be giving us a demonstration of holiday floral arranging and where we will also be collecting new hats, gloves and scarves for the Women's and Children's Alliance.



## Nampa Garden Club

### By Sharon Viorel, President

Nampa Garden Club presented the Good Neighbor Award in August. This year's recipients were Ed and Laura Crawford. The Crawfords have lived at their home for over 30 years. As the garden evolved, the goal was to create a beautiful scene which was visible from every window in the home. They have indeed accomplished this! The yard is filled with lush hostas, roses and plenty of color. The focus for their planting this year was coneflowers which abound throughout the garden. The Crawfords received a \$75 gift certificate from the club and their names are engraved on a plaque at the Nampa City Hall. It was a delight to meet the Crawfords and to recognize their beautiful garden. They are truly inspirational as "Good Neighbors".

Ed and Laura Crawford Good Neighbor Award Winners and their garden



For the past two years, the pollinator garden at the Deer Flat Refuge at Lake Lowell was closed due to Covid. The refuge finally re-opened this summer and volunteers from the Nampa Garden Club were eager to get back to work in the garden. The garden is made up of native plants including lots of milkweed which has naturalized quite nicely in the garden. The garden definitely supports birds and bees...lots of bees! The Deer Flat Refuge is a wonderful place to visit. The refuge is an important nesting habitat for ducks, geese, songbirds, herons, egrets and more. You can view the nest of an osprey from a telescope inside the visitor center. The pollinator garden is located behind the Visitor Center. Volunteers work in this garden a couple of times each month throughout the summer and fall. The staff at Deer Flat is very thankful for the help we provide with the garden. An appreciation BBQ for volunteers was held at the end of the summer. It was nice for Nampa Garden Club members to meet other volunteers who work on this amazing place.

## Nampa Garden Club News, continued

Several club members attended the Idaho Gourd Festival which was held at the Franz Witte Garden Center in September. The festival included gourd art displays as well as demonstrations about how these lovely works of art are created. In October our club meeting was held at Franz Witte. Charlene Barrett from the garden center was the speaker for our program. She gave us good advice about putting a garden to bed for the winter.

The highlight of the year for Nampa Garden Club was hosting the **Southwest District Fall Meeting** in September. The meeting was very well attended with almost 60 attendees. The theme of the meeting was **“Enjoying Summer Harvest...Garden to Table”**. We had a very involved planning committee whose hard work was reflected in the incredible day. Our very talented club members did a wonderful job with decorations most especially the table centerpieces. They also prepared and served a fantastic lunch. There were learning demonstrations which included irises, dried flowers, lavender sachets, seeds, pinecone flowers and painted rocks. Silent auction items were handmade by club members. There were also handmade items for sale in the Country Store and raffle items. Special thanks to JoAnne Schoonover, Cindy Borron, Lucy Jones, Charlene Hammons, Karen Martin, Jeannette Corso, Tracy Redhead and Louisa Cone for the learning demonstrations. Nampa Garden Club is very proud of the hard work involved in hosting this event. We look forward to attending the Spring Meeting!



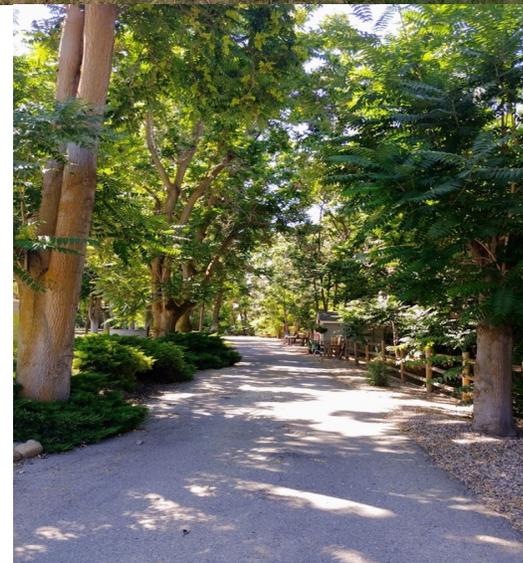


## Owyhee Gardeners Club

### By Anna Ousley, President

#### CITY OF HOMEDALE ENTRANCE UPGRADE

The Owyhee Gardeners are proud of their recent update of the entrance to the small town of Homedale in Owyhee County. The Gateway Entrance was originally constructed by a community collaboration in 2008, but has needed a renovation that would save water and require less maintenance. Since May of this year, the Owyhee Gardeners' Homedale Beautification Committee planned and implemented an upgrade. Committee Chair Lea Mathews states "We're so pleased with the results to date and look forward to concluding the renovation in the Spring by addressing the water issues for future plantings." In addition to Mathews, club members Loni Driscoll, Jenni Jimmerson and Pat Benedict, along with family members, weeded, hauled, pruned, sprayed, ground-prepped, created borders, and spread attractive landscape rock during multiple work parties over the summer. Owyhee Gardeners thank Amanda and Nick Harpe, the owners of a local business named Rockslide Landscape Materials, for their discount pricing. A huge thank you goes to Mr. Gheen Christoffersen – the Mayor of Homedale - for funding the landscape rock for the project. Mayor Christoffersen commented that "the Owyhee Gardeners are unsung heroes, doing so much for our community. They go above and beyond to beautify the area."



Reed and Merilinn Batt garden

#### GOOD NEIGHBOR GARDEN AWARDS

In September, the Owyhee Gardeners were pleased to announce their Annual 'Good Neighbor' Awards for 2022, highlighting the vibrant colors and creative designs by homeowners and businesses alike in and near Homedale and Marsing. The Owyhee Gardeners take pride in

recognizing the gardening talents found with Owyhee County's residents and businesses as their efforts continue to make our area a very special place to live. All in all, five different residents and businesses were honored. We have two separate committees for each town who spend quite a bit of time researching and identifying a variety of landscapes for the awards.

#### IDAHO BOTANICAL GARDEN

This past summer, the Owyhee Gardeners voted to become a 'club member' of the Idaho Botanical Garden (IBG), which provides each member reciprocal admission benefits at participating USA gardens, 50% discount on any IBG membership level, free use of the IBG for a meeting each year. We're excited about this membership, which only cost the club \$50, and have already toured the Garden and selected a spot and a date for next year's May meeting.

For more information, contact club President, Anna Ousley by text at 208.634.6457 or by email at [anna.whitebird@gmail.com](mailto:anna.whitebird@gmail.com)

## Crafting With Cones

By Karen Martin

### Trees – Cones - Crafts

Idaho's varied climate and topography hosts more than 20 tree species including hardwoods with broad leaves, softwoods with needles, deciduous trees that lose their leaves in the fall and evergreen trees that have leaves throughout the year and are always green.

Idaho is home to many conifers, including ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir (white), western red cedar, lodgepole pine, western white pine, subalpine fir, whitebark pine, Englemann spruce, western hemlock, mountain hemlock, western larch (tamarack), alpine larch, pacific yew, juniper, and pinyon." These trees offer a variety of pine cone shapes and sizes.

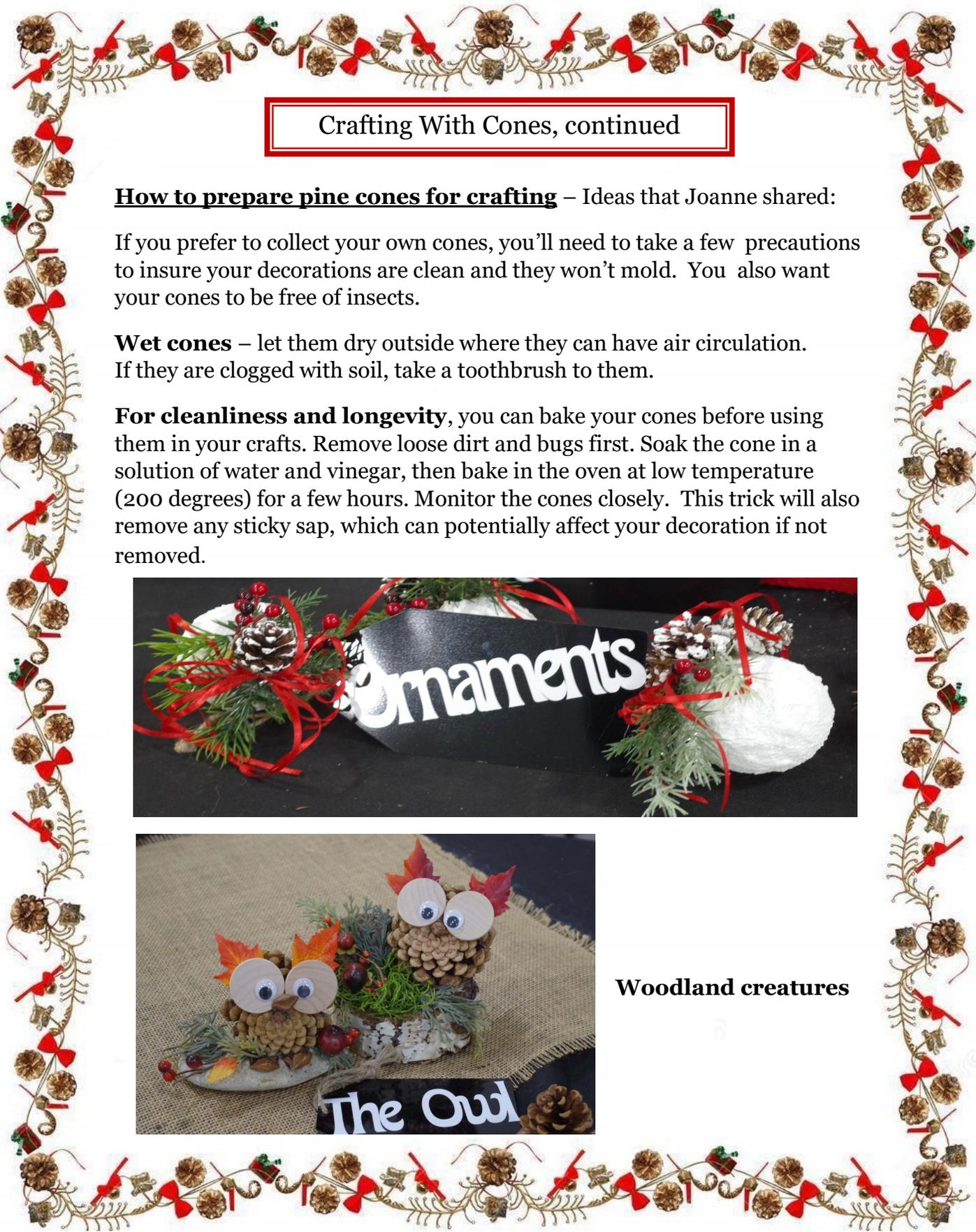
The pinecones from many of these trees can be used to create decorative crafts. Joanne Schoonover from the Nampa Garden Club offered some inspiration and instructions for using pine cones for decorating at the recent SW District Fall Meeting. Joanne loves decorating with décor that doesn't have to be expensive. Her program was titled – **Beauty of the Pine Cone**.

Have fun collecting cones from the various trees that grow in Idaho – see what you can create.

**To the left:**

**Pine cone magnets by using the bottom or top of a cone.**





## Crafting With Cones, continued

**How to prepare pine cones for crafting** – Ideas that Joanne shared:

If you prefer to collect your own cones, you'll need to take a few precautions to insure your decorations are clean and they won't mold. You also want your cones to be free of insects.

**Wet cones** – let them dry outside where they can have air circulation. If they are clogged with soil, take a toothbrush to them.

**For cleanliness and longevity**, you can bake your cones before using them in your crafts. Remove loose dirt and bugs first. Soak the cone in a solution of water and vinegar, then bake in the oven at low temperature (200 degrees) for a few hours. Monitor the cones closely. This trick will also remove any sticky sap, which can potentially affect your decoration if not removed.



**Woodland creatures**

Crafting With Cones, continued



**Bouquet for any season**

**Various cones in a basket with a string of lights**



**Table centerpiece**

## Awards

### LeeAnn McMaster, Chair

## Garden Clubs of Idaho Awards 2022

### *Can your club use \$100, \$50 or \$30?*

*It's as easy as applying for an award and I am here to help!*

As a member of National Garden Clubs, Pacific Region and Garden Clubs of Idaho, you may apply for awards and certificates that recognize and reward your participation in the goals and mission of our organization. Many awards offer monetary benefits. Clubs throughout our state have received thousands of dollars over the past several years, in addition to trophies and certificates of merit.

Applying for awards and certificates may seem overwhelming. My goal as State Awards Chairman is to guide you through the maze of rules and encourage members, clubs and districts to apply. There are hundreds of awards with an average of four categories within each award. It truly is mindboggling when you first look at the list, but my hope is to demystify the process so you will apply and earn recognition for your contribution of time and talent.

There is an awards list on the GCII website [www.gcii.org](http://www.gcii.org). There is additional information on specific awards on the National Garden Club website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) and Pacific Region [www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org](http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org). Monetary awards, trophies and certificates are listed on the National Garden Clubs and Pacific Region websites.

If you are unable to visit the websites or are confused as to award process, I ask that you contact me. You may read on other websites about deadlines for submission of entries; disregard those dates. **You must postmark, or submit by email, your application to me for all National, Pacific Region and State awards by December 1; no exceptions.**

Email your application to [gciiawardschair@yahoo.com](mailto:gciiawardschair@yahoo.com) and **send 3 hard copies to:** LeeAnn McMaster, 1209 Airway Ave., Lewiston, ID 83501; telephone: 208-746-0936.

For more information please call or E-mail me.

Sincerely,

LeeAnn McMaster  
GCII State Awards Chair  
1209 Airway Ave., Lewiston, ID 83501  
Home Phone: 208-746-0936  
Email: [gciiawardschair@yahoo.com](mailto:gciiawardschair@yahoo.com)

## Penny Pines

By Claudia Hambacker, Pacific Region Chair



We are back on track to follow our pine cone the “mother of the seed” through the process of becoming seedlings. I want to thank Kayla Herriman, Extractory Manager, US Forest Service, Deschutes National Forest, Bend Seed Extractory located in Bend, Oregon. She is the author of the articles that have provided the information that were used to summarize the extraction process. She also provided the wonderful photos in this article. Kayla has suggested some educational opportunities for Garden Clubs. Please contact me if you are interested in knowing about these opportunities at the Region, State, District or local levels. This is requested because it would be difficult for her to answer an influx of phone calls or emails. My email is [c.a.hambacker@gmail.com](mailto:c.a.hambacker@gmail.com).



Let's get started. As you remember, we began with the collecting of pine cones by volunteers. This is another volunteer service that garden clubs provide to the Forest Service, Fish and Game or who ever it is that needs help gathering raw material, seed, pinecones, grasses, etc.

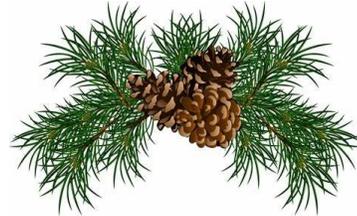
This is the room where it all happens. It is called the Extraction Room. The conveyors, tumblers, vibrators, dewingers are all located here.

This conveyor is tumbling Douglas Fir pine cones after they have gone through the heat process to open them. They are brought to the conveyor where the tumbling assists in releasing the seeds. The seeds fall through the belt landing onto another belt where they then fall into a barrel located on the side.



Ann, a colleague of Kayla's, is assessing seed. She will determine if the seed meets quality standards. This is important because it determines how many seeds need to be planted to produce a certain number of seedlings.

## Penny Pines, continued



Kayla is working at the dewinging station where the seeds that have been recovered now have another outer layer removed. This is called dewinging. Seeds sometimes have multiple outer coatings that must be removed in order for them to be more viable. This definition of dewinging comes directly from the internet: “studies indicated that dewinging **facilitates seed germination and is advantageous when sowing space is limited.** Usually seed dewinging is processed manually, which is labour intensive, time consuming but critical in retaining the quality of recalcitrant seeds”. Can you imagine when this had to be done by hand?

<https://www.nationalforests.org/our-forests/your-national-forests-magazine/how-the-forest-service-grows-millions-of-seedlings-each-year>

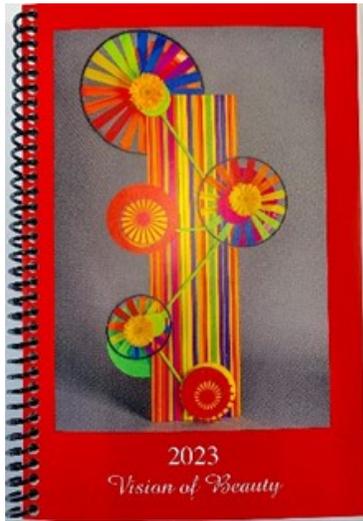
Again, thanks to Kayla Herriman for providing these wonderful photos. If you have not had the opportunity to visit an extraction facility, it is fascinating. The volume of raw product that it takes to have enough seeds to plant will surprise you.

I learned recently that there is now a National Wildlands Fire Fighters Day, first observed on July 2, 2022. There is a complete tool kit for you should you want to participate or bring awareness to these heroes.

For more information here is a website: <https://www.nifc.gov/nwffd>

As many of you know, this fire season has been very bad this year. As of this date, August 6, 2022 there have been a total of 49,032 incidents of fires and 6,300,275 acres burned thus far this year.





The 2023 Vision of Beauty Calendar is available for purchase through the National Garden Clubs website at

<http://gardenclub.org/>

1–49 \$10.00 a copy  
 50–100 \$9.00 a copy  
 over 100 \$8.00 a copy

**The following GCII offices are up for election:**

**If you are planning to nominate anyone for these positions, please ask the person first and only submit their name if they have agreed to be a GCII Officer.**

**Nomination for GCII Officers**

President Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Submitter: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Tom Martin, 9709 W. Cascade St., Boise, ID. 83704

Or, Phone: 208.631.2934

Or, email: [gci.swd.tomm@gcii.org](mailto:gci.swd.tomm@gcii.org)

## Upcoming Schools

**California:**

**Flower Show School**

Course 3 April 14-16, 2023

Course 4 September 23-25, 2023

Modesto—Contact: Judi Picinini, [jpicinini@aol.com](mailto:jpicinini@aol.com)

**Environmental School**

Course 1 January 14-15, 2023

Course 2 February 11-12, 2023

Course 3 February 25-26, 2023

Course 4 March 11-12, 2023

Turlock - Contact Berni Hendrix [schoolsvld@gmail.com](mailto:schoolsvld@gmail.com)

**Flower Show School Symposium**

March 27-28, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton, San Francisco Airport

**Tri-Refresher**

March 29, 2023 Embassy Suites by Hilton, San Francisco Airport

**Washington:**

**Flower Show School**

Course 2 Mar 07 - Mar 09, 2023 Tacoma, WA

Register: Dorothy Bertram 360-412-0143



The next edition of the Gem State Gardener is schedule for February so please get your articles ready and e-mail them to LeeAnn McMaster at [gcinewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:gcinewsletter@yahoo.com) by Saturday, February 4, 2023 to make it in to the February edition.

Enjoy your gardens!

**Gem State Gardener** is the official publication of Garden Clubs of Idaho. Inc. Please visit our website for information about Idaho’s garden and available resources: [www.gcii.org](http://www.gcii.org)

**State President:** Karen Jean Lowe

Email: [gci.kjl@gmail.com](mailto:gci.kjl@gmail.com)

**Managing Editor:** LeeAnn McMaster

Email: [gcinewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:gcinewsletter@yahoo.com)