



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

May 2013

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

The merry month of May's flower is *Convallaria majalis*, commonly known as Lily of the Valley, May Lily, May Bells, and Ladder to Heaven. Lilies of the Valley are native to the cool temperate climates of Asia, Europe, and the Appalachian Mountains of North America. The North America native is *C. majalis* var. *Montana*. It sports green-tinted midribs on the flowers.

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Asparagales
Family: Asparagaceae
Genus: Convallaria
Species: *C. majalis*

Lilies of the Valley scientific name, *majalis* means 'that which belongs to May'. In the language of flowers, the Lily of the Valley signifies the return of happiness. The French celebrate the first day of May by buying a bouquet or pot of these delightfully fragrant flowers. The flowers are seen as a good-luck charm, called a porte-bonheur meaning literally 'bringer of happiness'.

C. majalis is an herbaceous perennial that looks delicate with its tiny bright-white bell shaped flowers. Looks are deceiving for Lilies of the Valley are hardy in USDA zones 2-7. They survive and thrive

in full shade, poor soil, and quickly form extensive, deep-rooted, interconnected colonies via underground rhizomes. Dormant shoots, called Pips, form at the end summer and awaken in the spring. Each pip forms two or three wide glossy tropical-looking leaves. Flower stalks bloom in late spring and fill the air with their heady fragrance. After the blooms fade red berries form. The leaves remain green and attractive throughout the growing season, even in the deep shade of large trees and shrubs.

*Planting *C. majalis* in cultivated areas or gardens is discouraged since they spread quickly, overwhelm their garden neighbors, and are very difficult to contain or remove.

These long lasting, exquisite smelling flowers are a favorite in wedding bouquets. Some people believe adding Lilies of the Valley to the bridal bouquet to be the fifth essential item needed by a bride; along with something old, something new, something borrowed something blue. Lilies of the Valley adorned the wedding bouquets of Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Jackie Kennedy, and Kate Middleton.

Lily of the Valley essence is used in various types of scented products created by craft and perfume companies. In 1941 Coty introduced Muguet des Bois, which translated from French to English, means Lily of the Valley.

All parts of the Lily of the Valley plant are poisonous if ingested. The red berries are especially alluring to children. Possible symptoms of *majalis* poisoning are blurred vision, nausea, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive urination (especially at night), irregular or slow heartbeat, confusion, and hives and/or rash. Depression, loss of appetite,

and green and yellow halos are usually only seen in chronic overdose cases. However, when used properly, Lily of the Valley has many beneficial medicinal purposes. It is believed to strengthen memory and the heart. It's valued as a cardiac tonic and a diuretic. It is strongly recommended in heart disease, also in cases of cardiac irregularities. It slows the disturbed action of a weak, irritable heart, whilst at the same time it increases its power.

Planting Lilies of the Valley is thought to ward off evil garden spirits and bring long lasting happiness to those who plant them. Happy planting to You, Jan



May Gardening To Do List

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



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

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

Home and Garden Show

Features Education

The annual Panhandle Building Contractors Association Home and Garden show was accompanied by intermittent snow storms, but that did not faze those who came to hear what BCGA members had to share on a number of garden topics. Thanks to Jon Bair, Laurie Brown, Valle Novak, Marrion Newsam-Banks, Bonnie Pick, Jan Wilfert, and Jon Porter for their informative and interesting presentations throughout the show.

The booth was a hub of activity, with two members there during the entire weekend. Thank you all for volunteering to assist with this important event. Thanks to Butterfly Burke, Jennifer Costich-Thompson, Barbara Moore, Laurie Brown, Marrion Newsam Banks, Jon Bair, Howie Fennimore, Jenna Bertus, Valle Novak, Jane Roach, Barbara Pressler, Bonnie Cavanaugh, Shirley Barksdale, Bonnie Pick for answering questions and meeting the public.

Bob Blair, Lexie deFremery, Kathryn Chase, Vicki Johnson, Jan Wilfert, Jenna and Dave Bertus all helped with setting up and dismantling the booth.

If I have missed naming someone who helped out, please know it was appreciated. A great team effort.

We had a great show because of all of you. I hope it was a fun experience, as well as a volunteer opportunity. Thanks so much. Ann Warwick



Tis the Season for Garden Visits

Suddenly, it is spring, with all those flowers poking up, vegetables germinating, and high hopes for the perfect garden experience this year. There will be no pests, the weeds will be conquerable, and all the plants will grow exuberantly and produce amazing amounts of food or beauty.

BCGA members have a chance to visit seven or eight member gardens, experience the camaraderie of fellow gardeners, and eat and drink merrily. Potlucks scheduled so far are:

Valerie Ripley, Monday, June 3

Zoe Bolton, Saturday, June 22

Sandra Gewurz, Saturday, July 20

Barbara Pressler, August?

Marrion Newsam-Banks, September

Ann Warwick, early September?

Penny Barton, to be announced

Specific times, addresses, and details will be forthcoming. The fun times are here, and our potlucks are always a good time. We always have fun and learn something new from one another's gardens. Put these dates on your calendar. It's a good opportunity to get to know each other, too.

BCGA Membership Meeting Minutes April 3, 2013

Present: Penny Barton, Howie Fennimore, Jenna Bertus, Jan Wilfert, Zoe Bolton, Barb Pressler, Ann Warwick, Butterfly Burke, Bob Blair, Bonnie Pick, Janae Dale, Mikey Haven, Sandra Gevurtz, Marjory Clements and Gail Swan

Meeting was called to order @ 9:00am by President, Jan Wilfert

March minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: \$1385.27 (current balance)

Library

Jenna has found some new books that may be a good addition to our library: "Attracting Native Pollinators" and "What's Wrong With My Plant (And How Do I Fix It)" a decision will be made regarding whether we want to purchase these & how we want to pay for them

Community Gardens Chair

New member, Katy Akers, has offered to investigate the gardens & see if there is any help needed or any questions we can be of any help with

Yearly Membership Dues

Continuing discussion regarding raising dues to \$15 or \$20, they have been the same for many years; a motion was made & 2nd to raise the yearly dues to \$20; motion passed unanimously

Home Hort

We have had 2 classes so far & attendance has been good; 23 came for the Native plant class & 48 for the Greenhouse class; hopefully, this will continue for the series

City Baskets

The baskets will be assembled on Friday, April 5 starting at 9am at the PSNI greenhouse; Its always a fun time to get in some dirt action!

Pot-Lucks:

Zoe Bolton will host a pot luck on June 22
Sandra Gevurtz will host a pot luck on July 20
Barb Pressler, Penny Barton & Ann Warwick will also host with dates for these to follow
Directions to all gardens will be sent prior to the party

Home and Garden Show:

will be April 13 & 14 with set-up on Friday eve after 5pm so we don't block the rear entrance for other people setting up;

Saturday talks

Jon Porter—microgreens
Marion Newsom-Banks—nocturnal gardens
Laurie Brown (& Valle Novak?) attracting beneficial pollinators
Jon Bair—berries

Sunday talks

Bonnie Pick—hoop houses
Ann Warwick—worms
Jan Wilfert—gardening tools
Volunteer spots are full for manning the booth, but more folks could help set-up & tear down

Farmers Market:

If you would like to have a presence at the farmers market, contact Sandra to sign up for any available days; a good way to put in volunteer hours

Trisha Murphy Committee

Penny Goodman has met with Kim Woodruff of the park & recs department to possibly find an appro-

priate place for a tree or shrub of Trisha; she will schedule a park tour for any one interested in joining in some time in May

The committee is still working on what to do the funds and checking on an "Investment Policy Statement" to have in place for the future

Spring Fund Raiser

Mikey Haven is coordinating this with Sears-will be held out in their parking lot; she is requesting any plant starts you would like to donate, and also any divided plants you may have to give;
The fundraiser will be held on May 10 from 9-5
Sears will be hosting a BBQ at the same time
Mikey will be asking for volunteers to help sell the plants

Board Members

Since we have a board member who has not attended any membership meetings so far a motion was made and 2nd to replace the member with another; this was done according to our by laws regarding missing meetings; Bonnie Pick is now a new member of the board replacing Mike Williams
Jan Wilfert will contact Becky Reynolds to see if she would like a LOA from the board

Jail Gardens

Penny Barton & Mikey Haven went to visit the jail garden-they have started growing all kinds of veggie starts inside under lights to get a jump on the season; most of the produce they grow is donated to a variety of non profit and charitable organizations around Bonner County; Jan Wilfert donated a light & Penny will get a list of items that we may be able to help them with to keep their wonderful garden effort going

Penny Barton

She will be having a plant sale at her house later in April-divisions of some of the wonderful plants from her amazing gardens; she will send an e-mail when she has a date

Meeting adj @ 10:45



BCGA Membership Meeting May 3, 2013

Present: Penny Barton, Howie Fennimore, Jenna Bertus, Jan Wilfert, Barb Pressler, Ann Warwick, Butterfly Burke, Bob Blair, Janae Dale, Mikey Haven, Sandra Gevurtz, Marjory Clements, Barbara Moore, Kathryn Chase, Regina Mundell and Gail Swan

Meeting was called to order @ 9:00am by President, Jan Wilfert

April minutes will be sent with the May minutes

Treasurer's report: \$1818.07 (current balance)

New Business

Regina Mundell has done a fantastic job of setting up a "Facebook" page for the association & she made a presentation to show what she has accomplished; a motion was made & seconded to have Regina continue with this & to have her maintain the page; pictures & articles can be sent to Regina's e-mail for her to put on the page

Board update

Zoe Bolton has moved (for about 80% of her time) to Seattle for personal reasons; she will stay on as Vice President via phone contact for the meetings & through e-mail for all else

Becky Reynolds is resigning her position on the board for personal reasons; Barb Pressler will take over her position on the board

BCGA Website

Keokee will no longer be putting info on our website-we are in need of a member to volunteer to input info on the site 3-4 times per year; please call or e-mail Pres Jan Wilfert if you are willing and interested in doing this

Teaching Classes

We have had some requests from community groups to teach gardening classes; please contact Pres Jan Wilfert for more info on the classes desired & if you are willing to teach

Garden Tour

Penny Barton would like to have suggestions of gardens in the Sagle area for the garden tour in July;

Please call or e-mail Penny with any suggestions you may have

Old Business

Pot Lucks

Zoe Bolton is still planning on having a pot luck on June 22, if possible; more notice will follow
Sandra Gevurtz will be hosting one on July 20; directions will follow

Home Hort

Classes went well in April; Ann Warwick, Bonnie Pick, Jenna Bertus & Jan Wilfert stepped in for Kit Cooley to teach the 2nd class on "Basic Veggie Gardening"; 2 more classes in May for the spring series

City Baskets

The baskets were assembled on Friday, April 5 starting at 9am at the PSNI greenhouse; 80 baskets were put together for this year

Home and Garden Show:

Many thanks to Ann Warwick & to all the volunteers & speakers for putting on another presence at the Home & Garden Show this year

Farmers Market:

If you would like to have a presence at the farmers market, contact Sandra to sign up for any available days; a good way to put in volunteer hours

Trisha Murphy Committee

Penny Goodman has met with Kim Woodruff of the park & recs department to possibly find an appropriate place for a tree or shrub of Trisha; she will schedule a park tour for any one interested in joining in some time in May

The funds will stay in the bank for now with any use of those funds to be approved by the board. The committee is still working on an "Investment Policy Statement" to have in place for the future

Spring Fund Raiser

Mikey Haven is coordinating this with Sears-will be held out in their parking lot; she is requesting any plant starts you would like to donate, and also any divided plants you may have to give;

The fundraiser will be held on May 10 (& 11 if necessary) from 9-5

Sears will be hosting a BBQ at the same time
Mikey will be asking for volunteers to help sell the plants

Meeting adj @ 11:15

2013 Event Chairs and Contact Info			
Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Contact
Membership Meetings	Ongoing	Jan Wilfert	263-7405 or rj.wilfert2@frontier.com
Continuing Education Program	Ongoing		
Membership Committee	Ongoing	Zoe Bolton	264-1210 or zbolton@gmail.com
Home Horticulture Series	Spring & Fall	Don Childress, Janae Dale and Gail Swan	Don – 255-7928 or dwc1rsc@televar.com ; Janae – 265-2205 or dalejanae@gmail.com , or Gail H 263-0180 C 290-4126 or gswan8274@hotmail.com
Home and Garden Show	April	Ellie Lizotte and Ann Warwick	Ellie – 264-5462 or hopeellie@aol.com ; Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or w.redguy@frontier.com
School Gardens	Spring/Summer	Janae Dale	265-2205 or dalejanae@gmail.com
Farmers Market	Spring/Summer	Sandra Gevurtz	(509)922-2359 or sangevurtz@gmail.com
Mickinnick Trailhead – meet the 1 st and 3 rd Wed of each month at 9am at the trailhead	Spring/Summer	Jan Griffiths	jan@looptravel.com , 290-1973
Healing Garden	Spring/Summer	Valle Novak	
Potlucks	Summer	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Becky - rplace@directv.net or 264-3214; Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or w.redguy@frontier.com
Garden Tour	July	Penny Barton	H 265-9733; C 610-1493 or one-cent@gotsky.com
Bonner County Fair	Aug	Lynn Pietz and Jon Bair	lynnpietz@hotmail.com or 265-3563