



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

February 2016

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 "GG" in the subject line.

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President's Message

Happy Valentine's Day!



President's Message

The teamwork and camaraderie that BCGA fosters, came into play this last month. At the January BCGA Board Meeting we were discouraged to find no one had signed up to take the **Membership class** which was starting on February 1st. We considering cancelling the classes, but everyone made an eleventh hour, herculean effort to spread the word, write an article in the COOP, publicize in

Sandpoint Yard Sale month, etc. and a month later we started class with 17 students!! A couple dozen BCGA members welcomed the new enrollees during an informal Meet and Greet.

Teamwork continues to be evident by the number of Facilitators who help shoulder the work load of welcoming instructors and helping Penny Barton put on successful classes. Facilitators are on the front lines and play a valuable role in making the "recruits" feel welcome. Give yourselves a pat on the back!

Seventeen attended the February 3, 2016 Membership /Board meeting, including Donna Chasse who just started taking the BCGA Membership class this month. Remember the **Membership meeting**, on the **first Wednesday of every month**, is open to all members (or potential members). The February Membership meeting was lively this month, but our intrepid Secretary, Patti, does an excellent job of getting it all down and making sure all the "t"s are crossed and "i"s dotted.

Gail and Janae are gearing up for the **Home Hort Spring series** of classes starting Wednesday March 16, 2016. John Hastings's class on Waterwise Landscaping kicks off the line up of classes. A printed calendar of the upcoming Wednesday evening classes will be available in the next few weeks. Gail is printing up a couple hundred flyers to get out to the public and will need help distributing them. **Facilitators** will also be needed to help with each class. The classes are an outreach opportunity to teach/interact with the larger community.

We are still looking for help with the **Basket Raffle**. Howie has agreed to provide one of his eye catching "Hod" baskets for us to fill. We would like

March Gardening To Do List

someone to be in charge of tickets and arrange to transfer the basket to different sites. If we have everything in place by the end of March we can offer Home Hort attendees a chance to participate and buy tickets. We'll have many opportunities in the following months to display the basket, culminating with the July Garden Tour where we will draw the winning name.

April 9 and 10 is the annual **Home and Garden Show**. Ann Warwick is in charge and will try a new presentation this year. Close on the heels of this event is the **Sip and Shop fund raiser** held the evening of April 12. Deb Gift is Chairman. All you and your friends have to do is show up at the Pend Oreille Winery with wallet in hand.

The 2 mile stretch of **Highway 95** near Elmira is on the radar for cleanup sometime in April or May. Tim Gift will be heading up this crew. Other Spring cleanup opportunities will be helping at **Arboretum, Healing Garden and Mickinnick Trail head**. Joyce P., Gail L., and Jan Griffiths, respectively are the Chairs. The **School Gardens** will be needing help. Janae and Gray are Chairs.

As Penny G. and Marjory remind us, Spring is just around the corner. Consider planting seeds in the near future to contribute to the **Spring Plant Sale** in early May.

This agenda should keep us busy for the next few months. When you find your niche, remember to smile and have fun doing it!

Cindy Hayes –President
cmhayes63@gmail.com
2631104

“A flower does not think of competing with the flower next to it. It just blooms.”



Zone 3

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Remove mulch from early bulbs
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Sow seeds for cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors

Zone 4

- Plant bare root trees
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Sow seeds for cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors

Zone 5

- Plant dormant, hardy container and balled and burlapped plants
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals indoors
- Remove winter mulch, lightly cultivate soil if thawed
- Prune out winter damage
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees
- Plant or transplant frost-tolerant perennials
- Sow seeds for tender perennials indoors
- Plant bare-root roses
- Plant bare-root trees, shrubs, and vines
- Prune winter-blooming shrubs and vines just after bloom
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables (asparagus, rhubarb etc.)
- Plant seedlings of cool-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for cool- and warm-season vegetables
- Protect tender plants from frost

February Meeting Minutes

Following are the minutes for the BCGA meeting on February 3, 2016:

Members Present: Cindy Hayes, Patti Pietron, Janae Dale, Ann Warwick, Butterfly Burke, Gail Swan, Barb Pressler, Gray Henderson, Penny Barton, Donna Chasse, Shannon Callister, Gail Locke, Tim Gift, Deborah Gift, Sandra Gevurtz, Penny Goodman, Marjory Clements

January Meeting Minutes: Patti Pietron motioned for the minutes to be approved, Penny Barton seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Penny Barton reports currently we have \$2,541.07 in our account. Our insurance still needs to be paid and we are waiting on the bill. Gray Henderson thinks our insurance premiums are a bit high. Gail Swan to contact Summit Insurance for new bids. She will do so when Cindy Hayes receives the new bill from our current insurer.

Home and Garden Show: Chairman Ann Warwick reported BCGA would attend this year's show. The dates are April 9-10. Ann and her committee will investigate options for our participation/booth rather than the talks we gave in the past. Ann said lots of time was spent by BCGA members on preparing presentations with no attendance by the public. Ann will also work with Vita to see what ideas she might have. Ann will also ask if we are allowed to sell anything such as raffle tickets for our basket.

Farmers Market: Chairman Sandra Gevurtz is checking on the dates for this year's Farmers Market. She will be looking for members to man the booth. We are at the Farmers Market one day a month.

Fairbooth: Chairman Barbara Pressler will begin working on the booth concept when she receives the theme for the fair.

Highway Cleanup: Chairman Tim Gift says it's a little early report on this event. Tim and Cindy Hayes will meet to go over details.

Healing Garden: Chairman Gail Locke said that the status of who is maintaining Healing Garden is unclear at present. She will meet with Jeff Bales to information. At present she sees a need for help with spring cleanup. She also mentioned having a pruning class in the Healing Garden. Janae Dale suggested

offering an advanced pruning class to our members. This would get them into this beautiful space and hopefully inspired to sign up to help out. Gail will proceed with sending out emails to all who signed up to help with the Healing Garden and start forming her committee for this year.

Mickinnick Trail Cleanup: Jan Griffiths was not present. She sent Cindy Hayes some information on the ACGA newsletter as a possible place to put an article about the school gardens. We will revisit this topic in March.

Fairground Beautification: Penny Barton has no report.

Membership Classes: Penny Barton reports that as of today we have 17 people signed up to take the course. She reported that the Meet and Greet was a great success. Penny said that 24 people have indicated that they are interested in the 2017 Membership class. She will ask new students where they found out about our class. Butterfly Burke reported that our application appeared on the Sandpoint Yard Sale website and thinks this might have been helpful in the enrollment of our newest students. Two more facilitators are needed for Jon Bair's class. This class will be held in our office and offsite. The hours of the membership class have been changed. They are now 9:00am thru 1:00pm.

Home Horticulture: Gail Swan says she has a class list and descriptions. She will prepare a flyer for distribution and have it printed at Staples. She will give Janae the finished flyer. Ann Warwick requested to have the flyer available for the Home and Garden show. One class, Composting, will be offsite at Ann Warwick's home. All other classes will be in the BCGA office.

Garden Tour: Penny Barton will meet with new chairmen Pat Congleton and Gaea Swinford to go over all of the many details for this event. July 3 is the date for this event.

School Gardens: Gray Henderson said that the Elks added Sagle to their grants. Donna Chasse, a new student present at the board meeting expressed interest in the Sagle school garden project. Gail Swan spoke with a Priest River resident who wondered why BCGA does not have school gardens in that area.

Spring Plant Sale: Marjory Clements and Penny Goodman will co-chair this event. Penny has emailed

members regarding this event. Members are asked to start seedlings for this sale. The location (Bonner Mall) will remain the same as last year. The sale will last for two days. Ann Warwick has requested a flyer for this event so she can hand it out at the Home and Garden Show.

Yard and Plant Sale: Janae Dale is chairman. She has no report but says she will begin to advertise this event in the near future.

Sip and Shop: Deborah Gift is chairman for this event. She says the date for this event is April 12. Deborah would like to have a poster using photos to educate the public on who we are and what BCGA does.

Potlucks: Deborah Steffen was not present, no report.

Raffle Basket: This project still needs a chairman. We would like to have this person in place by March.

Media Outreach: Gordon Fish is working on our website directory. Cindy Hayes is asking members to include their birthdays in the directory as she has a plan to use them. Cindy Hayes has the updated information from Gray Henderson and will pass along to Gordon.

Facebook: Laurie Brown is requesting input for both the Facebook page and the Garden Gate.

Old Business:

Membership Renewals: Gray Henderson says we have 70 members. Eight still need to pay their dues. Gray completed an updated spreadsheet with member's information. He also updated the email list. Cindy Hayes has this information and will pass it on to Gordon Fish. Gray will make correction to Pamelarose Crawford's name.

Volunteer List: Gray Henderson is compiling this. Cindy Hayes said we needed to add the new committees. We also need to update our "bible" Gordon Fish is chairman.

Listserve: Shannon Callister says List Serve is up and running. Both Shannon and Gray Henderson are administrators. Approximately 32 members have joined the forum. To join Listserve all members have to do is click on the "Accept Invitation" link the email Shannon and Gray sent out. Apparently there is some confusion due to some links Google adds. If

members are having issues Shannon and Gray need to hear about them in order to fix them. They can add members manually if necessary. Gray Henderson will send out an email addressing List Serve.

Jan Wilfert: Cindy Hayes suggested we put a plaque on the plant from Jan that is in the BCGA office. She also suggested we may allow members to take cuttings from this plant. Gail Locke suggested putting Jan's name in the Healing Garden and will check with Jan's husband to make sure he approves. It was also suggested possibly putting a memorial plaque to Jan in the Arboretum. We will revisit this in March.

BCGA Iron On Logo: Cindy Hayes says we are down to 9 logos. The prices on these logos are increasing from \$6.00 to \$12.00. Currently each member gets one pair (1 small and 1 large) to be placed on whatever they wish. Cindy will check to see if we can be grandfathered in since they already have our artwork on file. Hopefully keeping the lower pricing in place.

Bill Board Sign: Penny Barton located our old sign and will give it to Eric to be put downstairs in our current building.

Caller ID: Gail Swan said callers leave addresses and phone numbers in their phone messages. These are difficult, even with the volume turned up, to hear and understand. She will contact Frontier to get a cost estimate to add this feature. Meeting adjourned at 10:35.

New Business:

Public Relations: Gail Swan said our current public relations person has resigned. We are in need of a new one. Cindy Hayes said she would update the publicity list. We need a chairman for this task. A suggestion was made that each chairman be given the publicity list and be responsible for his or her individual event.

Speakers Bureau: Marrion Newsam Banks wants to have a list of BCGA speakers that would be available to speak at events. Gray Henderson moved that we add this committee to our list and that Marrion be the chairman. Barb Pressler seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Hot Spot

Becky Freeland

P.O. Box 1224
Sandpoint, ID 83864
Physical Address:
794 W Spring Creek Road
Hope, ID 83836



My husband, Mike, and I have lived in the Sandpoint area for 39 years. We moved here from Whittier CA.

Share anything about your background, what brought you to this area, etc..

This has always been home to me. (My grandparents moved to Sandpoint back in 30's and 40's, and both of my parents graduated from Sandpoint High School) I was born in Lewiston, ID but our family moved to So. Ca in the mid 50's. My grandparents bought 160 acres with a log cabin, chicken coop, barn and large garden area. Every summer we would come up to North Idaho to be "uncitified" as my granddad called it. We worked in the garden, rode horses, fished the streams of North Idaho and sometimes the lake. We had to clean the rabbit hutches and chicken coop. One year my granddad even had a sow and piglets. My grandparents always had a large garden and we could go out and pick fresh strawberries or raspberries anytime. He planted a small orchard of apple trees and we all had to help when it came time to make apple sauce or apple butter.... So even though I spent my early years in So. California, my heart was in North Idaho. In 1976 my brother got married up here, so Mike and I came up on vacation for the wedding, and he wanted to move up here... so the following year we did just that... and I have had a garden ever since... it's always evolving

Gardening History – How long have you been gardening?

When we moved here, we rented a little house that was next door to my parents, so my mom and I had a garden in her back yard. We grew lettuce, corn, green beans and beets, to the best of my recollection. And that fall I learned how to can green beans and pickled beets.... And I have been canning ever since, even using the same canner that was my grandmothers.

Where have you gardened?

We moved out of town to the Selle Valley where I started my own garden. We had horses so I started composting and used it to help the soil. Selle Valley gardening was a challenge as it's in the Snow Belt, I could get a late frost in June or an early frost in August.... Tomatoes were out of the question...

When did you join the BCGA? Last year when I took the Master Gardeners Class

Please include anything about your gardening history.

I have been gardening since 1977... always trying to learn more... expanding the garden... adding fruit trees, etc. but it was not until we moved out to Hope that I have really got the gardening bug. The micro climate out here is wonderful and fabulous for all types of gardening... We started with 11 raised beds in the orchard, and have added a lot more...

Describe your current gardening area.

My gardening area has 11 (8' x 4' x 12"), 8 fruit trees, raspberry bushes, strawberry plants, a new asparagus bed, currant and blue berry bushes, grapevines, and then last year my wonderful husband made me 17 more raised beds (8' x 4' x 18" so that I don't have to bend as much to do the weeding and planting.) We still do some areas of row planting, but that area will be converted over to raised beds in the next year or so...

What do you like about it?

Everything... there isn't anything that I don't like about gardening... there are things (like weeding) than I like less, but just being out in the garden is my passion. I love watching the seeds start to emerge and then being able to harvest for us to enjoy.

What do you want to change?

I have started to add a lot more Heirlooms which I find a challenge.... There are so many varieties of herbs and veggies that I want to try. I want to take better notes in a journal to keep track of what I find

works, and how.... And what doesn't, or what we don't like.

What are your particular problems with your area? Our soils is really rocky... so we have been amending it for the 11 years that we have been here.... First we had our horses in that area, and then in 2010 we added the 8 foot fence all the way around the whole garden/ orchard area and have been adding compost since.

What kinds of things do you grow?

We have apple, pie cherry, sweet cherry, plum, pear and Italian Prune plum trees. Along with our berry bushes and plants, we also have rhubarb, currants and grapes.

Favorite flowers?

I am not sure that I have a favorite... we have lots of different perennials throughout all of our landscaping and they are always changing. I add color with hanging baskets all around the house and decks.

Vegetables?

Lettuce, beets, carrots, pole beans, green beans, pole peas, sweet peas, potatoes, tomatoes, (lots and lots) spinach, swiss chard, kale, sweet peppers, hot peppers, all kinds of squash, both winter and summer, pumpkins, cucumbers, corn, onions, leeks, garlic, kohlrabi, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, radish..... I think that's all...

What are your areas of expertise?

I am not sure that I am expertise in anything... I just love trying and improving on what we do in the garden.

Do you have some special gardening techniques?

I start my seeds early indoors, then transplant them into bigger pots and then into the garden...I have grow lights and heating mats that help along with putting them in a small covered 4 shelf green house.

What are some new things that you have tried?

Herbs just in the last couple of years... and love growing them. It's great having fresh herbs to cook with.

What new things would you like to learn?

Saving seeds..... I am going to try that this year...

Have you been involved in any BCGA activities?

My husband and I both work fulltime so I don't have as much free time as I would like, and during the growing season I am always in the garden (plus as a

realtor that is also my busiest time of the year.) We did get to go to the Fall potluck. I am hoping to get enough plants growing to be able to donate some to the sale this spring and I am going to be making the "raffle basket".

What other talents and interests do you have?

I used to sew a lot and did costuming for the Unicorn Theatre Players. I also sat on the board for The Festival at Sandpoint for 19 years. Now I enjoy gardening, entertaining and cooking.

Hot Spot

Patti Pietron

2342 Wrenco Loop
Sandpoint, ID 83864

My husband, Carl and I have lived in the Sandpoint area for 4years. We moved here from Encinitas CA.

We'd been looking for years for a place we wanted to move to and retire. Due to a series of strange and wonderful events we ended up in Sandpoint in November of 2011. We were here for a long weekend to look at possible vacation homes. We didn't find anything. The lovely couple at the bed and breakfast we were staying at told us that their home was for sale. My husband said that half way up the driveway he knew we'd found "the one." The home turned out to be so perfect we ended up moving here full time the following April.

California was amazing and we did all the things you'd expect to do such as scuba diving, boating, fishing, hiking and of course, my favorite, Disneyland! After doing all of the ocean type activities we were ready to have some fresh water adventures. However due to traffic, rules, fees, and lots of people we soon realized that it was very challenging to get out into the areas we wanted to visit.

Sandpoint is fantastic. Everything is here! And the people are great. The slower pace and easy access to nature are part of the charm of this place. This year we got into backcountry cross skiing and so far we love it. We sled, snowshoe and ice fish in the winter. Then in the summer biking, fishing, hiking, kayaking and enjoying a good beer in town take cen-

ter stage. We're going to explore camping this year too. What a blessing to live in such a place as Sandpoint.



I've been gardening off and on many years. My husband Carl is actually more of a gardener than I. But I'm getting better!

The main reason I joined BCGA in 2012 was to meet people. And boy was that a great move. The members of BCGA are some of the kindest, friendliest, garden smart people I've ever met. The potlucks are so much fun and my husband enjoys the group as much as I do.

We're still getting the hang of gardening here. Carl built a greenhouse when we first moved in and we've also constructed railroad tie planters at the south end of the house. This year we'll be putting in a fenced garden. We have a small orchard with cherry trees, plum trees, a new peach tree, grapes, and raspberries.

Garden Tip: Mulch, mulch, mulch! The first year we moved in one of the garden beds was so overgrown with weeds it almost made me cry. We mulched it with cedar bark that first year and the weeds now very few. We just add new mulch where needed each fall and spring. The weeds hate it, the plants seem to like it, and we LOVE it.

To as most of you gardeners know, it's all a work in progress. Some victories, some failures. But all so much fun.

Happy planting to everyone!

February Birthdays!

Penny Barton
Deborah Gift

Gordon Fish
Jan Griffiths



Lois Wythe - Book Sale



Did you hear about the upcoming April book sale at the East Bonner County Library on Saturday April 2, 2016? Literature from the book collection of Lois Wythe will be available to purchase to help support the Friends of the Library. Lois was instrumental in starting the local Kinnikinnik Native Plant Society and the Arboretum, located next to the Bonner County Historical Museum. Many of you may have joined Lois in her garden during her Wednesdays at the Farm. During the month of March, some of Lois's books will be displayed in the Library showcase.

Musings of a gardener – February 2016

Plants and flowers have been ascribed certain meanings over the ages. Lilies have suggested purity; ivy, fidelity; laurel, victory and roses, love. In the Language of Flowers during the Victorian Age, a Valentine's Day bouquet might have consisted of red tulips for declaration of love; red carnation for passion and silver king Artemisia for romantic silver moonlight. A Leap Year bouquet might have been more adventuresome, choosing from borage for bluntness; snapdragon for dazzling but dangerous; pinks for boldness and lavender cotton for pursuit. But, however you want to say it, flowers or plants still give a welcome floral message, no matter what the occasion.

What is your favorite flower? Please send your response to lauriebrown54@gmail.com. We'll tally and share the results

Event Chairs and Contact Information - 2016

Event	Date	Chair(s)	Contact
Membership meetings	Ongoing – 1 st Wed. each month	Cindy Hayes	cmhayes63@gmail.com or 2631104
Home Horticulture Series	Spring and Fall	Gail Swan Janae Dale	Gail- gswan8274@hotmail.com or 2630181 or c 2904126 Janae- dalejanae@gmail.com or 2652205 or c 6100403
Membership Committee	January-- March	Penny Barton	miatamaven@gmail.com or 2659733 or c 6101493
Home and Garden Show	April	Ann Warwick	w.redguy@frontier.com or 2632844 or c 6911900
Garden Tour	July	Pat Congleton Gaea Swinford	Pat- patcongleton@yahoo.com 2658218 Gaea – earthmama99@gmail.com
School Gardens	Ongoing	Janae Dale Gray Henderson	Janae- dalejanae@gmail.com or 2652205 or c 6100403 Gray – timberwolf1941@gmail.com or 5977192 or c 5205610643
Farmer's Market	May thru Mid- October	Sandra Gevurtz	sangevurtz@gmail.com or c 509-9793685
Spring Plant Sale	May	Marjory Clements Penny Goodman	Marjory- clemmj@earthlink.net or 2640105 Penny G.- aok@netw.com or 9460741 or w 2658634
Yard and Plant Sale	August	Janae Dale	dalejanae@gmail.com or 2652205 or c 6100403

Fair Booth	August	Barb Pressler Butterfly Burke	Barb – 2554353 Butterfly – flutt4rby@yahoo.com or 2630545
Sip and Shop	April	Deb Gift	hartgift@hughes.net or 2638128 or c 3044052
Potlucks	Ongoing	Deb Steffen	deborahsteffen@yahoo.com or 2632339 or c 503 8804157
Media/Website	Ongoing	Gordon Fish	fishgo185@gmail.com or 2639027 or c 2901128
Media/Publicity	Ongoing	Tim Gift	giftworks@hughes.net 263-8128
Media/ Facebook/ Garden Gate newsletter	Ongoing	Laurie Brown	Lauriebrown54@gmail.com or c 208-5595510
Gift Basket Raffle	Mid March- Early July	Becky Freeland	becky@evergreen-realty.com 264-8005 Cell: 290-5628
Highway Cleanup	Spring and Fall	Tim Gift	giftworks@hughes.net or 2638128
Arboretum	Spring and Fall	Joyce Pence	joycepence@icloud.com or 2661107
Healing Garden	Spring	Gail (Locke) Blasingame	gail@gardenersdaughter.net or 650-8676625
Mickinnick Trail	Spring and Fall	Jan Griffitts	Jan@looptravel.com or 2901973