



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

September 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 When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.

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President's Message

Ponderosa pines hold a special place in my heart. Five ponderosa pine trees graced the west side of our house for 35 years. As they grew they offered shade, their limbs danced and whispered with the passing breezes, and when conditions were right perfumed the air with their vanilla scented bark.

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Pinales
Family: Pinaceae
Genus: Pinus
Species: Pinus Ponderosa



On Wednesday, July 23rd and again on Saturday, August 2nd Bonner County experienced two severe wind storms. These two storms did extensive damage, especially to trees. Many trees were uprooted or topped.

During the August 2nd storm our five trees took a beating. One of the five was topped during the storm and landed on the roof with a huge crash that sent a shudder through the house. Two were left leaning towards the house. It was time for them to go.

Ponderosa pines are coniferous trees native to our area. The first recorded identification and collection happened in 1826 in eastern Washington, near the city of Spokane. In 1936 the tree was formally named for its heavy wood.

Ponderosa pines usually grow to a height of 150-180 feet tall. The National Register of Big Trees lists a Pacific ponderosa pine as the tallest pine in the nation. This tree, found in the Siskiyou National Forest (Oregon) measures 268.29 feet tall.

These trees can live up to 500 years with extreme age noted at 660 years old. Their wide habitat range varies from 2,000 feet up to 8,000 feet. They form long taproots and are exceedingly drought resistant.

Needles vary in color from dark-green to yellow-green. They come in fascicles of 3 that range in length from 3 to 11 inches long. Most needle clusters range from 4 to 7 inches in length. Their needles make fine mulch.

Young trees bark is black and furrowed. The bark thickens and changes color during the aging process. On older trunks broad plates of bark can grow to a

depth of 4 inches and slowly turn yellow-brown to cinnamon-red with the furrows remaining dark in color.

Cones come armed with nasty prickles. The seeds are maroon-brown attached to one –inch wings. The seeds are favored by pine squirrels and various birds.

Our five trees are now a memory. With their removal came more sunshine. The gardens are thriving with the extra sun, dragonflies abound, and bird visits have increased dramatically. Jan



September Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:
http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Montzonesep01.html



Zone 3

- Divide peonies and other spring and summer-blooming perennials
- Plant perennials
- Plant bare-root and containerized trees and shrubs
- Sow wildflower seed for spring bloom
- Plant spring-blooming bulbs
- Dethatch and aerate lawns
- If September rainfall is scarce, water trees and shrubs to keep them supple and prevent winter damage
- Clean and restock birdfeeders
- Plant garlic for harvest next summer
- Set out bareroot peonies

Zone 4

- Harvest apples and store in a cool place
- Plant garlic
- Dethatch and aerate the lawn
- Clean out rose beds and apply fungicide one last time to susceptible varieties
- Plant perennials
- Move tender houseplants, etc. indoors after rinsing and repotting, and set up a grow light to supplement natural light
- Clean and restock birdfeeders
- Begin to move tropical water lilies and other tender aquatics indoors
- Plant spring-blooming bulbs; refrigerate those you intend to force
- Set out bareroot peonies

Zone 5

- Set out transplants of cool-weather vegetables

- Plant winter-hardy pansies and fall annuals (calendula, dianthus, ornamental cabbage and kale)
- Plant tag teams of perennials and spring-blooming bulbs that will complement each other or bloom in sequence next season
- Water trees and shrubs when rainfall is scarce to "winterize" them
- Dethatch and aerate the lawn
- Dehead chrysanthemum plants to keep flower buds forming through the fall
- Clean out rose beds; apply fungicide; leave hips for winter color and bird food
- Prune summer-bearing raspberries
- Mow back strawberry plants; remove weeds and mulch
- Move tender houseplants, etc. indoors after rinsing and repotting, and set up a grow light to supplement natural light

Healing garden update: Gail Blasingame advises that the area has been closed temporarily due to tree problems from recent storms. She is working on the roses currently.

Idaho Garden Association from Boise requests a copy of our by-laws as a guideline for their organization. Bob Blair moved that we do so, and Gray Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Potlucks: We had an enjoyable afternoon at Kit Cooley's home on August 24. We carpooled from the Pack River Store, as her home is on a private road with limited parking area. She and her husband Steve have a hydro-electric turbine for power and gravity feed water. About 18 members attended.

Patti Pietron and her husband Carl will host a potluck on Saturday, September 20, at noon. Details soon.

Bonner County Fair: The BCGA booth won a blue ribbon and Best of Show for community exhibitions. Featured were the Wicked Weeds of the West, (the theme of the fair was Land of Awes). The booth drew many people, who recognized some of the weeds and asked for methods of eradication. The membership has agreed to use some of the same posters next year. Weeds are a continual concern and will fit in any theme. Creators of the booth included: Cindy Hayes, Bob Blair, Patti and Carl Pietron, Butterfly and Tracy Burke, Helen Manson, Janae Dale, Bonnie Pick, and Ann Warwick.

Yard and Plant Sale: Janae Dale headed up the sale with help from numerous members and contributions from many, as well. The sale grossed \$2161.42, a record amount for this fund raiser.

Home Horticulture classes: Gail Swan. The flyers are out and being distributed. First class is on September 17. There are six classes, as the proposed mushroom class was not able to be scheduled at this time.

Announcements of upcoming events:

Field Trip of the Clark Fork Delta, September 6.

September 10 and 11: Weed seminar. Gray Henderson will send details.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:50

BCGA Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2014

Present at meeting: Barbara Pressler, Ann Warwick, Mikey Haven, Bob Blair, Jan Wilfert, Howard Fenimore, Butterfly Burke, Patti Pietron, Penny Barton, Gray Henderson, Becky Reynolds, Penny Goodman, Jon Bair, Bonnie Pick.

President Jan Wilfert called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

August meeting minutes approved with a motion by Jan Wilfert, second by Bob Blair, and unanimous yes vote.

Treasurer's report: Balance in treasury: \$4896.98 as of August 31. Yard sale proceeds of \$2161.42 were added to the coffers. A new printer was purchased for \$211.19.

Between Meetings:

Gray Henderson met with city parks director to discuss methods of increasing drainage in city parks. The soil is compacted and dense. A deep aerator (18") will be tried to improve the situation.

Fair Booth Win!

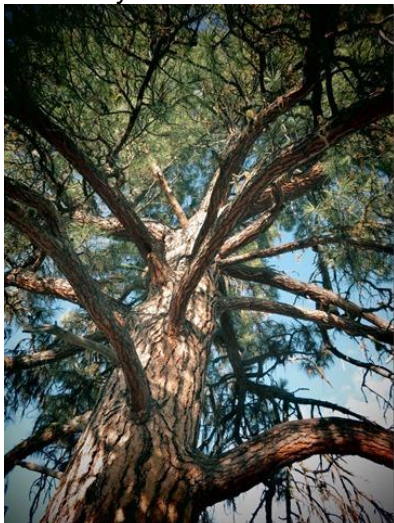
The BCGA booth won a blue ribbon and a Best in Show for community groups. In the spirit of the fair's theme of 'Land of Awe', the booth was named "Wicked Weeds of the West."



Front to back and left to right: Helen Manson, Cindy Hayes, Janae Dale, Ann Warwick, Tracy Burke, Butterfly Burke, Carl Pietron, and Patti Piestron. Bonnie Pick (not pictured) also helped design and decorate the booth. Photo shared by Cindy Hayes.

Mushroom Class to be Held

A class has been added to the fall Home Hort Series too late to be included on the flyer. On Wednesday, October 22, Tim Gerlitz, a member of the North Idaho Mycological Association for over 20 years, will present 'North Idaho Mushrooms, Spring and Fall'. Like the other classes in the series, it will be held at the Ponderay Event Center from 6 pm to 8 pm.



Fall Home Horticulture Workshop Series

Presented and Coordinated by
Bonner County Gardeners Association
Classes are held Wed eve's from 6pm – 8pm
At the Ponderay Event Center
401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste F, Ponderay, Idaho 83852

Directions can be found at www.bcgardeners.org
Email inquiries to bcgardeners@gmail.com
Or call message line: 265-2070
Visit us on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/bcgardeners>

Sept 17 -**Fall Preparation of Garden Soil**

Presented by Gray Henderson

Now is the time to start thinking about putting your garden to bed for the winter. Discussion will cover soil testing, cultivation, fertilization, cover crops & mulching. Bring a soil sample to test for pH & texture.

Sept 24 - **Shade Gardens**

Presented by Robert Karr

Owner of "Newport Naturals Iris" gardens, Robert has been growing iris there since 1998 increasing to over 3000 varieties. He started phasing out the iris garden & growing Hostas in 2000 and now has 140 varieties. He will help you make your shady spots beautiful & inviting.

Oct 1 - **What to do With What you Grow**

Presented by Katie Crill

Katie will present an overview of methods (waterbath & pressure canning, soft spreads, pickles, dehydrating & freezing) & ideas of what to do with these methods.

Oct 8 **Home Orchards**

Presented by Jim Clements

We all want productive fruit trees and Jim can help you achieve that goal. He will cover fall orchard care, harvesting your fruit & putting your trees to bed for the winter. He will also share some pruning tips.

Oct 15 **Landscape Design**

Presented by Valerie Ripley

With an eye for color, texture and size, Valerie can help you make your landscape look the way you want it to. Learn how to plan, design & implement your beautiful yard, improve curb appeal & reduce maintenance.

Oct 29 **Hardscape in Your Landscape**

Presented by William Friedmann & Ryan

Daly

Let the experts from Pend Oreille Gardens help you figure out how to do that pathway or wall you want in your landscape.

Fees cover the cost of venue, publications, materials, and the support of non-profit activities of the Bonner County Gardeners Association.

We are unable to provide credits, refunds or transfers for any classes.

Classes are \$10 Each per Person

All classes will be held Wed eve's from 6 pm – 8 pm at the Ponderay Event Center
401 Bonner Mall Way, Suite F, Ponderay, Idaho

ALL CLASSES WILL START PROMPTLY @ 6pm;

Check-in **STARTS @ 5:30;**

Please Be On Time

Please check the classes you wish to attend and send with check to Bonner County Gardeners Association

401 Bonner Mall Way
Suite F

Ponderay, Id., 83852

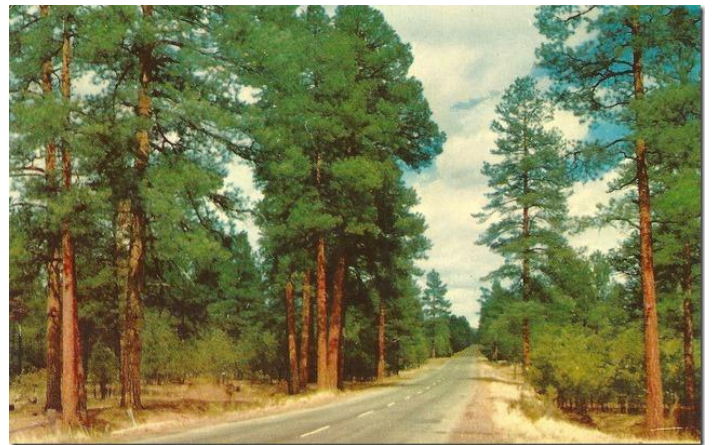
You may also bring your registration form & check to this address

You can pay on-line with a credit card via "Pay-Pal at www.bcgardeners.org



"How friendly the pine-tree is to man- so docile and available as timber and so warm and protective as shelter. Its balsam is salve to his wounds, its fragrance is long life to his nostrils; an abiding perennial tree, tempering the climate, cool as murmuring waters in summer and like a wrapping of fur in winter"

John Burroughs, 1837-1921, American naturalist



Bonner County Gardeners Association