



GEM STATE GARDENER

4th Quarter 2014 Newsletter



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



As fall is beginning to turn to winter, our thoughts turn to the holidays. Hoping this letter finds all of you getting ready for the chill in the air that soon will be coming.

Many events have occurred this year. We celebrate the anniversaries of Golden Garden Club, Moscow Garden Club and Roberts Town and Country Garden Club. The Pacific Region Garden Clubs Convention held in Coeur de Alene was sponsored by Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. The Chinden Gardeners club was formed, and Judy Seidel from Idaho Falls won the prestigious Award of Excellence at the National Garden Club convention in Norman, Ok.

I want to thank the Garden Club Presidents for their reports regarding the Pacific Region Project. Knowing what each club is doing helps bring our state garden club community together.

Garden Clubs of Idaho is still looking for a garden club to sponsor the Gardening Studies School. GCII will give the club \$1,000 to help in sponsoring the school.

Stay garden connected this winter by:

- ✦ Visiting our Garden Clubs of Idaho, the Pacific Region and the National Garden Clubs websites. They are wonderful educational experiences.
- ✦ Become a Facebook friend of Garden Clubs of Idaho.
- ✦ Please don't forget our partnership with Ames Tools. They are donating \$5,000 towards tools for garden clubs projects.
- ✦ GCII has partnership with Zone 4 Magazine. They will donate \$5 to GCII for every subscription. Give a Subscription as a gift for Christmas.
- ✦ Purchase a GCII T-shirt or Gift Cards as Christmas gifts.

We want to remember all our Garden Club members that passed away this last year. Please keep them all in your thoughts.

I hope you all will come to McCall for our Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. Annual Convention June 14-16 2015. Lynnda Gilbert is the chairman and is working very hard to make it a fun but educational event.

Choices Matter. We All Live Downstream.

Happy Holidays, Janet Petersen President, Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.



DECEMBER 1ST IS GARDEN CLUB AWARDS SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Pat Baker, State Awards Chairman, reminds all of us that as a member of National Garden Clubs, Pacific Region and Garden Clubs of Idaho, you have the opportunity to apply for awards and certificates that recognize and reward your participation in the goals and mission of our organization. Pat has demystified the process for applying down from sixty pages to thirteen pages – Thank You Pat! All of the information you need and forms to download are easy to access, just go to: http://www.gcii.org/index.php?content=awards_club Remember, the **DEADLINE** for all applications and supporting evidence must be received via email by Pat Baker, our State Awards Chairman by December 1. Awards of Appreciation nominations are accepted at any time.

RAYS OF LIGHT

Gardeners in Idaho have been tilling the soil a very long time. Idaho joined the National Federation in 1954 and Mrs. Ralston was the first Pacific Region Director in 1954. Idaho just celebrated our 70 Pacific Region Convention, but we were joined the region 85 years ago. Because of World War I and then II, there were several years no convention was held because of the war.

This month we honor two Idaho Garden Clubs celebrating over 65 year anniversaries: They are the Clearwater District: Moscow Garden Club and the Southeast District: Roberts Town and Country Garden Club.

The Southwest District: Golden Garden Club is celebrating their anniversary too! Enjoy the highlights of two of those clubs below:



The **Moscow Garden Club (MGC)** was organized in 1949 for the prime objective of “bringing some class” to the Floral exhibits at the Latah County Fair. For 15 years the MGC belonged to the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs.

Our current focus includes plantings or sponsorship donations for education, community gardening and beautification, the Latah County Fair, scholarships, food bank, and McConnell Mansion, to name a few. We proudly support a Blue Star byway marker and a grove of tree peonies in the UI Arboretum.

We recently published a book including oral histories of gardening in Latah County since WWII “Born with a Hoe in my Hand”.

Our club has three NGC Flower Show judges and a number of Master Gardeners. We have sponsored an NGC Flower Show School. MGC currently holds an annual spring plant sale and have done so since 1974. Members gather in December for our annual wreath workshop and wreaths/swags are delivered to area Care Centers and member shut-ins.

Golden Garden Club Originally called the Syringa Garden Club. Jr. they were sponsored by their mother's garden club in east Boise. They joined the State Federation of Garden Clubs in 1953. In addition to their home gardens, they canned, exchanged recipes and established public gardens in the city and at the Mountain Home Air force base. Some were "Rosy the Riveter" during the war. GGC was honored with a cake and cupcake tree by the Owyhee Garden Club at the Southwest District's fall meeting. Beautiful and delicious!

GGC has continued with their contributions to the community gardens. Several years ago, along with other participants, GGC renewed Capital Park. It has brick walkway, planters, lighting and beautiful flowers in red, white and blue. It surrounds a Blue Star Memorial Monument. We continue to maintain this lovely addition to downtown Boise. Do come and see it!

Golden added to our garden, a soothing place of respite for the residents and their families, at Valley View Retirements Garden Plaza. Every fall we make bouquets with the residents. We always look forward to this opportunity to spend time with the residents.

In fulfilling our obligation to encourage young people in their knowledge of horticulture we contributed \$500 to the Boise Urban Garden School. Very recently, we contributed \$500 to the Botanical Garden which was a "triple match". This program is to provide transportation for school children to visit the garden and learn from their expert staff.

One of our most educational outings was to the Parma Fruit Expo, at the U of I extension farm.

The research they are doing in growing previously unavailable fruits in Idaho is amazing!

Revising your club Bylaws is massive undertaking, but we are thrilled and relieved that they were unanimously approved in October and include a most helpful procedure guide.

Lynnda Gilbert, Interim President

Roberts Town and County Garden Club most likely has an interesting past. Perhaps sometime in the future we will hear from them with an update of their activities.

REPORTS FROM CLUBS

The Chinden Gardeners are growing! We now have 15 members and are well on our way to meeting our goal of 25 before our first anniversary. Our club is becoming more organized and we plan to begin working on our Constitution and Bylaws as it is a requirement for each club.

August was a busy month as we began the labor on our grant project. We pulled large grasses, dug up rocks and laid drainage lines to clear way for the Garden City Department of Works, Parks and Facilities who repaired and installed the irrigation system for the planters. We then amended the soil and checked the irrigation system to determine if everything would be watered properly. In September we made the final selection of plants and purchased them from our local nursery. There were several "planting days" with participation of every club member who was able to help. In early October The project turned out beautifully and fits nicely with the Garden City Library's new patio and children's members have volunteered to maintain the reading area. Four garden throughout the year. We were very thankful to have the strong arms and the knowledge of



drainage systems that our male members who helped lay pipe, life heavy bags of soil and plants and made our individual plant signs. Our plants have all received name tags that includes their botanical name, species, and common name. We will be purchasing signage that will show that our club planted and will maintain the planters, that we are a member of the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. and that funding was received from the Idaho Horticultural Society.



Through this project we have been able to develop a good working relationship with our city government and our community. Finally, the holiday season is upon us and our Program committee has a Holiday Flower Arranging program plan where we will raffle off the arrangements to members and in December we plan a potluck dinner. Come join us, won't you?

The educational booklet, **“Ecology Warriors”** prepared by the Environmental Concerns/Conservation Committee for use in the classroom, in youth groups and at garden club meetings, was recommended and approved by the NGC Board of Directors at the 2014 Fall Board Meeting to be distributed to all members.

The file is available on the NGC for downloading: <http://www.gardenclub.org/youth/ecology-warriors-workbook.aspx>

Editor's Rant

Recently I had an opportunity to participate in a fish stranding study with US Bureau of Reclamation and Idaho Department of Fish and Game fisheries biologists and volunteers with Trout Unlimited. The decrease in river flows is done to fulfill irrigation, flood control, and fish/wildlife needs. Simply put, we went out onto the Boise River below Anderson Dam as the Bureau of Reclamation decreased river flows from 1,600 to 300 cfs in two separate events about 3 weeks apart.. Over 12,000 stranded age-0 rainbow trout were counted in dewatered portions of the channel as well as in larger pools and side channels. It was evident to me the impact human activity has on the environment. Water is life! Here are a few more thoughts to ponder – it was announced this week by the Associated Press/US Geological Survey that Idahoans use more water, 168 gallons of water per person per day, than any people in any other state. The national average is 88 gallons per day. This was appalling to me, a former Water and Soil Resource Conservation Manager and Educator.

Ponder that the theme for our President this year is “Choices Matter – We all Live Downstream”. So you ask, what does this have to do with gardening? Recall only last year, many of us had our water usage decreased by our Irrigation Districts because of lack of water. In my neighborhood, we were put on odd/even days and none on Sundays. Know what, EVERY garden in our

subdivision looked better with this water schedule – homeowners were not overwatering any more.

With all of this pondering going on in my head, it made me think of what plants are in my garden that I could replace with plants with much lower water requirements, and thought I would share a few resources should you feel so compelled to use less of Idaho's water as well.

Here are a few good websites to help you get started.

<http://findnativeplants.com/plains/idaho-native-plants/>

Recommended Idaho Native Plant Lists”

[Bonner County Idaho Guide to Native Plants](#), Idaho Native Plant Society

[Boise Area Native Plants](#), Idaho Native Plant Society

[Landscaping & Restoration Native Plants for Northern Idaho](#), Idaho Native Plant Society

[Landscaping with Native Plants of the Intermountain Region](#), Idaho Native Plant Society

[Native Plants for Idaho](#), NPIN Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

[Plant species for Pollinator Habitat in the Inland Pacific Northwest](#), NRCS

[Pacific Northwest Plants for Bees](#), Xerces Society

My pick for a water wise ground cover this quarter comes from High Country Gardens catalog.

Ben Ledi Rock Rose, or *Helianthemum Ben Ledi*.

Zones 4-9

Full sun, morning sun and afternoon shade.

Flower color is pink, grows 10-12” tall and 15-18” wide

IS AN EVERGREEN!!! Yeah – winter interest!!!

<http://www.highcountrygardens.com/plant-finder/waterwise-perennials/helianthemum-ben-ledi>



I hope you take the time to ponder the impacts our plant selections have downstream!!

Sources: http://www.southforkboise.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/2012SFBoise_StrandingSummary.pdf
<http://www.ktvb.com/story/news/local/2014/11/16/study-idahoans-use-more-water-than-any-other-state/19142021/>



Floral Design Workshop

Holiday Centerpiece

December 13 10am-noon or 1-3pm

Learn to create a holiday-themed centerpiece to brighten your home for the holidays. This hands-on workshop, led by floral designers and flower show judges, will guide you through the process from plant material selection to the completed design. Participants will take home their own centerpiece along with helpful tips on using evergreen boughs.

\$20 includes all plant material and supplies
to make a take home holiday centerpiece

Class location:

Ada County Extension Office, 5880 Glenwood St., Boise

Bring garden gloves and hand-held pruners.

Sponsored by Treasure Valley Flower Show Judges Council

To register contact

Pat Baker, patbaker@idhort.com

or phone (208) 870.1299

SPACE IS LIMITED



CHRISTMAS GARDENING GIFT IDEAS



GCII T-Shirts and Notecards – Recall last issue we introduced the new awesome T-shirts and notecards, featuring original artwork by our own Sharron O’Neal. These would both make great Christmas gifts for your gardening friend, grab bag gifts or your grandkids favorite teacher. For ordering information, refer to the September issues of Gem State Gardener, which you can download or print from here: http://www.gcii.org/publications/newsletters/gsg_v4-3_2014sep.pdf



ZONE 4 MAGAZINE – a subscription for anyone you know, especially folks new to gardening, would love to receive Zone 4 magazine. Remember, Zone 4 gives GCII \$5.00 for every subscription purchased. What an easy way to help our organization. Same as the cards, check out the September Gem State Gardener for the ordering information: http://www.gcii.org/publications/newsletters/gsg_v4-3_2014sep.pdf



AMES TOOLS – A new, strong and sturdy snow shovel sounds like a great gift idea now with the snow frozen to our ground! Remember, Ames donates to our school projects, so how about going to their website and ordering a few gifts for family, friends, or yourself! Available at local hardware and garden stores featuring quality products

How about **DAFFODIL PIN AND EARRINGS**, just darling – from the National Garden Clubs Online Shopping Store.

<http://www.shopgardenclub.org/shop/category.aspx?catid=4>



The Nezperce Garden Club 2015 Calendar is now available for purchase.

The Nezperce Garden Club has been selling wall calendars featuring garden scenes and flowers from local gardens in Cottonwood, Ferdinand, Grangeville and Nezperce, Idaho for the past five years. Proceeds from the sale of calendars will fund a scholarship for a locally graduating senior of Lewis County.

The Club has won the National Garden Clubs, Inc. calendar award for the past two years and features all Idaho District Fall and spring meetings, Idaho Convention, Pacific Region Convention and National Convention dates. If you would like to purchase a calendar for \$10.00 plus the cost of mailing, please contact LeeAnn McMaster at 208-937-9006 or by E-mail to nezpercegardenclub@yahoo.com.

Calendar ~ What's a Buzz ?

Snow is heavy on our branches, our gardens are sleeping, getting a good rest before they peak through the spring snow, searching for that warm sunshine. News of a few good things coming this winter have landed in the calendar below. Hope you can bundle up and get out to enjoy a few of the events:



Dates	Event	Contact or More Info?
Nov 27, 2014 - Jan 4, 2015 6pm-9:30 p.m. (closed Dec 2,3)	18th annual Winter Garden a Glow at the Idaho Botanical Garden	http://idahobotanicalgarden.org/winter-garden-aglow
Dec 12, 2014	Annual Evergreen Sale, Hill Valley Garden Club	Sharon Harris 208-289-4622
Jan 21, 2015	Tea Basics, ID. Botanical Garden	\$15 IBG members/\$20 non-members. http://idahobotanicalgarden.org/education/adult-education
Jan 21, 2015	Cutting Gardens	\$12 IBG members/ \$17 non-members. http://idahobotanicalgarden.org/education/adult-education
Jan 29-30, 2015	NGC Flower Show Symposium,	Las Vegas, NV
Feb 7, 2015	Organic Vegetable Gardening	\$12 IBG members/ \$17 non-members. http://idahobotanicalgarden.org/education/adult-education
Feb 11, 2015	Coming to a Nursery Near You	\$12 IBG members/ \$17 non-members. http://idahobotanicalgarden.org/education/adult-education
Feb 11-15, 2015	Northwest Garden Show, Seattle Seminar schedule now available	http://www.gardenshow.com/
Feb 17, 2015	Waking up the Garden	\$12 IBG members/ \$17 non-members. http://idahobotanicalgarden.org/education/adult-education
Feb 25, 2015	Wine 101	\$15 IBG members/\$20 non-members. http://idahobotanicalgarden.org/education/adult-education
Feb 28, 2015	Rethinking Idaho Landscapes Horticulture Symposium Boise Center on the Grove	\$30 IBG member & UI Master Gardeners/ \$35 Non-members http://idahobotanicalgarden.org/education/adult-education
Mar 18-22, 2015	San Francisco Flower & Garden Show	http://sfgardenshow.com/
Mar 20-22, 2015	Boise Flower and Garden Show; Ada Gardeners Garden Club and Treasure Valley Judges sponsored Standard Flower Show	Check GCII website in late December for more information. www.gcii.org
Apr 20-22, 2015	Pacific Region 71st Convention, Eugene Oregon	

STATE CONVENTION OF GCII 2015 COMING TO MCCALL IDAHO

Southwest District of GCII, is happy to announce that the State Convention of GCII will be held in McCall on June 15 and 16 of 2015. We are really pleased to be showing off this beautiful jewel in southwest Idaho to the rest of our members in the state.

The Holiday Inn Express Hunters Lodge is working nicely with us for our hotel and meeting room requirements and with McCall Lake Cruises as the first of several wonderful experiences we hope to have for our statewide members and their families. That is just the beginning of what we believe will be a very special event.

We encourage attendees to come a day or two early or stay later.

The Hotel has graciously extended the room rates to include any extra days in their stay.

We are putting together a list of activities that attendees could do/see during their stay.

More details will be coming your way in the coming months.



Mark your calendars and begin making plans to see friends, make new ones, and have a wonderful time in beautiful McCall next June.

Cordially, Lynnda Gilbert, GCII State Convention Chairman

208-344-4584 or 208-866-7955 cell lynnda0429@hotmail.com

CONTACTS – YOUR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Email and phone numbers for your State, District and Club Officers and Chairpersons can be found on our website at: www.GCII.org.

Janet Peterson	President	janetnpeter@gmail.com
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Maxine Smolowitz	Treasurer	msmolowitz@yahoo.com >
Robin McCarthy	Advisor	robyngcii@q.com
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Jodene Caldwell	Clearwater District Director	jcaldwell@moscow.com
Janice Zabriskie	Southeast District Director	mrsz@cableone.net
Pat Peutz	Southwest District Director	ppeutz@aol.com

Newsletter: The deadline to submit information or contribute articles for the spring 2015 Newsletter is February 15th. Send your submissions, calendar events and any great photos to Marj Dougherty at marjdougherty@gmail.com