



## Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

December 2014

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](mailto:lauriebrown54@gmail.com) When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.

### In This Issue

President's Message  
January Gardening To-Do Lists  
December Meeting Minutes

### President's Message

Seasons Greetings! As we move ever closer to the longest night of the year, a magical world of lights and color appear brightening our path to Spring. Poinsettias are one of the colorful additions to this time of year. They arrive just in time to help us celebrate the holiday season. The holidays come and go, but a well-cared for poinsettia continues to 'bloom'. Their flower petals, actually colorful modified leaves, last and last and last, often greeting Miss Spring.

Kingdom: Plantae  
Order: Malpighiales  
Family: Euphorbiaceae  
Genus: Euphorbia  
Species: *E. pulcherrima*

*Euphorbia pulcherrima*, a member of the spurge family, has come a long ways since 1828, when Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico happened upon this native Mexican shrub in full bloom. He took cuttings and shipped them to his home in Charleston, South Carolina, where they were planted in his greenhouse. The starts thrived in the greenhouse environment and garnered much attention.



In frost free areas like Los Angeles, poinsettias grow outside and can become tall shrubs/small trees

Upon his arrival back in Charleston, Poinsett propagated and shared *E. pulcherrima* with friends, colleagues and botanical centers across the United States. These showy new plants quickly gained notoriety and popularity. Mr. Poinsett died on December 12, 1851 and soon after *E. pulcherrima* was named the Poinsettia in his honor.



In the early nineteen hundreds the Paul Ecke Ranch, located in Southern California, began growing poinsettias outdoors to sell as landscape plants. The flowers were harvested and used in holiday decorations. The Eck's started growing poinsettia in their greenhouses and perfected the method of producing the plants we treasure during the winter holidays.

Business boomed. The Paul Ecke Ranch continues to grow and sell poinsettia plants for the holidays. Over 70% of the poinsettias sold in the United States and approximately 50% of the poinsettias sold elsewhere around the world come from the Paul Ecke Ranch; a thriving 'grown in America' enterprise!

The traditional red poinsettia remains the number one best seller. For those seeking something different, there are over 100 varieties to choose from. These hybrid beauties come in shades and blends of red, pink and white. For the more adventuresome dyed poinsettias, in a dazzling array of colors, are offered.

The following website explains how to care for poinsettia plants. The site shares what to look for when purchasing poinsettias, how to transport them in our wintery climate for they are very temperature sensitive, how to care for them, and how to convince them to flower again.

[http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/vista/html\\_pubs/point/point.htm](http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/vista/html_pubs/point/point.htm)

Poinsettias symbolize good cheer and celebration. After all it 'Tis the Season.

Happy Holidays, Jan



## December Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:  
[http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening\\_Montzonesep01.html](http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Montzonesep01.html)



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### Zone 3

- Order seeds
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom

### Zone 4

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds indoors for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)

### Zone 5

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors





Now, the Minutes:

Members Present at Meeting: Patti Pietron, Gail Swan, Bob Blair, Howard Fennimore, Marjory Clements, Mikey Haven, Bonnie Pick, Rob Lilley, Janae Dale, Jan Wilfert, Penny Barton, Gray Henderson, Deborah Steffen, Barbara Pressler, Penny Goodman, Ann Warwick.

At 9:00 am December 03, 2014, President Jan Wilfert brought the meeting to order.

November Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve, Jan Wilfert, seconded by Patti Pietron, motion passed. Treasurer's Report: Bob Blair, Treasurer. Account Balance as of November 30 is \$5938.28.

Recognition for Outstanding Service: Pres. Jan Wilfert gives special recognition to Bob Blair, who has spent countless hours volunteering for BCGA. Bob has served as Treasurer, takes care of our electronic machines, selected new items such as the new printer and telephone/answering system, helped move and store a shed that belongs to the organization, recycled old electronics, created extension cord covers for the office, stores yard sale items at his home, took care of setting up the T shirt logo at Meyer's Sport T's, and shows up for nearly all activities, ready to assist with whatever needs doing. A big **THANK YOU** to Bob from a grateful membership.

New Office Phone: Bob Blair has purchased and installed a new phone/answering machine for the office.

Bible: Janae Dale, vice president, has updated the office bible. This volume contains all instructions for committees, organization By-Laws, procedures and guidelines and all important documents pertaining to our incorporation and tax status.



## BCGA Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2

URGENT ANNOUNCMENTS: Please Read the following notes.

1. BCGA BIBLE: BCGA has compiled a manual that encompasses all activities of the organization. This large notebook is located in the BCGA library in the office. It contains all information on our incorporation, tax status, By-Laws, Procedures and Guidelines and sections for all activities that detail the duties of committee chairs, contact people for each activity and timelines for each event. Members should take a few minutes to acquaint themselves with this manual. The vice president maintains the bible, adding updates and deleting out-dated materials.

2. GARDEN TOUR: We need a new chair or chairs for the annual garden tour. Penny Barton has filled this position for twelve years and is willing to mentor the new volunteer or volunteers. This is a festive event, and has become a featured summer occasion for the entire community. Four of the gardens for 2015 have been selected already. Please contact Penny Barton for additional information.

3. OTHER: We need chairs for the Spring Fundraiser Plant Sale, which takes place the second weekend of May. We also need volunteers to chair the Potluck committee and the County Fair Booth. These are all interesting events with plenty of volunteers to help out. We just need someone to head up the committees. Please help!

By-Laws. Rewriting the BCGA By-Laws, Procedures and Guidelines and Job Descriptions for officers is nearing completion. This task had not been done since 2012. Gray Henderson moved that the board accept the new By-Laws and Procedures and Guidelines, and that they be sent electronically to the membership for approval, and via mail to those who do not have email capacity. Bob Blair seconded the motion. The Motion passed.

Christmas Party: December 13, 5:30 to 9:30. Decorating on Saturday morning at 10. Gray Henderson and Penny Barton will emcee the gift exchange. Those participating will bring wrapped gifts.

Membership Renewals: 44 renewals thus far. Kim Peterson has rejoined. She and Mikey Haven will chair the Advanced Education committee.

Membership Course: Penny Barton. Three have signed up and paid so far. There is room for more new students. Effort will be made to entice more to sign up. Meeting held for planning the course Monday, Dec. 8, 10am at the office.

School Gardens: Gray Henderson mentioned that grants from the Elks have built gardens at Washington school and plan for gardens at Farmin-Stidwell. Janae Dale will meet with Michele Murphree, school garden coordinator, to try to find solutions for the elementary school garden curriculums, and to define the role of BCGA.

Garden Tour 2015: Penny Barton. This project needs a new chair or chairs. Four 2015 gardens are selected. Advance work has been done. Penny Barton will mentor new leadership.

Potlucks: Mikey Haven will host a potluck on Friday, December 12, at noon.

Thank you to President Jan Wilfert for taking command for two years and leading us well and happily. A job well done.

Meeting adjourned, 10:37.



*A Joyous Holiday Season to All!*