



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

Extremely late April 2015

Please contribute to The Garden Gate. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome. For questions or comments please email lauriebrown54@gmail.com When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.

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President's Message

There are a lot of things happening in the Association right now. And, a lot of need for volunteers to make them go. Here are a few.

The school garden project is well underway with expansion into one new school and reinvigorating activities in four others. The new school is Farmin Stidwell where five beds are being constructed and filled with soil by the Elks. Last year they used a grant to fund the construction of five beds at Washington Elementary. We are now present in the classrooms or after hours at Northside, Kootenai, Washington, Farmin Stidwell and the Charter School. Thanks to Janae Dale and Michele Murphree for making this all happen.

The healing garden (Gail Blasingame) could use help in pruning and various cleanup and potting projects. Gail says she usually works in the HG on weekends when the weather is warm. She usually goes to the garden about 11 AM. My suggestion would be to contact her if you are interested in helping. Her number is: 650-867-6625.

Sandra Gevurtz is the chair of the Farmer's market table. The market will be opening on May 2 this year. Sandra is need of volunteers to man our table on May 2, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, and October 10.

Cindy Hayes has been in charge of coordinating the new highway cleanup project we have undertaken. The Association will be assigned a portion of Highway 95 near the Pack River and Samuels Store. Typically cleanup occurs twice a year; once in May and the second in October. Cindy is currently looking for volunteers and will be selecting the first cleanup date soon. Stay tuned.

The Spring Plant Sale is around the corner, May 8th and 9th, in the parking lot in front of Sears. Penny Goodman and Marj Clements are spearheading it. They have flyers available for distribution which were sent to all members. Of course, they are in need of plants for sale to make this a successful event. It starts May 8th at 9 AM.

There are other events on the horizon that will require assistance; such as the annual yard sale, the sip and shop at Pend Oreille Winery, and a cleanup of the Mickinnick Trail.

Finally, I would like to talk about soil pH a little more. Recently I have run pH's on a number of soils for members and for the school gardens. The results I am getting are interesting. A lot of the values are in the 7.5 to 7.8 range which is a little on the alkaline side for many veggies. A better range would be 6.5 to 7.0 for most crops.

I was a little surprised by these results and so started to analyze some of the things we add to our gardens, like manure and water. For several of the composted steer and cow manures that are for sale at local stores the pH tested out in the range of 7.6 - 7.8. So, if you add this to your gardens or beds you will be raising the pH. I have also tested various water sources and they are generally about 7.5. One ex-

ception was the water used for irrigation at Northside School. It was 8.4. Obviously if you irrigate with water in these pH ranges over time it will raise the pH.

So how do you lower the pH? There are several ways. One is to add peat moss to the soil. Peat moss has a pH of about 3.8 and over time, as it decomposes, will add acidity. A caution though. Peat moss has a wide C:N ratio so that as it decomposes it will tie up nitrogen and supplemental fertilization will be necessary. Another way to lower pH is to add aluminum sulfate or elemental sulfur. Aluminum sulfate acts a little faster but both will do the job. The amount to add will depend on your starting pH and the texture of your soil. Finer textured soils will require adding a larger amount than what is needed for coarser textured soils. An applicable publication from Michigan State University can be found at: http://blueberries.msu.edu/uploads/files/Lowering_Soil_pH_with_Sulfur.pdf

If you need further help with this let me know. Incidentally, I have a 50 lb bag of elemental sulfur if any of you need a few lbs.

On a personal note, I measured the pH in my beds and it was 7.6. I added aluminum sulfate and about two inches of peat moss about a month ago. Yesterday I remeasured the pH and it was 6.8. I'm happy!

Happy Gardening!



May Gardening To Do List



Zone 3

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Set out seedlings of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees
- Plant cool-season lawns and permanent ground covers
- Feed and aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials
- Divide and replant spring-blooming perennials after bloom
- Plant bare-root and container roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs, and vines
- Apply dormant spray to trees, shrubs, and vines before buds swell
- Plant tender shrubs and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens
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Zone 4

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Set out seedlings of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs

- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Divide and replant crowded winter- and spring-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees before buds swell
- Spray apples, peaches, and pears that have been affected with canker problems
- Plant permanent ground covers
- Plant, feed, and aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Set out herbs
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Divide and replant spring-blooming perennials after bloom
- Plant container roses
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs and vines
- Apply dormant spray to shrubs and vines
- Plant tender shrubs and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens
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- Apply dormant spray to shrubs and vines
- Plant tender shrubs and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant balled-and-burlapped trees
- Plant trees in containers
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens



[BCGA Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2015](#)

URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. We still need someone to take over as chairman for the Garden Tour.
2. Contact Ann Warwick to help out with the Home and Garden Show. She needs help with set up, take down, demonstrations, sessions.

Following are the minutes for the BCGA meeting on April 1, 2015:

Zone 5

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Set out seedlings of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Divide and replant crowded winter- and spring-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees before buds swell
- Spray apples, peaches, and pears that have been affected with canker problems
- Plant permanent ground covers
- Plant cool- and warm-season lawns
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Sow seeds for tender perennials
- Divide and replant spring-blooming perennials after bloom
- Plant container roses
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs, and vines

Members Present: Patti Pietron, Deb Steffen, Gray Henderson, Penny Barton, Bonnie Pick, Gail Swan, Bruce Greene, Barb Pressler, Penny Goodman, Marjory Clements, Jan Griffiths, Howie Fennimore, Ann Warwick, Butterfly Burke, Cindy Hays, Becky Reynolds, Janae Dale, Pat Congleton, George Congleton

At 9:00am April 1, 2015 President Gray Henderson brought the meeting to order.

February Meeting Minutes: Motion made to approve by Gray Henderson, seconded by Butterfly Burke, motion passed.

Treasures Report: Rob Lilley was not present. Gray Henderson reported that expenses were high this last month due to payment of the insurance premium and purchase of printer and ink.

Email Account: Gray Henderson addressed our current forwarding setup of emails. Gail Swan wants to remain on that list as she monitors it for Home Hort. We will leave the set up as is for now. Gray has updated our directory and Gail Swan has updated the email list.

Membership Committee: Penny Barton is chairman. Penny says the class went extremely well. Out of 17 students 13 completed the course. The other four will return next year to complete it. Gray Henderson says we now have 80 paying members. Penny and Howie Fennimore were given gift certificates by the class as a form of saying "thank you." Gray Henderson praised Penny and Howie for their efforts and great results.

Home Horticulture: Gail Swan and Janae Dale have added a mushroom class on April 22. Arthur Church will teach it and wants to start a mushroom club in Sandpoint. Gail has contacted the appropriate persons to get this class advertised. The Native Plant Society also wants to start a mushroom group. Gail indicated that they now have all the facilitators needed for the upcoming classes.

Home and Garden Show: Ann Warwick is chairman. The show is the second weekend in April. Ann still needs help regarding set up, take down, demonstrations and 15-minute info sessions. She is also investigating floor covering for the booth. We will be doing outdoor demonstrations on crop extenders and will have a whiteboard with listings of our demonstrations/sessions next to the door of the fair building so attendees of the fair can see what BCGA is offering.

Spring Fund Raiser: Penny Goodman and Marjory Clements have chosen Sears as the location for this event. Sears will let us have space inside the store if it rains. Penny Barton suggested they contact Bill Tedesco to see if he would donate blueberry plants. Deb Steffen gave Marge a print copy of the volunteer list. Deb will re-send Activities and Volunteer list to the membership. Ann Warwick requested flyers for the Spring Fund Raiser so she could have them to hand out at the Home and Garden Show. Penny Goodman will create the flyers and get them to Ann.

Farmers Market: Sandra Gevurtz is chairman. No report. Gray will contact her to see if she needs anything.

Garden Tour: Penny Barton is chairman. She is still looking for a replacement to chair this event next year. Gray Henderson moved to reimburse Penny \$200.00 for all of her expenses on this event. It was approved.

Yard and Plant Sale: Janae Dale is chairman. Janae will send out an announcement regarding this event to Laurie Brown to include in the Garden Gate.

School Garden Program: Janae Dale says the gardens are off and running! The schools have plants started. The Elks built raised beds for Farmin Stidwell School. Rob Lilley taught a pruning class to 4th graders and Ann Warwick taught a class on composting to them. Ann commended Janae on all of her work. Janae said the schools are now using a classroom model rather than an after school model for gardening instruction. This is making a wonderful difference in the program as instruction is during the day instead of after school. Barbara Pressler got information on a Gardening with Kids catalog and also on a book called Red Potatoes Blue Potatoes. She suggested we purchase copies for the school libraries. Barb and Janae will meet on this matter. They will be purchased out of Janae's \$500.00 budget. Barb also suggested we might teach the kids how to build a dehydrator. Penny Barton congratulated Janae on her work.

Community Garden Program: Janae Dale said the Community Garden has requested that BCGA participate in the gardens for both their clean up day and ongoing support as well. Gray Henderson will send out an email to the membership to see if anyone wants to participate in the cleanup. We will also consider becoming more involved on an ongoing basis.

Potluck: There are currently no sign ups for pot-lucks. Deborah Steffen said she would most likely have one at her home and will the date with her husband.

Advanced Education Program: No report. Mikey Haven was not present. Gray Henderson will contact Mikey regarding exact date of the How to Teach a Class class. Janae Dale will contact her regarding this as well.

Fair: Cindy Hays is chairman. Cindy is gathering the names of members who would like to work on this event. She says she will hold a meeting in May to get the project going. Deb Steffen will re-send the Activities and Volunteer list to the membership as a reminder of what they've signed up for and also to possibly get more members interested in all of our events.

Healing Garden: No report. Gail Blasingame is the new chairman. Gray Henderson will contact Gail to see if she needs anything.

Sip and Shop: Cindy Hayes is chairman. The date for this event is Tuesday, June 9 from 4:00pm – 8:00pm. Howie Fennimore built a beautiful garden tote for us to fill with items for a raffle at this event. Gray Henderson will email the membership asking for donations to fill this amazing container. At the May meeting we'll take stock of what's in the basket and decide if we need anything more.

Road Cleanup: Gray Henderson asked if BCGA wanted to participate in this program. Penny Goodman made a motion for BCGA to be involved in this program and Marge Clements seconded it. It was approved. Cindy put up a list of available sections of road to choose from. The two that were of most interest were Pack River Bridge near Elmira and Sunnyside. Gray Henderson suggested Cindy further research these two sections and make the decision on which section of road BCGA will take.

City Baskets: Gray Henderson asked about BCGA involvement in this project. Gail Swan said she has had several conversations with Nancy from All Seasons regarding this matter. Nancy was not awarded the contract for the baskets so BCGA will not be involved with them this year.

High School: Gray Henderson has received a request from the high school to either plant trees or make a donation for the Green Team. He has re-

quested a proposal from the school and has not heard back from them yet.

Mickinnick Trail: Jan Griffiths requested help from BCGA to become involved in a clean up day and possibly as ongoing support to maintain this trail. Gray Henderson to email to the membership regarding this request. After seeing what the membership response is we will make a decision. Jan also thanked those BCGA members who helped out on the Ponderay Bay Trail.

Office Use: Gray Henderson received a request from the Bridge Club to use the space on June 11 from 12:00-4:00 and on June 21 the entire day. Their request was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45.



"The frost hurts not weeds."

Thomas Fuller, M.D., 1608-1661, English physician, writer