



Greetings from Garden Clubs of Idaho.

I am Janet Petersen President of Garden Clubs of Idaho. Due to poor health President Karen Mallon stepped down and as First-Vice President I assumed the Presidency. I want to thank Karen for her dedication, devotion and time to GCII. Thank you Karen.

For those of you who do not know me, I live in Boise and am a member of the Merry Tillers Garden Club. I have been an officer in my garden club and have been involved in local, state and regional committees. I am a National Accredited Flower Show Judge. Having grown up on a farm in Kansas at an early age I developed a passion for the sky, the soil, and the sun and what they bring forth in all forms of flora.

It has been exciting and wonderful experience learning what wonderful people are involved in our State, Regional and National Garden Clubs and how they also have such a passion for our environment. I want to thank those who have been an incredible asset in my transition for the past 2 months; I could not have done it without you. Thank you Robyn McCarthy, Maxine Smolowitz and Louisa Cone. Thank you thank you thank you. Garden Clubs of Idaho website is now upgraded thanks to Allen Deitz. Please look at it to see what a wonderful job he has done. www.gcii.org Thank you Allen! Laurie DuRocher a member of the Merry Tillers graciously accepted the position of National Project and Pacific Region Chairmanship. Please look at Laurie's work on the GCII website. Carol Delaney is our new State Scholarship Chairman she is also from the Merry Tillers.

I have been corresponding with many members throughout the state and in my correspondence I learned that Joyce DiGiovanni the Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl Chairman has increased the poster contest from 421 last year to this year 1200 entries. Great job Joyce.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as I can at our State annual convention June 30 in Coeur d' Alene. GCII would appreciate you registering prior to the meeting so we know how many will be attending. Registration forms are available on our website. Pacific Region Annual meeting will follow on July 1-3 in Coeur d'Alene. Idaho is the host state. If you haven't registered and are planning to attend a registration forms are available at the GCII website. Sandy Ford is the Convention Chairman for the Pacific Region convention and has given 200 per cent towards making this a memorable convention. I also want to acknowledge all those who are giving of their time and efforts toward the Pacific Region Convention.

The GCII fallboard meeting has been set for Oct.6 at the Ashley Inn in Cascade Idaho. GCII State chairmen will be expected to submit their oral or written reports at this meeting. If you are a Club President, State Officer and or a State Chairman you are part of the Board of Directors. This meeting is a time for us all to get together and share our ideas and you are encouraged to attend. There will be more information to follow.

As an environmentalist I have chosen for my theme "We all live downstream. Choices matter". Also we have chosen not to mail but use the Internet for the Gem State Gardener newsletter. If you know members who are not connected to the Internet, invite them over or take time to print it out and give them a copy. Looking forward to an educational and enjoyable 2014.

Janet Petersen
Garden Clubs of Idaho President

*We all live downstream.
Choices matter.*

Idaho Garden Club Members - YOU ROCK!!!

The Idaho Garden Club members astonished me again with another year of extraordinary display of artistic talents of our Idaho youth. As the posters were delivered and I began the tasks of judging the posters and preparing the reports required by National Garden Clubs and the US Forest Service, I was blown away with the response and participation in the Smokey Bear-Woodsy Owl Poster Contest. Local chairwomen, schools, teachers and students surpassed our previous numbers with a strong showing of support. I have been Chairman for 3 years with each year surpassing the last year in participation.

With fairness in mind and many reports to complete, I decided to step down as a judge this year and leave that task up to a High School Freshman, and two local Art Teachers as the judges. What a task they faced with a total of 156 posters submitted. Again, it was a joyful day with lots of laughs and oh no's when realized a once thought perfect poster had to be placed aside due to a slight error. Such a difficult task to choose five posters out of one hundred fifty six knowing there will be so many disappointments.

With the judging completed, I began the task of tallying the amount of participation. Now came the real eye-opening amazement! Idaho's participation has been growing on the past three years I have been chairman but this year we shot for the moon! Here are the numbers: 1. Total number of students contacted: 1200 2.Total number of students creating posters: 940 3.Total number of Garden Clubs participating:6 4.Total number of schools:Public-28, Private-6, Home Schooled: 4 Total number of teachers: 43 WOW!!!

We set out to reach as many students as possible and with the dedication of the local chairs we accomplished that task with the extraordinary numbers. I extend a heartfelt thank you to all the Chairmen for their dedication and support, without you Idaho would not be that shining GEM. Keep up the wonderful work and keep Idaho Green!

- Joyce DiGiovanni the Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl chairmen.

Garden Clubs of Idaho National and Pacific Region Special Projects 2013-2015

NGC Conservation Pledge

'I pledge to protect and conserve our natural resources of planet earth and to promote education so that we may become caretakers (stewards) of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife.'

The NGC and the Pacific Region have assigned a *National Stewardship* lead to address each area of our environment; air, water, forests, land, plants, and wildlife ([NGC Stewardship Lead](#), [PacificRegiongardenclubs.org](#)) Excited by the opportunity to demonstrate to our community, what we understand from our gardeners perspective, we look forward to enhancing and sharing our knowledge.

To address each area of stewardship, before year end, we will provide each Idaho garden Club president keynotes of concern and how our choices as gardeners matter. Included will be links and educational opportunities available to share with members.

All clubs will determine the manner in which the information is used or communicated to club members.

We have 6 Topics to cover before year end. To ensure all topics covered we will follow the schedule:

Air: May

Water: July

Forests: August

Land: September

Plants: October

Wildlife: November

The information will follow the format;

Education – short discussion of impacts and resources available

Protection – our choices which impact resource

Conservation – ways we can conserve

-Laurie DuRocher

IDAHO HORTICULTURE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARDEES

The Idaho Horticulture Society are utilizing proceeds from their annual plant sale to fund projects in Idaho, Western Oregon and Washington. Eleven programs applied for grant funds, and six were awarded based on their projects compliance with IHS goals of creating, promoting and furthering the interest in horticulture, gardening, civic beautification and natural resource conservation accomplished through educational outreach and community service projects. Collaboration with multiple groups was key to the selection. Awarded projects included:

Boise Urban Garden School (BUGS) has partnered with City of Boise Parks and Recreation and a private family foundation to build a new permanent education facility and ¼ acre garden to deliver hands-on garden based curriculum serving low income youth in the west bench neighborhood of Boise.

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Rescue Native Plant Habitat Project. This grant will support the completion of phase one of the Pollinator Garden including garden installation, irrigation, and infrastructure, plant identification markers, a drip system, and bricks for a seating area. Along with the guidance of a Master Gardener, the work of volunteers, and donated plants and materials, this project provides a Pollinator Garden that is attractive, accessible, educational, and sustainable.

Idaho Falls Friendship Garden is an ongoing project that includes a landscaped area around a pavilion that currently is being built in the Japanese style garden as a tribute to their sister city, Tokai-Mura, Japan. Centered in downtown Idaho Falls alongside the Snake River, funding will be used for plant material, installed and maintained by multiple volunteers.

Moscow Backyard Harvest will utilize funds to purchase a rototiller and seeds for the expansion of a successful pilot program called Grow for the Greater Good. Backyard Harvest provides better access to fresh, locally grown foods to low income families and older adults in northern Idaho and eastern Washington. Backyard Harvest provides all the seeds, starts, necessary equipment, educational resources and extra manpower to assist groups in getting their gardens off the ground!

Nyssa High School Science Department have an established Native Plant Outdoor Classroom that is open to the public. Working in collaboration with Oregon State Extension Malheur County and the Oregon State University Nyssa SMILE clubs, the native plant demonstration garden includes more than 60 different plant varieties and covers over 5,000 square feet on school grounds. Funds will be used to enhance the educational value of the site by providing interpretive signage, brochures, adding additional species of plants, and enhancing the water conservation garden.

Payette Childrens Forest Council Pond Project will use funds for habitat enhancement and plant propagation of this civic and natural resources improvement project. Council High School students will improve the habitat around the 1 acre pond by growing and propagating native plants in their greenhouse through their horticulture program, developing a planting plan, and planting trees/shrubs/grasses with younger students. Council Summer Work crew participants will help with watering This project shows exceptional collaboration that include ID Fish and Game, Adams Soil Conservation District, JI Morgan, NRCS, Council City Council, USFS, and the Parks and Rec Board.

For additional information about this program, contact Marj Dougherty, IHS Grant Coordinator at marjdougherty@gmail.com

CROWN BEE—NCS PARTNERSHIP

There is a partnership between Crown Bee and National Garden Clubs Inc. to increase native bee awareness and encourage gardeners to add gentle, rarely stinging Mason Bees for food and flower pollination. This project of NGC President, Linda Nelson, is called “Making a World of Difference—Choices Matter”

The honey bee is rapidly declining, which is causing a serious problem with pollinating plants and blooms. That in turn, is affecting food supply. The number of pollination insects, including honey bees, globally has declined. The economic value of pollination throughout the world is more than \$200 billion a year. 70% of the world’s crops rely on pollination for maturity. If honeybees are not maintained at certain levels, many crops will not mature and those foods could be in short supply. So, there is a need for more pollinating insects to help save our food supply threatened by declining honey bees.

The Mason Bee is black and looks a lot like a housefly. In March it emerges from a solitary home and flies away to find blossoms, which means it is a valuable pollinator for early blooming fruits such as pears, blueberries, plums and flowers. The Mason Bee bears no queens or drones, builds no colonies, is not an aggressive stinger and does not manufacture wax or honey. Its sole purpose is to pollinate.

For more information: <http://www.crownbees.com> or <http://www.crownbees.com/category/ngc>

-Edith Cole, Chairman

Greetings from the Environment Chairperson, Happy Ford.

When I joined Golden Garden Club in 1986, it was mostly about flowers, and flower design. Our meetings were, as suggested, by National, 3/4 about the growing and cultivation of flowers, and 1/4 about design. I was okay with this for the longest time, and since I am a creature of habit, I never really gave it much thought.

The times are changing however and big corporations have gotten involved with food production. They are altering our seeds to withstand Round-up. The use of herbicide is creating issues such as killing much more than weeds. It has been blamed on the decline of bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

I urge you all to cease using Round up and other toxic weed killers. There are several ways to take care of weeds without using chemicals. You can use vinegar, full strength, but use caution because it will kill off tender perennials too. I have used boiling water on thistles. In the fall you can lay down newspapers as a barrier for weeds or grass the next spring. And the old standby, digging or hoeing them up. I will touch on other alternatives in future articles.

My concern at the present, are the Monarch butterflies. The population has dropped a drastic 65%. The main reason is that the milkweed that is the host plant is being killed by herbicides, which the butterflies and caterpillars digest, and then they die. The milkweed is also destroyed as development takes up more and more of open land. I encourage all of you not to pull up native milkweed, and to plant *Asclepias Tuberosa* or other *Asclepias*, which you can find in both catalogs and at local nurseries.

As gardeners, we all need to be well aware of the fact, that if we lose our pollinators, we lose everything. We will not be able to grow flowers or vegetables. Encourage bees and butterflies by planting host plants that they love. I thank you and the bees and butterflies thank you. Have a happy Spring!! I am so excited to have spring bulbs starting to bloom in my yard.

Happy Gardening

The Garden clubs of Southeast Idaho are always on the move. We may be indoors to keep out of the cold, but our minds are active.

The Roberts Town and Country Club celebrated 60 years of gardening. This year they were sponsoring a Valentines Day Dance with a live bluegrass band and gearing up for their Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. They do a lot for their small community. They always participate in the Woodsy Owl competition and usually bring home a prize.

Garden Talk went big this year with participation in the Christmas Tree Festival sponsored by the Developmental Works shop

Garden Club of Idaho Falls sponsored the fall District meeting. It was all about "What's New in Idaho Falls. We talked about all our city gardens and what to look for in the future.

Janice Zabriskie
Southeast District Director

Blue Star Memorial Markers and Byway Markers

As Chairman I would like to encourage your club to raise funds and add a lasting legacy in your community. It would be a wonderful way to remember those that have served our country, those that are serving our country and to those that will serve in the future. A large Blue Star Marker is \$1,350.00 and Byway Markers are \$450.00.

It would also be helpful if your club would order a set of GUIDELINES on Memorial from National Headquarters. If you need more information please contact me at 208-459-2209 or go the National Garden Club website www.gardenclub.org.

Louisa Cone
Blue Star Memorial Marker & Byway Marker Chairman

Clearwater District

As I try to think back as to what has happened over the last several months with our northern clubs, some fun times come to my mind. It's always such a joy to see gardening friends!

It has been about nine months since the Clearwater District hosted the Idaho State Garden Club Convention in Moscow. I believe it was a very successful convention due to the help of so many club members and their very talented, hardworking hands. We were very pleased to have Pacific Region Director Elaine Gunderson with us. We did have a flower show during the convention and held the reception for Elaine in the room with the show, which I think was a nice addition. Two very interesting programs and a tour of the U of I Arboretum were highlights. Many enjoyed the trip to the Appaloosa Museum also. A total of 61 registered for the convention.

Our Fall District Meeting was hosted by Garden Club for All Seasons with the theme of "Let's Grow Together" with a very interesting program about companion planting. Clubs have been busy with their community projects, such as beautification, working with youth, assisting with local fairs and then enjoying the holiday season making wreaths for fundraising/sharing and personal use. We now look forward to "Aloha Spring" with our District Meeting being held in Kendrick hosted by the Hill & Valley Garden Club with a program about conservation plantings and the benefits of native grasses and Forbes.

We are excited to say the district now has three new Flower Show Judges. Linda Morrison, Lenette Smith and Leann Wicks from the Kooskia/Kamiah area and are members of the Valley Garden Club. Congratulations!

Jodene Caldwell, Clearwater District Director

Dates to Remember:

April 30- May 3: National Garden Club Convention, Norman, Ok.

June 1-7: National Garden Week

June 27-July1: Pacific Region Pre-Convention Fundraiser Tour- Idaho and Glacier National Park

June 30: Idaho Annual Convention Coeur d' Alene 6:30- 9:30

June 30-July4 : Pacific Region Convention Coeur d' Alene

Sept 24-28: NGC Fall Board Meeting - Des Moines, IA

Oct.6: Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. Fall Board meeting Ashley Inn, Cascade, Id.

For more information like our [Facebook](#) page.

Janet

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Choices matter.*



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