



Gem State Gardener

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.



Hill and Valley Garden Club

Getting Ready for Spring

By Raina Weyen

Members of the Hill and Valley Garden Club gathered in January for their annual potluck and gift exchange. This is done in January because December is always busy with wreath making and the holidays. Tasty food, good friends, and lots of laughs.



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



Hill & Valley Garden Club news, continued



Our Wreath and Arrangement sale in early December was a smashing success again this year. HVGC members made around 300 wreaths and many beautiful table arrangements. In addition to the sale this year, member Sherill Calhoun organized a raffle with local businesses donating items and she donated a fully decorated artificial tree. Proceeds from the raffle will go toward our Youth Gardening project. We use proceeds from the sale to give back to our communities in many ways, In the past we have helped fund tree trimming, donated to the Kendrick Grange, where we hold our gatherings, purchased, planted and tended flower barrels on Main Street in Kendrick, renewed the “**Welcome to Kendrick**” signs on both ends of town and planted and maintained gardens in both Kendrick and Juliaetta. Furthermore, we fund scholarships for deserving seniors every year. Our communities support us by purchasing decorations at our sale and we support our communities by giving back!



Vice President, Joanne Gertje
working her decorating magic



Sherill Calhoun's raffle tree
and business-donated



Arrangements for sale



Hill & Valley Garden Club News, continued



It may sound like a far-off dream, but April is coming with flowers and plantings! This year there will be two Plant Exchange locations and dates: **Juliaetta Library on April 18 and Troy Library on April 13, both from 2 – 6 PM.** All are welcome to attend and select seeds and plant starts. Club members as well as members of the community are welcome to bring any seeds and plant starts to share, but it is not necessary to attend. It will be a great opportunity to share and receive plants for yards!

Again this year our club is awarding **educational scholarships** to graduating seniors interested in continuing their education in any field related to horticulture or agriculture. Applications are available at the counselor's office at the high school. The deadline is the end of March. It is a fairly simple application, so we are hoping our graduating seniors looking to enter any related field of study will apply.

Plans are in the works to add spring bulbs and summer color spots to the War Memorial Pool plantings that were started last year. We are tentatively looking at a red, white and blue theme for the summer flowers to complement the historical aspect of the pool. Our club plants and tends to several gardens in the Kendrick / Juliaetta area including the Butterfly Garden and Pink Garden in Juliaetta (thank you Polly Taylor-Dennler and Dorothy Taylor!), the War Memorial Pool plantings, Kendrick Main Street flower barrels, Kendrick Welcome signs on both ends of town, and the Native Plant Garden.

Each spring the garden club members travel and tour private yards or public businesses to soak in the beauty of things and get new ideas for plantings. This year we are tentatively looking at late June and plan to tour the Little Canyon Lavender and Wool Farm near Peck and then see the Green Things Nursery in Riverside near Orofino. We will have more definite information at a later date, but if you are interested, we invite you to join us. It will be a fun and interesting day!



Southwest District



CHINDEN GARDENERS CLUB

By Robyn Dawson

Chinden Gardeners Club is happy to announce we have been busy planning the next **Southwest District Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2023.** We think all will enjoy themselves at our “**Spring into Well Being!**”

Guest speaker, **Jennyfer Berg**, of Natural Grocers in Boise, Idaho will give an engaging talk on ‘**How to Maximize Your Healthspan**’. A delicious and healthy lunch will be provided by Boise Coop. There will be door prizes and raffles to win. Come join us in celebrating the coming of Spring. The cost of registration and lunch is \$20. We are holding this event at Boise **Unitarian Universalists Fellowship, 6200 N. Garret St., Garden City, Idaho** from 9 am to 3 pm. Please fill out the form below, choose your sandwich, and mail with \$20 to our secretary, **Jane Balleisen, 13880 W. Chatsworth Ct., Boise, ID** by March 15, 2023 We are looking forward to seeing you at the district meeting!



Jennyfer Berg of Natural Grocers

Jennyfer Berg is a certified Health Coach by the Institute for Integrative Nutrition in New York City. She is also the author of the book “Healthy Flavors of Mexico” and is a Certified Yoga Teacher. Her education has equipped her with extensive knowledge in holistic nutrition, guiding/coaching techniques, and preventive health practices. Drawing on these skills, she works with clients to help them make lifestyle changes that produce real and lasting results. At Natural Grocers she leads workshops on science-based nutrition, hosts recipe demonstrations,

and provides free coaching sessions. Jennyfer’s mission in life is to guide people towards naturally balanced lives through yoga and nutrition, one breath at a time, one bite at a time. When not in the Natural Grocers store, you can find her doing yoga, hiking with her husband and dogs, reading, or in her kitchen inventing a new recipe.

Chinden Garden Club News, continued

Chinden Gardeners Club
invites you to SWD Garden Clubs'
Spring Meeting

Spring into
Well
Being!



Join us on March 27, 2023, 9am-3pm
at BUUF, Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship,
6200 N Garret St, Garden City, ID

Clip, fill out, and mail \$20 by March 15, 2023

NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____
CLUB: _____

Choose Lunch Sandwich

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GF Bread | Ham | Turkey | Veggie |

MAIL TO:
JANE BALLEISEN
13880 W. CHATSWORTH CT.
BOISE, ID 83713
janeballeisen@att.net



Membership

By Karen Martin, Membership Chair

Attracting New Members

In late March, South West District Garden Clubs has the opportunity to showcase the local clubs at the Boise Flower and Garden Show. The flower show is scheduled for March 24-26, 2023 at Boise Centre, 850 West Front Street, Boise, Idaho. This traditional event is one of the big Spring kick off events for the Treasure Valley. Vendors, nurseries and organizations have an opportunity to present their services and goods to the general public. A well attended event, this will be an important step to try to generate interest in the local garden clubs and possibly attract new membership.

Several things crossed my mind when thinking of this event and what can be done to make the table attractive, stand out, and draw interest from the people who circulate around the show-room.

Each garden club is unique, but common factors exist across the board. Garden Clubs create lasting friendships, we have fun together, and we educate each other, or invite guest speakers to provide education. Many clubs provide a service to the local communities by maintaining public garden spaces and raising funds for worthwhile projects. These are the things that need to be showcased to the public and hopefully draw people in who also want to be a part of this great opportunity.

What Clubs are all about: Education



Education for garden club members



Education for the public

Membership, continued



Guest speakers at district meetings
educate club members



Garden Tours—learning how other people garden

Fund Raisers: Giving back to the community



Plant Sales as fund raisers



Painted bowls for Idaho Food Bank

Membership, continued



Festival of Trees—St Alphonsus Hospital

Public garden planting and maintenance



Fun: socializing, learning, and sharing about nature



Lunch at district meeting



Experiencing and sharing the

Native Plants, Backyard Habitats & Pollinators

By Karen Martin, Co-Chair

Water-Wise Garden

In September 2009, shortly after moving into the home, which is my residence today, we decided to reduce the amount of lawn in the front and the back yard. City water was the only available water source for lawn and garden areas and it can be expensive to use for irrigation. Incorporating the “Lasagna Gardening” technique, the front area and back property began a transformation.

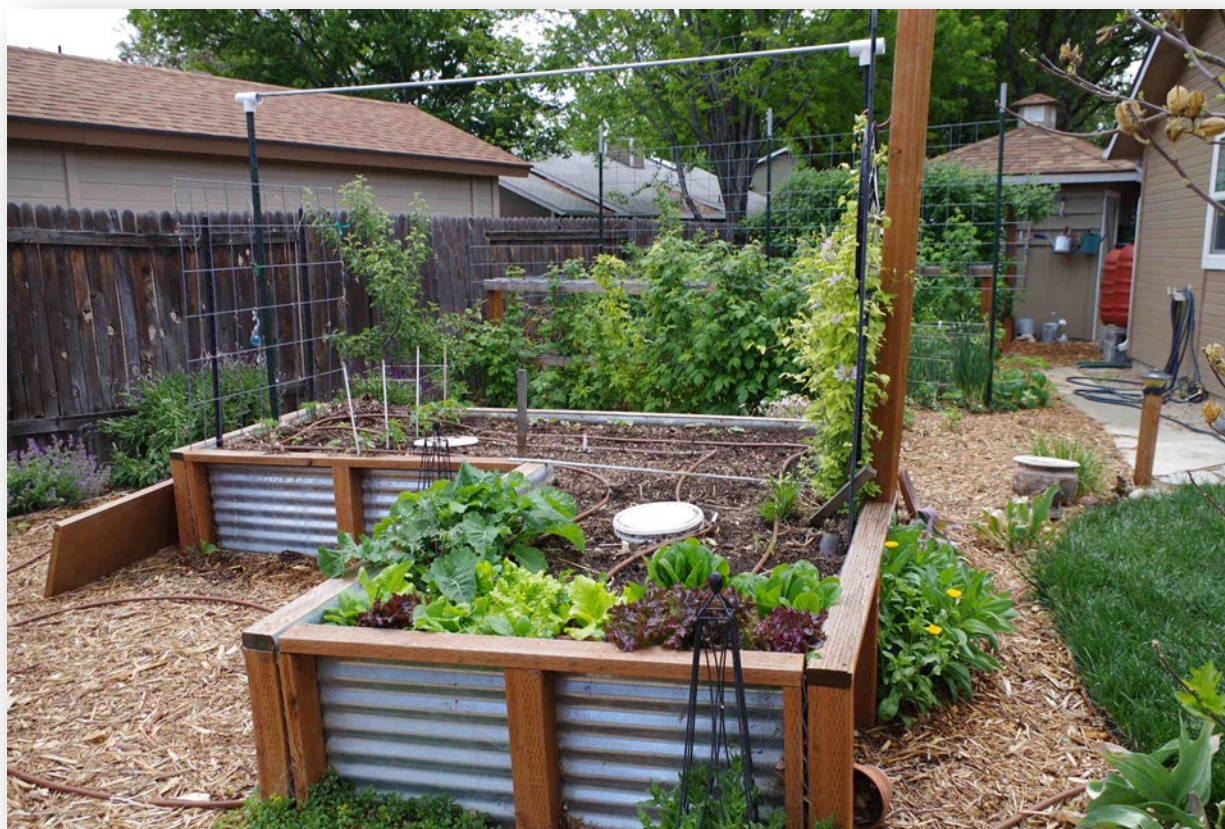
(An important note is to remove all the packaging tape from the cardboard. Packaging tape does not break down.) In the front area, drip irrigation waters the plants and occasionally hand watering is used to supplement plants that prefer more water, and new plants that are not well established, as of yet.

A large Honey Locust tree covers a good part of the area, and only shade-tolerant plants will survive. A top dressing of compost serves as mulch and bark has been used also to suppress any weeds. Along the sidewalk and driveway is the area where native plants and plants drought-tolerant grow. Mulch is a layer of small gravel in this area. Steppingstones create walkways and gravel paths supply access through the garden for maintenance.



Native Plants, Backyard Habitats & Pollinators, continued

The backyard is the area for a variety of raspberry plants, espalier apple trees and raised garden beds. A small area of lawn remains for the dog and serves as a transition from house to garden area.



In the front as well as the back, bulbs supply early color. Hosta plants enjoy the shade from the tree in the front yard. Sedums and a variety of Penstemon grow in the gravel area along the driveway and sidewalk. Removing the lawn and putting in flowers and beautiful foliage has supplied a habitat that birds and insects enjoy visiting. Over the years I have seen a larger variety of insects and birds as the plants have grown and given them food and shelter. Xeriscape or a low water usage landscape does not mean barren and drab. Abundant plant varieties exist and more native as well as drought tolerant plants are becoming available for purchase.

Native Plants, Backyard Habitats & Pollinators, continued**RESOURCES:**

Draggin' Wing High Desert Nursery – native and drought tolerant plants for sale.

5300 Stinger Dr, Boise, ID 83703

Website: <https://waterthriftyplants.com>

Open in Spring – limited hours and select days

Orton Botanical Garden in Twin Falls, Idaho

<https://ortonbotanicalgarden.com/> - 867 Filer Ave W, Twin Falls, ID 83301, US summer hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every Friday and Saturday.

View drought tolerant plants

Orton Botanical Garden often has in the past held a plant sale each year to raise funds for the garden.

Lasagna Gardening: <https://getbusygardening.com/lasagna-gardening/>

Book resource: Xeriscape Plant Guide 100 Water-Wise Plants for Gardens and Landscapes

Orton Botanical Garden



Upcoming Classes**California:****Flower Show School**

Course 3 April 14-16, 2023

Course 4 September 23-25, 2023

Modesto—Contact: Judi Picinini, jpicinini@aol.com

Environmental School

Course 3 February 25-26, 2023

Course 4 March 11-12, 2023

Turlock - Contact Berni Hendrix [schoolsld@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

**Upcoming Flower Shows****26th Annual Boise Flower Show**

March 24-26, 2023

Boise Centre, 850 West Front Street , Boise , Idaho 83702

GCII Nomination Committee:

The GCII State Nomination committee is still active searching for candidates for GCII State officer positions: President, 1st and 2nd Vice-President, and Secretary. A couple of current officers have said they would consider continuing in their current positions if no one steps up. Continuing would make that six-years of service for them (it would be nice not to force them into that choice). Please consider who you think can serve, discuss it with them and nominate. Nominate yourself if you have a desire to serve and think you have what is needed to do a good job. There is a need to close out the nomination process by March 31st 2023 so that we can communicate those that have been nominated to membership and begin planning the election process.

Communicate your nominations to: Tom Martin (208.631.2934), Linda Carter-Beck (208.529.8773) or Kathylu Szabo (208.882.5270).

GCII Annual Convention:

There is no GCII Annual Convention planned for 2023. COVID changed our lives and our activities. To have an Annual Convention in 2024, we'll need to find a way to elect GCII officers during summer of 2023, and have the newly elected GCII State officers work with District Directors to announce Location and Dates so that detailed planning can begin 8 months or so in advance of the Annual Convention dates.

Tom Martin

**Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc news:**

LeeAnn McMaster will be stepping down as GCII Awards Chair, Scholarship Chair and managing editor of the Gem State Gardener in July of 2023.

Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. news:

Claudia Hambacker will be stepping down as Pacific Region Garden Clubs Penny Pines Chair in June of this year.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

April 17-20, 2023 Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention

Theme: “Going Green—Together”

Embassy Suites

20610 44th Ave.. West Lynnwood, WA 98036

1-425-775-2500

April 28, 2023 National Arbor Day

May 2—4, 2023 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention

Theme: “Almost Heaven”

The Greenbrier Hotel

101 Main Street West

White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986

Registration Deadline: 4:00 CST Friday, April 14, 2023

GCII Annual Convention: Nothing planned at this time

June 4-10, 2023 National Garden Week



The next edition of the Gem State Gardener is schedule for June.

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

State President: Karen Jean Lowe

Email: gcii.kjl@gmail.com

Managing Editor: LeeAnn McMaster

Email: gciinewsletter@yahoo.com