



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

April 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.

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Kingdom: Plantae  
Order: Lamiales  
Family: Boraginaceae  
Genus: Pulmonaria L.

Native to Europe and Asia, pulmonaria plants arrived in America well over 200 years ago. Pulmonarias were originally grown in herb and medicinal gardens. The leaves were and still are used to create medicines to relieve various pulmonary ailments. The name pulmonaria derives from the Latin root *pulmo*, which means lung. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was believed that a plant's appearance spoke of its medicinal value. In the case of pulmonaria (lungwort) the spotted leaves somewhat resembled a diseased lung.

Lungwort contains toxic pyrrolizidin alkaloids that can cause liver damage or death if ingested improperly. When used under proper supervision pulmonaria helps soothe tuberculosis, asthma, bronchitis, whooping cough, and chronic cough symptoms. The substance that allows for relief is the plant's mucilage properties. The mucilage covers the affected tissue with a thick coating that decreases inflammation and brings relief from other symptoms.

Pulmonaria, also known as Lungwort, Bride & Groom, Bethlehem sage, and Jerusalem cowslips is a charming old-fashioned perennial that thrives in Bonner County. To start the season, pulmonaria plants send up clusters of tightly fistled flower heads on leafy stems. The flowers add a pop of long-lasting color, in the shade garden, with their funnel-shaped pink and blue hued flowers. My bride and grooms start blooming in April and continue into June, with the bounty of blooms happening in May.

### President's Message

Bumblebees adore the pollen of Pulmonaria flowers. At our place, the bumblebees start visiting as soon as the first flowers open and continue until the last flowers drop off the plants.



As the flowers fade the large silvery-spotted basal leaves develop and unfurl. These large leaves, up to 12 inches long and 4 inches wide, put on a summer show of their own. The leaves gracefully overlap creating a moisture retentive ground cover.

Pulmonarias are slow growing and reproduce by both seed and rhizomes. These slow spreading beauties are easily cultivated, kept in check, and they are neither invasive nor aggressive. They adapt well to growing under trees and shrubs and make fine companions for spring bulbs. They add a graceful edge to flower beds and embrace pots of annuals dispersed amongst their leaves.

Moisture is the key to growing healthy showy-leaved pulmonarias. They do best in light to medium shade with consistent moist soil conditions. Lack of moisture in the soil causes leaves to wither, turn brown, and the plants go dormant if conditions become too dry.

Except for their moisture requirements, pulmonarias are easy to grow and care for, rewarding us with their showy flowers and leaves year after year. A collection of new hybrids are available to purchase. Raspberry Splash, Apple Frost, and Berries and Cream are a few new cultivars adding an exciting dimension to this traditional garden standard. Plus the happy hum of pollinators, especially bumblebees visiting their flowers for a nutritious tasty meal makes these plants extra special!

Jan



## April Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:

[http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening\\_Montzonestep01.html](http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Montzonestep01.html)



### **Zone 3**

- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals indoors
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Sow seeds for tender perennials
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials
- Plant bare-root and container roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root shrubs and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees

### **Zone 4**

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs

- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- 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, feed, and aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Plant container and bare-root 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
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens

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## BCGA Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2014

Present: Butterfly Burke, Barbara Pressler, Bob Blair, Patti Pietron, Rob Lilley, Penny Goodman, Gail Swan, Penny Barton, Janae Dale, Gray Henderson, Jon Bair, Howie Fennimore, Jan Wilfert, Sandra Gevurtz, and Ann Warwick.

Meeting called to order at 8:49 by President Jan Wilfert.

March Minutes: Motion to approve, Janae Dale, second, Patti Pietron. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance as of March 31, 2014 is \$2083.14. Balance of Trisha Murphy Gift account is \$33590.15. Tom Brunner was paid \$1250 for the Beanstalk Bench from TMG. Balance of \$1250 will be paid on completion.

### Between Meetings:

Bob Baker ordered black ink cartridges online for a savings. They work in our printer.

Bridge Club requested use of coffee pots. Board voted "Aye". Pots well cared for.

### **Zone 5**

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- 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

Chamber of Commerce business luncheon: We are the non-profit business of the month. We are invited to attend a luncheon on April 10. Cost: \$15 per person. Check in at 11:30 at Tango Cafe in the Panhandle Bank Building.

City Baskets: We will not be planting city baskets this year. It has been contracted to a greenhouse in Spokane. PSNI has no space. All Seasons Garden and Floral may add greenhouses this year and could then resume city basket contract.

Summer Parks and Recreation Department Brochure: We are mentioned for our summer events.

Membership Course: Kudos to Penny Barton for organizing an outstanding class. Eleven students completed the course. Rob Lilley suggested more time for each class. Discussion of additional educational opportunities ensued. Changes will be considered for next year's class. Possible combining of Pruning and Orchard Fruits, as information overlaps. Room worked out well. Class successful.

Spring Home Horticulture Classes: Attendance: first class, 20 people, second class, 19 attendees. Will have brochures in the PCBA Home & Garden booth. Classes very good, well presented.

Get Your Spring On @ Petal Talk: BCGA will assist at Petal Talk during a downtown event on Saturday, April 26. Volunteers for our participation: Jan Wilfert and Vicki Johnson. Any additional volunteers welcome. Nicole French (owner) will provide supplies for a hands on project with children and/or adults.

Spring Fund Raiser Plant Sale: Chair, Mikey Haven. Sale is on May 9-10 from 9 to 5. Volunteers needed in booth, to set up the event, and to help with sales and questions. Volunteers are urged to start some plants for the sale. Veggie starts are popular, but some perennials, herbs, strawberries and raspberries are welcome. Members can shop for some good plants, as well. Temporary nursery license (\$25) applied for.

Potlucks: Planned potlucks include Butterfly and Tracy Burke on June 26 (Saturday.) Tentative plans for a mid-July potluck at Barbara Pressler's home, and a September potluck at Patti Pietron's. We could use some more hosts--members encouraged to consider hosting a garden visit/ potluck. They are fun and BCGA provides the tableware, tables, canopies, and other amenities as needed. Contact Ann Warwick to schedule.

Idaho Garden Association Visit: The Boise centered association plans to send seven members (spouses, too?) to visit BCGA for the purpose of exchanging ideas and gleaning an understanding of our processes and fund raising, etc. They will attend the Garden Tour on Sunday, July 6. They will arrive in Sandpoint on Saturday, July 5, and leave on Tuesday, July 8. **We need to provide accommodations for them. Members who have room for a person or couple, please contact Jan Wilfert.** We will have a potluck on either Sunday or Monday, and will meet to discuss our organization with them on Monday, July 7. This entire plan depends on finding host homes to provide housing for the guests. More details to be firmed up next meeting.

Beanstalk Bench Update: Tom Brunner is working on form for the bench, which will be created onsite in Farmin Park, on the path that crosses the park. We will have a celebration and dedication of the bench to the city on May 3, opening day of the Farmer's Market. We will have a banner, and the bench will be wrapped and bow-tied. Tom B will unveil the bench in a public ceremony.

Bridge Club Room Request: Thursday, June 5, from 11 to 4. Approved.

Eric Request for Room: Saturday, April 26. Approved.

Requests for Information Sharing: We are receiving increasing request for dissemination of information from various sources. Discussed our role in sharing. Members can receive this information (on learning opportunities or other garden related data) or can opt out by contacting President Jan Wilfert. We will provide disclaimers with information from outside sources.

Bylaws and Procedures and Guidelines: Review and revision continues, with emphasis on developing job descriptions for the officers. Janae Dale is working on this project with others.

New Meeting Time: The Bridge Club is meeting at 11:30 Wednesdays, so membership meetings will begin at 9 am beginning with the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 11.



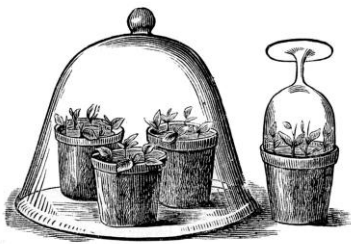
## PCBA Home and Garden Show Report

The annual Panhandle Building Contractors Association Home and Garden Show took place on April 12 and 13. Thanks to all the smiling faces of volunteers who tended the booth and answered questions, we won the "Friendliest Booth" award.

The presentations given by members were very informative and well done, despite the poor acoustics in the Fairgrounds main building. Bruce Greene demonstrated his amazing collection of well crafted garden tools, and helped people understand the use of each. Marrion Newsam-Banks discussed xeriscaping and watering by zones reflecting the water needs of various plants. Laurie Brown gave a talk on gardening for the birds, what to plant and how to position plants and features to provide for shelter, food, and water for birds. Janae Dale brought her worm bin to demonstrate how to build and maintain a composting operation in a small space.

On Sunday, Bonnie Pick showed an interested audience how to put together container gardens, with suggestions for plant combinations and container ideas. Elissa Wadds presented a talk on the Sandpoint Community Garden--how it operates, the community involvement, and what is needed from volunteers. A number of plots are set aside for production of produce for the food bank. Ann Warwick gave a talk on the proper temperature for germination of common vegetables and the use of soil thermometers to help determine when to plant.

Thanks goes out to Bonnie Cavanaugh, Regina Mundell, Marrion Newsam-Banks, Jane Roach, Butterfly Burke, Jennifer Costich-Thompson, Gail Swan, Janae Dale, Bonnie Pick, Patti Pietron, Marge Clements, Elissa Wadds, and Bob Baker for tending the booth. Thanks also to Howard Fennimore and Jan Geren, Gail Swan, Bob Baker, and Janae Dale for assisting in the set up and take down of the display.



## Community Garden Needs Help

BCGA member Elissa Wadds is a manager at the Sandpoint Community Garden, which is located on Hwy 2 west of Dub's. She gave an informative talk at the Panhandle Building Contractors Association Home and Garden Show about the Community Garden. The garden is divided into a number of plots, each renting for \$25 per year (renewable) to individuals or groups. Some of the plots are reserved for the area food banks and charitable organizations that serve food, and are cared for by volunteers who adopt a specific plot for the purpose of donating the produce.

The rental money pays for city water, which is available to the garden. There is a tool shed with shared tools available for the use of those who have plantings.

There is a need for community volunteers for some specific tasks. Elissa has listed them below. If you would like to be involved in making the community garden more inviting, contact Elissa at her email address below.

- Location: Dub's Field in Sandpoint, next to the old Sandpoint High School (near Hwy 2 & Boyer)
- Day/Time: our first work day of the year is this Saturday (4/19) starting at 10am and we usually work through noon
- Volunteers needed: weeding & general cleanup of....
  - pathways
  - space under the garden sign
  - raspberry bushes
  - tidying the garden shed
  - herb/perennial bed
- Tools: we have a shed full of shovels, rakes, pitchforks, hoes, stirrup-hoes, and 2 wheelbarrows....but no hand diggers or spade forks (I usually bring my own)
- Contact info: if anyone has any questions, I can be reached at 255-7509 or [elissawadds@yahoo.com](mailto:elissawadds@yahoo.com)

Thank-you!  
Elissa

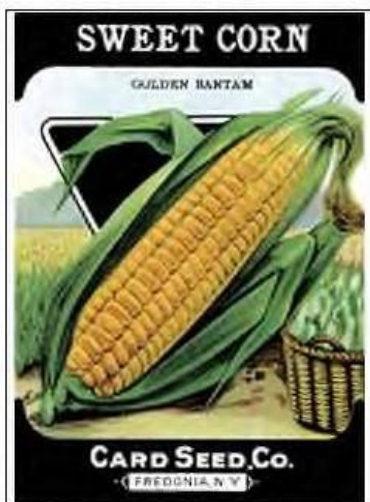
## 2014 Potlucks Need Hosts!

BCGA has been a busy organization so far in 2014, with a membership course, Home Horticulture classes, the Home and Garden show, a hands-on gardening event at Petal Talk coming on April 26, Celebration of the Trisha Murphy Beanstalk Bench at Farmin Park on May 3, and our own plant sale on May 9 and 10. Nevertheless, we have been able to enjoy two potlucks so far this year--one at the home of Bob Blair and Cindy Hayes, and one at Deborah and Charlie Steffen's home.

Upcoming potlucks include: June 26, Butterfly Burke, July TBA at Barb Pressler's, and a September potluck at Patti Pietron's home. We could use some more folks who would like to host a garden visit/potluck. BCGA supplies flatware, plates, canopies if needed, tables if needed, and signs directing folks to the location. The host provides the setting for a fun social event. Potlucks can be any day of the week, and either lunch time or later in the day. Those who attend bring a potluck offering, their own beverage of choice, and chairs if needed. We always have a good time.

Would anyone like to host a potluck in late May? Or maybe sometime in August--remembering that the yard sale and fair are in August, as well as the Festival at Sandpoint.....We will be busy on the weekend of July 5 thru 7 with our visitors from the Idaho (Boise) Gardeners Association and the annual BCGA Garden Tour on July 6.

If you are interested in having a whole bunch of gardeners descend upon your place for a festive time, just contact Ann Warwick to set a date and time. Thank you everyone.



## BCGA Plant Sale

The BCGA is having a plant sale fundraiser May 9th & 10th. It will be at the Bonner Mall parking lot in front of Sears. If its poor weather, it will be inside of Sears. Time is from 9am - 5pm both days.

We will have vegetable starts and perennials, also Mothers Day gift ideas like yard art and totes filled with plants and garden tools. Please come support your Association and get some great gifts and plants.

Set up is at 8am, for plant drop off. If someone has plants to donate but can't bring them, they can call Mikey Haven for pick-up at 610-4829.



**A Spring Garden**  
Hyacinth (*Hymenocallis orientalis*), Dutch Crocus (*Crocus vernus*).

## Chamber Info Sheet

The following is the information sheet that was sent to the Chamber of Commerce:

The Bonner County Gardeners Association (BCGA) is an organization of qualified volunteers who provide research-based Home Horticultural Educational Programs, Community Service, and Beautification Projects. Visit us at <http://bcgardeners.org/>

Looking for fresh gardening ideas and images? Visit our Facebook page, which is choked-full of both. <https://www.facebook.com/bcgardeners>

Spring Home Horticulture Class Series – Successful gardening in short-season climate can be challenging. Wednesday evenings, thru May 14<sup>th</sup>, we offer educational gardening-related classes, geared for gardening in Bonner County. Classes are held at the Ponderay Event Center from 6 pm to 8 pm. Visit our Website *Events* page for detailed information.

Home & Garden Show – Takes place at the Bonner County Fair Grounds on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Drop by and chat all things garden and enjoy the gardening presentations offered each day.

Join Us at Petal Talk on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> during *Get Your Spring On* Event, and create a free 'Pounded Flowers' design. The results are unique, colorful and fun to create.

The BCGA is proud to present the Tom Brunner Beanstalk Bench to the City of Sandpoint on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the first Farmer's Market of the season. This unique bench will sprout from the ground and offer an ergonomically comfortable place to sit and enjoy Farmin Park.

Farmers Market – We will be set up and eager to help you with your gardening questions many Saturdays during the 2014 Farmers Market season.

Spring Plant Sale – Just in time for Mother's Day! On Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> the BCGA will be offering Member started vegetable and herb plants for sale. Look for us at the East end of the Bonner Mall parking lot, in front of the Sears store.

Garden Tour – A collection of gorgeous gardens have been chosen for your touring pleasure on Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. More information and ability to purchase tickets will be posted on our Website later this season. Visit our website to enjoy images from last year's Garden Tour.

Plant & Yard Sale – This yearly event takes place on the grounds of Lake Pend Oreille High School, located at 1005 North Boyer Avenue, on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>; the same week as the Fair. Yard Sale Treasures and Perennials harvested from BCGA Members gardens will be for sale at very reasonable prices.

Bonner County Fair Booth – Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Stop by and say Hi and check out our 'Land of Awes' garden-style booth design.

Fall Home Hort Series – Please check our website in September for details.

Are you interested in joining our Association? Please contact us at [bcgardeners@gmail.com](mailto:bcgardeners@gmail.com) for a listing of the various ways to become a Member and to acquire an Application. Our next Membership Course is slated to start the end of January 2015.



