



Gem State Gardener

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.



President's Message

Dear Garden Club Members,

Recently, our three GCII District Directors temporarily acted as the Executive Committee for GCII for the past three weeks. As with most things, there are many viewpoints on why and how this was done and if it was even necessary. I'll not try to explain, it is now in the past and our plans are to move forward in positive ways.

On Monday, July 17th, a Special Annual Meeting (this in place of an Annual Convention) was held via a Zoom conference call. During this meeting there was discussions about many things and Club Presidents made suggestions on moving GCII forward. This session was recorded and meeting minutes will be released to District Directors and Member Club Presidents by Sunday, July 23rd. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please contact your Club President or District Director. We will also post the minutes to gcii.org at resources > publications.

A slate of officers were considered and elected:

President: Tom Martin [a new officer]

1st Vice President: Becky Loomis [a returning officer]

2nd Vice President: Vicki Torres [a returning officer]

Secretary: Karen Martin [a new officer]

Treasurer: Meghan Shepard (Calaway) [a new officer]

- *Note: There was a motion that pass unanimously by the Member Club Presidents and District Directors present to allow this election at a Special Annual Meeting.*

Please extend thanks to these club members for their willingness to step up and serve you, as club members.

We will be setting a date and location for a Fall Board meeting soon. Additionally, the timing, location and organizational particulars for an Annual Convention in 2024 will be announced soon as well. We are hopeful that many of our members will plan to attend these meetings as it has been a significant time since GCII members from across the state have come together to meet and learn.

If you have comments, ideas and/or things to share with me, please feel free to contact. My information is listed below.

We are ready to leave things of the past in the past and begin moving GCII forward.

Warmest Regards and Happy Gardening!

Tom Martin

GCII President

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." John Muir

email: gcii.p.tomm@gmail.com

Phone: (208) 631-2934. Please leave message. I promise I'll return your call.

GCII Officers 2023-25

President:

Tom Martin Southwest District
Chinden Gardeners Garden Club

1st Vice President:

Becky Loomis Clearwater District
Hill & Valley Garden Club

2nd Vice President:

Vicky Torres Southeast District
Roberts Town & Country Garden Club

Secretary:

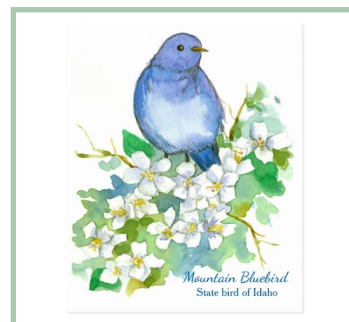
Karen Martin Southwest District
Chinden Gardeners Garden Club &
Nampa Garden Club

Treasurer:

Meghan Shepard Southwest District
Golden Garden Club

Advisor:

Karen Jean Lowe Southwest District



Getting to know your GCII Officers



Tom Martin, President

Many members in the garden clubs know me, know of me, but here is some background for me for your consideration.

I was raised 2 miles west of Caldwell, Idaho and graduated from Caldwell High School and Boise State University.

I worked for Trus Joist Corp. which was bought out by Weyerhaeuser Co. around the year 2000. I worked in the Boise drafting and design office and was drawing department manager for awhile in Valdosta, Ga.

I transferred to the structural engineering programming group in Boise and learned to program, mostly on my own. As time went by, I managed small groups then moved to Project Management and then to the Senior Product Management position during my career with the programming group.



Karen, my wife, and I have been members of garden clubs in Boise area for over a decade. I was President of Ada Gardeners for two years, 2nd Vice-President GCII for two years, Secretary of Chinden Gardeners Club for over three years and Southwest District Director for two years. I have worked on three bylaw committees during these times in office.

My wife Karen and I attended GCII Annual Conventions from 2015 – 2019, five conventions, and GCII Fall District Board meeting from 2015 – 2019. We are present at most Spring and Fall Southwest District meetings since joining a garden club.

Karen and I are both retired and looking forward to gardening, travel and other activities, including our involvement with garden clubs.

My goals are to see us, GCII, Connect, Reinvigorate, Reimagine and Rethink our organizational documents to better align to the opportunities of Idaho member garden clubs.



Getting to know your GCG Officers Continued**Becky Loomis, 1st Vice President**

I have been a gardener at heart all my life. Even during my twenty seven years in the US Army, I had a garden no matter how small. I also had my four children involved in planting and saw their joy when they could experience the fruits of their labor. This played a role in choosing where I retired to, Idaho

Idaho is blessed with abundance. The homesteaders worked this land to improve it to create food and beauty. Our homestead still has evidence of their efforts. We have “wild apples, plums, berries and herbs” that we enjoy every year. Also all the bulbs planted many years ago can be found through the area which we thank our homesteaders.

All this was a natural progression to joining the Hill and Valley Garden Club almost 13 years ago. It has been a place to quickly forge friendships and expand my knowledge in planting “real” gardens”, trees, pollinators, and improving the soils.

After being a club member for about 6 years, I was elected President of the club. The club continues it’s traditions which are important to us as a club. We recognize our older members and encourage all members to have fun, while working hard of gardening project. I served as an advisor following my tenure, then as a chair for the Youth and Scholarship programs set up by Hill and Valley Garden Club. I continue to serve in those positions. I have served as Vice Director for the Clearwater District and now begin my executive journey as 1st Vice President for Garden Clubs of Idaho.



*Getting to know your GCG Officers Continued***Vicki Torres, 2nd Vice President**

Having been an active member of Roberts Town & Country Garden Club for 31 years and counting, I'd like to share a bit about me.

I have lived in Southeast Idaho almost all of my life, as we moved when I was 12 years old. We called Blackfoot Idaho home for many years, moving to Roberts in 1988, with my husband and children.

Fast forward to my Garden Club years... I joined Roberts Town & Country Garden Club in 1992 as a young mom. Several of my children were raised knowing Garden Club members!



I never dreamed that my involvement with RT&CGC would impact my life in so many wonderful ways. Thirty-one years later, this organization still inspires me and others to continue with being involved with civic beautification, and higher learning. So many past members have mentored me, as well as many others. For that, I am so grateful.

I am a farm wife, truck driver, lover of grandchildren and family. For me, personally, that is what Garden Clubs are all about. Getting out, enjoying our environment, and sharing our knowledge about gardening, while embracing volunteerism.

I have served in garden club at the local level in many capacities. I am a past club President, Secretary and currently hold the title of Treasurer.

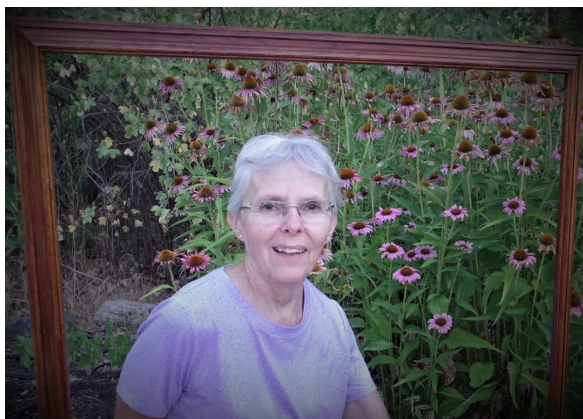
At the State level, I've been convention registrar at 2 separate state conventions and a former 2nd Vice President.

While I do enjoy retirement, I still love jamming those gears at my place of employment. Yes, I drive truck at a local feedlot. Twenty-one years and counting, in a part time capacity. I also own and run a small local business. I plant custom containers for several clients/business owners. This endeavor has grown steadily through these past 8 or so years.

I ask all of our members statewide to define your goals as our club makes it's way through transition. I look forward to meeting at state conventions again. We are a great group of people!



Getting to know your GCG Officers Continued



Karen Martin, Secretary

I am a native Idahoan, born and raised in Nampa, Idaho. I graduated from Vallivue High School in Caldwell and Boise State University. I recently retired from employment with Ada County Paramedics, and am adjusting to a new schedule, and enjoying the freedom of I now have in retirement.

I was first a member of Ada Gardeners for several years and then joined Chinden Garden Club. I currently hold dual membership in Chinden Garden Club and Nampa Garden Club. I enjoy spending time with other club members who gather to work in the Garden City Pollinator Garden. I am always blessed by people who walk past the Pollinator Garden and express their appreciation for our time and effort to make the garden beautiful.

I really enjoy the guest speakers we have at our monthly meetings. I am a recent member of Nampa Garden Club. This club is a wonderful group of members who enjoy making beautiful garden themed crafts. Several members are very talented artists, and I am hoping to learn some of their tips and techniques over time.



I enjoy gardening, sewing, crafts and photography. In retirement, I hope to be able to complete projects I have started but not found the time to complete when working. I have had a 35MM camera for several years. My camera goes with me on trips or when I attend events. I enjoy taking photos of plants or insects I find in the garden. I especially like to capture photos of wildflowers on mountain or foothill hikes.

I appreciate the friendships I have developed over the years with garden club and the gardening knowledge I have been fortunate to gain as a result of my garden club membership.

Getting to know your GCII Officers Continued



Meghan Shepard, Treasurer

Hello, my name is Meghan and I have two daughters and four grandchildren. I was born & raised in Montana; graduated from Boise State University in 1986 with a bachelors degree in Accounting, CPA.

I am an amateur gardener! But I love the education and experience I am gaining as a member of Golden Garden Club. I love the sharing and camaraderie between our members and guests.

I worked as an Auditor for the Idaho State Legislative Auditors for three years and Finance Officer for the public health department for twenty three years , retiring in 2013.

I've been a member of Golden Garden Club for the past eight years. I have served my garden club and the GCII by working on the group tax exemption program for the GCII (Not Implemented on advice from independent CPA.)

I've prepared and presented to the IRS form 1023, an application for recognition of exemption under Sec. 501c3 of the IRS code on behalf of Golden Garden Club. Exemption was granted in 2019.

I also maintain the annual IRS 990N information return filing for Golden Garden Club. Along with maintaining the annual business renewal for Golden Garden Club with the Idaho Secretary of State's Office.

I look forward to serving as treasurer for the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. for the next two years.



We learn and grow together.



Support your local garden club by sharing your time, love of gardening and knowledge of growing in your community today.

Clearwater District Director Kathylu Szabo



Greetings from the Moscow Garden Club in the Clearwater District! We are headed towards a 75th anniversary next year and are thrilled to share some exciting news with you. In an effort to foster an even more inclusive and thriving community, we have introduced additional evening meetings to accommodate our esteemed members' busy schedules. We believe that the heart of any garden club lies in its members; and by meeting people where they are in life, we are reinforcing the club's strength and ensuring its continued growth.

Since our inception in 1949, the Moscow Garden Club has stood as a beacon for gardening enthusiasts and horticulture aficionados alike. As we approach this significant milestone, our passion for nurturing green spaces and fostering a shared love of gardening has only intensified. We recognize the importance of providing flexible meeting options to attract new members and maintain the fervor of our existing ones. Our commitment to the community and the art of gardening remains steadfast; and we are dedicated to building on our legacy, remaining as strong as ever.

Our next District meeting will be the third Thursday in October, the 19th, at the VFW Hall in Kendrick. The theme will be: **"Harvest Moon"**.

Together, let's cultivate a blooming future and continue sowing the seeds of a vibrant gardening community in Moscow, the Clearwater District, and throughout the state of Idaho!



Hill & Valley Garden Club News

Submitted By Raina Weyen

First Float....First Place!

The Hill and Valley Garden Club members decided to try their hand at float decorating this year and entered the Locust Blossom Parade with their first ever float. And were awarded First Place in the Best of Theme category! It was a fun experience with lots of laughs, many members pitching in to decorate and ride the float and throw lots of candy to the kids on the parade route. A big thanks from HVGC to the organizing members of the Lions Club!



This year some HVGC members made a presentation on flower arranging to the 4th graders at Juliaetta Elementary School. Each student then designed their own arrangement and transported them to the Flower Show at the Grange. The arrangements were a beautiful addition to the Flower Show and the students did a terrific job on their first design! Congratulations, 4th graders!

Also from the elementary school, Angie Cannon's 3rd graders again allowed us to showcase their vegetable gardens. The plants looked so healthy and vigorous this year! What a great project for these kids and HVGC is honored to be able to provide some funding for this project.



Hill & Valley Garden Club News

Submitted By Raina Weyen, Continued

Mike Holt's arrangement in honor of his mother, Roseann Holt, a former member of HVGC, won the People's Choice Award for design. Congratulations, Mike! Roseann would be proud and what a wonderful way to remember her and her love of flowers!

At our April meeting, and in preparation for our flower show at Locust Blossom, members joined together and practiced making small arrangements. It was fun, we all had something fresh and pretty to take home and tried our hand at arranging before the flower show. You ladies are so talented!



Standing, l. to r.: Beth Cannon, Sharon Harris, Patti Silflow, Ann Parks, Kay Roberts, Joanne Gertje.

Kneeling: Amy Haukness, Jeanne Ensley, Becky Loomis, Jayne Weber

Each year the State Garden Club presents awards in several categories to clubs who submit applications. This past year HVGC was presented with three awards, including one for our Yearbook, which is done by Kathy Cassin, one for Youth Involvement co-chaired by Becky Loomis and Joanne Gertje, and one for Membership which is headed up by Sherril Calhoun and Kathy Cassin. We recently welcomed new members Lynda Brocke, Judy Haley, and Nan Vance. In total, the club garnered \$150 in award monies.

We have some interesting programs scheduled for the year beginning on September 26. That day we will be encouraging more prospective members to join us as we create painted pine cone arrangements to take home. On February 27 join us for a presentation on landscaping for birds and butterflies and on March 26 we will hear about insects and arthropods that are important in helping our gardens. In April we will hear a presentation on native plants and their benefits. Please consider joining us the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM at the grange!

Valley Garden Club News

Cheryln Pankey, President



It seemed like spring would never get here and now summer is upon us. Valley Garden Club was very busy last spring. In March we hosted the Clearwater District meeting, our theme was "Welcome to Our Shed Shed". Member Lenette Smith, designed a very welcoming she shed entrance leading into the meeting room. We served chicken salad sandwiches along with salads served in flower pots, and of course, using garden tools as eating utensils. Our dessert was individual miniature backyard settings of dirt and worm cakes. Our guest speaker Robbin Johnston spoke on "A Look at Who Feeds Who? Is there food security?"

We had our annual plant and bake sale in May.

The weather was perfect this year and it was our best sale ever!
(picture at right)



In June a memorial was held for Lorraine Smith. Our club made seven table arrangement. It was nice that as a club, we were able to contribute and show our appreciation for all she has done for our club. (pictured above)



Our club was saddened by the loss of our longtime member, Lorraine Smith. Lorraine was a member since 2007 and held many positions throughout her years of service to the club. One of her favorite things was the annual plant sale. She served as Clearwater District Director until the time of her passing. She is greatly missed by all.

By Karen Martin, Habitat and Wildlife

Co-existing with Wildlife

As gardeners we often strive to create a habitat that will attract and provide a welcoming and sustainable environment for wildlife. Wildlife often finds ways to co-exist with us, and their resilience might surprise us all.

A mother quail selected a flower pot planted with raspberry plants to be her location for a nest. The first sighting of four eggs grew to a final count of twelve eggs over a three week period. The mother quail was observed sitting on the nest off and on for the first three weeks and then more regular the last couple of weeks. She would have been laying more eggs each week and then the last few weeks were when she was incubating the eggs. Upon returning from a vacation, it was discovered that all the eggs had hatched.

Quail chicks are different from most other baby birds. The chicks are able to leave the nest shortly after hatching – typically within twenty four hours. They are quickly able to walk easily and follow their mother, and are able to peck around for food.

Information about quail chicks: a-zanimals.com

Photos courtesy of my Sister-In-Law



Praying Mantis are another adaptive insect. A recent ootheca was found on the handle of an extra, infrequently used plastic trash can. Not your typical object or location one would expect to find an ootheca. The condition of this ootheca shows that the praying mantis had hatched from the nest. Not long after finding the ootheca, which was in June, the first sighting of some juvenile praying mantis were spotted in the garden last week. One was white to blend in with some gravel mulch. The second was green to blend in with the plant life it was on. Praying mantis eggs can be laid in the fall or in the winter. The ootheca is a frothy, styrofoam looking mass created by the female. The froth hardens to form a tough case for the eggs. Hatching usually takes between three and six months.

**By Karen Martin,
Habitat and Wildlife, continued**



Ootheca attached to garbage can handle.

Praying Mantis producing an ootheca

Photo from Praying Mantis Ootheca:
Everything You Need To Know

by Marie | Jan 4, 2023 Found Animals
adopt and shop

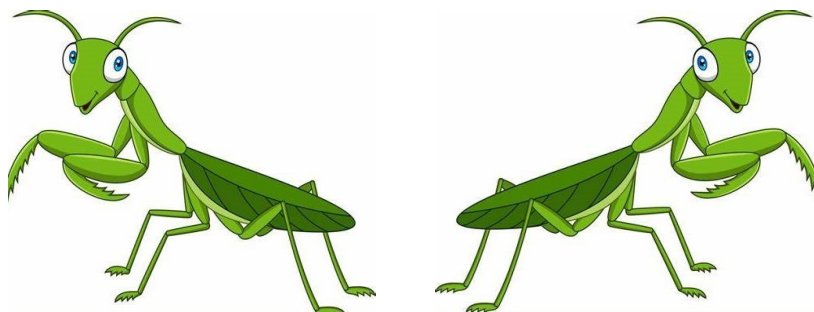


White juvenile praying mantis



Green juvenile praying mantis

Information sources on praying mantis Adobtandshop.org:
Detroitnews.com and Amentsoc.org



By Karen Martin,
Habitat and Wildlife, continued

Snakes are not often a favorite thing to run across no matter where one might be. Garter snakes are beneficial as they eat slugs and rodents. In June, while tending the Pollinator Garden at Garden City, a resident and frequent visitor to the pollinator garden, shared a photo he had taken in the late afternoon, of a few visitors enjoying the garden. The rock sits at the front of one of the planting beds, and is along the walking path between the garden and other property of the City Hall. The rock is beneficial to the garden as it provides protection for the plants and keeps people from walking or riding into the flower bed. This rock catches the rays from the sun for several hours each day. The rock became an area that the three snakes also found beneficial, most likely crawling on the rock to absorb heat it had collected during the day as the evening hours were starting to cool down .



Photo from unknown
Garden City resident.

For the past few years, the plum tree in my yard has been attacked by aphids. The aphids like to hide on the underside of the leaves and suck nutrients from the tree. After the first sighting of aphids, one could try to treat them with chemicals, but historically it is only a few days later that ladybugs, ladybug larvae and birds can be seen feeding on the pesky aphids. According to gardenmentors.com the protein in these pest bugs is an important part of many birds' diets.



Ladybug on plum tree
branch



Ladybug larvae and
aphids



Bird reach to pick off aphids
on the underside of a leaf



Bird able to get a fill of
aphids attacking the plum
tree.

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.

By LeeAnn McMaster, Awards Chair



2023 GCII AWARDS



Hill & Valley Garden Club

12C Yearbook	1st Place	\$100
14C Youth Involvement	2nd Place	\$50
20 Membership – non monetary award, 11 new members		
	Total	\$150

Chinden Gardeners Club

10A Civic Improvement	2nd Place	\$50
20 Membership – non monetary award, 7 new members		
	Total	\$50

Golden Garden Club

23A Publication- (Club – Facebook)	1st Place	\$100
	Total	\$100

Nampa Garden Club

10A Civic Improvement	3rd Place	\$30
	Total	\$30

Nezperce Garden Club

10A Civic Improvement	1st Place	\$200
	Total	\$200

Owyhee Gardeners

14C Youth Involvement	1st Place	\$100
20 Membership – non monetary award, 11 new members		
	Total	\$100

Statewide Total \$630



Pacific Region Awards Submitted By LeeAnn McMaster



2023 Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. Award Recipients

Non monetary awards

#6a 1st Place State Newsletter – Idaho – Gem State Gardener Newsletter
#9a Honorable Mention - Civic Achievement – Neperce Garden Club
#17Aa11 1st Place – Youth Activities – Owyhee Garden Club
#18Aa11 1st Place – Social Media/Facebook Page – Golden Garden Club





Miles Butler

University of Idaho student Miles Butler is the recipient of this years National Garden Clubs, Inc. scholarship as well as the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. scholarship.

Submitted by
GCII Scholarship Chair, LeeAnn McMaster

Congratulations! It is indeed a great pleasure to announce the selection of a college student from the state of Idaho to receive a National Garden Club Scholarship in the amount of \$3,800.00 for the 2023-2024 school year. And the same student to received the GCII state scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. I applaud his efforts and accomplishments that earned him both of these scholarship awards.

Hello, my name is Miles Butler, and I will be studying Environmental Science and Soil Science at the University of Idaho in the Fall of 2023. I enjoy gardening, reading science fiction, and finding new ways I can help educate myself and others about nature and the environment, and how they can develop their green thumbs. I've been working in gardens since 2021, and it has really changed my outlook on life and allowed me to find new hobbies that I never imagined myself doing.

After I graduate from college, I hope to enter into a career which allows for extensive field study and opportunities to learn more about plant life, such as the American Horticultural Society or the Idaho Native Plant Society.

I want a career in which I can immerse myself in my work and in the outdoors to learn more about how I can contribute to environmental education and development at the individual level.

Than you,

Miles Butler

Pacific Region Garden Clubs is made up of eight states Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, and Hawaii.



Native Plants, Backyard Habitats & Pollinators

By Karen Martin, Co-Chair

Native Plants, Backyard Habitat & Pollinators

The December-January 2022 article in the National Wildlife magazine, “Signs of Good Garden Care” by Laura Tangley had some interesting information and some good ideas one might consider for educational opportunities with their own garden.

A property owner in Michigan had neighbors who were unhappy with tall native grasses and leaves left on the ground for the winter months. Everything changed when they put labels with the scientific names in front of the plants. “What was previously perceived as unkempt lawn became a botanical garden.”

In Ottawa, Ontario, gardener Berit Erickson also labeled plants. In 2017 after a cedar tree fell to the ground, she converted the lawn into a pollinator garden. More than fifty perennial plant and shrub species, most of the native were planted. Bees, butterflies and even birds never seen before began to show up. “We got nothing but positive feedback from neighbors.” People passing by the property were intrigued and they constantly stopped to ask questions. Berit decide; “I wanted to teach them even when I wasn’t out working in the yard”. She added plant labels and put out a how-to brochure for other gardeners.

Below is a picture of her garden with labels and an educational brochure she places in her garden when she is not there. <https://cornerpollinatorgarden.net/brochure/> is a link for a PDF version of the brochure she updated in May 2023.



<https://cornerpollinatorgarden.net/2020/07/21/diy-plant-labels/> is a link where Berit Erickson explains how she makes her plant labels.

Parliamentary Procedure Submitted By Karen Martin

How To Conduct a Meeting – Parliamentary Procedure

Sometimes confusion exists regarding the parliamentary procedure to conduct a garden club meeting. The most common parliamentary authority is Robert's Rules of Order in the United States. Robert's Rules of Order were first published in 1876 and were named for Colonel Henry Martyn Robert, a military engineer in the United States Army. Without warning Mr. Robert was asked to preside over a public meeting being held in a church in his community and realized that he did not know how to conduct a meeting. His attempt to preside over the public meeting led to his embarrassment, and he vowed never to conduct another meeting until he learned more about Parliamentary Law. As he traveled around the country as part of his military duties, he found different members from different parts of the county had differing ideas of correct procedure. In an attempt to bring order to the chaos, he decided to write Roberts Rules of Order. Roberts Rules is the most widely used manual of parliamentary procedures in the United States. It governs the meetings of a diverse range of organizations which include church groups, county commissions, homeowners associations, nonprofit groups, just to name a few, that have adopted it as their parliamentary authority.

The three guiding principles of Roberts Rules of Order are:

1. Everyone should be allowed to speak once before anyone speaks again.
2. Everyone has the right to know what is happening, and speakers should only be interrupted in urgent situations.
3. Consider only one motion at a time.

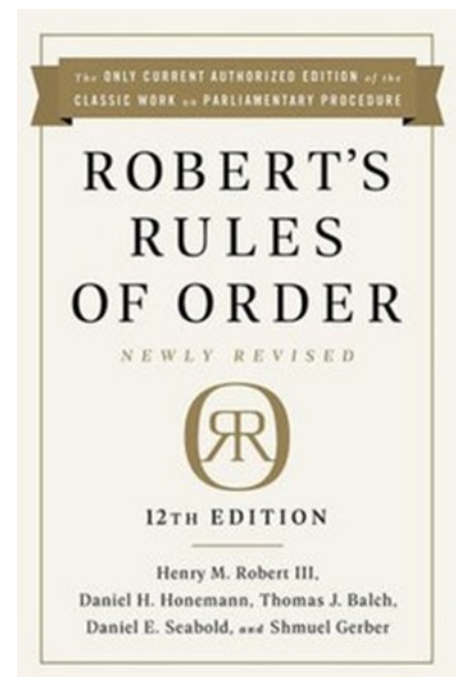
The formal steps in handling a motion are the making of a motion, having a second, stating the motion, having debate on the motion, putting the motion to a vote, and announcing the results of the vote. The following link is a guide to conducting a meeting.

<https://sgc.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Roberts-Rules-of-Order.pdf>

Sources: Wikipedia, View Edition Timeline, and slack.com



Colonel Henry Martyn Robert





Farewell by LeeAnn McMaster

When I look back on my years in the garden club, I have met some wonderful and caring people throughout the state of Idaho and throughout the country. Met with newcomers and long-time members that have given a lot of themselves to keep the GCII going through their clubs, District, State, Pacific Region, and National Level. I am thankful for these individuals. A lot of these ladies have since passed on, but they still exist in my memories and most importantly in my heart. I can't just look at a flower and see the beauty of that flower anymore. When I see a chrysanthemum, I see and hear the teachings of Edith Cole. I remember her life story and am amazed by her love, not only of plant life but of human life. I can't think of dirt without hearing my friend Lorna Inglet in my head saying, *"it's soil not dirt", soil is what you put seeds and plants in to nourish them and let them grow, dirt is the unwanted trash left behind.*

My life in my local garden club began in 2006. I attended a few club meetings and soon was elected president of the club. I served for a number of terms of office as president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer for my club. I also served as 2nd vice director for the Clearwater District.

During my time as president of the Nezperce Garden Club I implemented programs that helped the club win State, Pacific Region and National level awards. I started the Garden Club Calendar that won at National three times, Good Neighbor Award, Scholarship Fund, Facebook Page as well as a Website for the club. Published a club newsletter entitled *The Cheerful Gardener*, published ten club yearbooks in which I scheduled guest speakers for every month, created a video promoting Flower Show School that won an award at national level, helped to start the very first junior garden club in the state of Idaho called the *Rose Buds Junior Garden Club*. I've made hundreds of Christmas wreaths throughout the years. I also worked with my friend and club member Kathy Camden to have a Blue Star Memorial dedicated to the veterans in Nezperce. Unfortunately, as you leave your appointed office the programs that you implemented aren't always kept up.

The greatest honors that I have received while in my time in garden club were being presented the *GCII 2011 Woman of the Year Award* by former state President Robyn McCarthy. Also when club member Lorna Inglet *presented me with a butterfly wind chime from the Rose Buds Garden Junior Garden Club and the Nezperce Garden Club for my service to both clubs.*

Other things that I have accomplished during my years in Nezperce: I volunteered to help run a farmers market for a number of years. Most importantly for our environment and for our world, I had dreams of Nezperce having its own recycling center in town, so I spoke to Mayor Steve Bateman and struck up a deal with him. If I agreed to teach the people of Nezperce how to recycle and show that there was an interest in the community, the town would take on the responsibilities after I established a recycling program. Club members along with myself started going into the local school to teach the children good recycling habits. So I started a temporary recycling center by collecting recyclable items in my garage for twenty nine months, until the town had established a permanent collection site in 2013.



Farewell by LeeAnn McMaster, Continued



I also ran the local food bank in town for eight years, first as the Nezperce Food Pantry and then as The Corner Cupboard.

My greatest honor as a citizen of the town of Nezperce was when Mayor Steve Bateman presented me with a plaque naming me *Volunteer of the year in 2016*.

Another honor bestowed upon me, was being initiated as a *Daughters of the American Revolution* member and being pinned by longtime friend Edith Cole in 2019.

At this time, I formally announce that I am stepping down from my appointed GCII duties as the State Awards and Scholarship Chairman, as well as Managing Editor for the Gem State Gardener newsletter.

With this I say farewell and may God Bless you all!

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Fall Clearwater District meeting

Hosting club: *Hill and Valley Garden Club*

Thursday, October 19, 2023 at the VFW Hall in Kendrick

Theme: "Harvest Moon"

Guest Speaker: *Mary Ann Linger*

Speaking on "Common Plants With Herbal Uses"

Registration Fee: \$10 Breakfast at 8:30

Fall Southeast District meeting

Hosted club: *Roberts Town and Country*

Saturday, September 23rd, at 1pm in Roberts, Idaho

Our topic will be "*Hugelkultur Gardening*"

Fall Southwest District meeting

Hosting club: *Golden Garden Club*

Monday, September 25, 2023 at Zamzows Education Building

6208 W, State St., Boise, ID

Theme: "A Thirst for Gardening"

Guest Speaker: *Susan Bell, Advanced Master Garden Educator*

speaking on "Garden Water Conservation"

Registration Fee \$20

Silent Auction of Handmade Garden Quilt