



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

December 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

Ho...Ho...Ho... Happy Holly Days! To insure the spirit of the season is merry and bright decorate with boughs of holly. Holly boughs harbor spirits of goodwill and ward off malevolent ones. Doorways graced with holly were believed to cleanse negative energy from those who passed under its boughs.



Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Aquifoliales
Family: Aquifoliaceae
Genus: Ilex
Species: Approximately 600

Holly species come in many sizes as climbers, shrubs, and trees. Some species are diminutive ground-huggers and others tower well over 80 feet tall. Some hollies bristle with spines while others feel soft and smooth to the touch. All holly varieties produce small berries called drupes. The drupes ripen to shades of red, brown, black, and occasionally green or yellow. Most drupes contain 10 seeds and ripen in winter, many in time for the Holiday season.

Hollies thrive at sea level as well as on mountain-sides well over 6,000 feet. Where ever they live they tend to be slow growing. Their wood grows dense and hard. The Romans built chariot wheels from holly wood to be used during the December Festival of Saturn. During the 18th century massive numbers of coppice holly suckers were turned into whips used by ploughmen and horse-drawn coach drivers. Fine chess pieces and piano keys are often created from this dense white wood.

Thor, the Scandinavian god of lightning and thunderstorms, wielded a mighty holly wood club that conducted lightning superbly. To honor Thor and protect buildings from lightning strikes, hollies were planted nearby. Scientific studies prove hollies conduct lightning into the ground with little injury to the plant. In fact the spines on the leaves act as miniature conductors!

Hollies are tough. They are planted along roadways and interstates. They appear to thrive, despite car exhaust, compacted soil, salt, and other roadway detriments. They provide effective visual, sound, and wind screens too.

In winter, when food sources become scarce, birds and animals eat the berries. Robins, bluebirds, and mockingbirds seem especially willing to eat holly berries. These same berries are mildly poisonous to us and can cause any or all varieties of digestive distress.

American holly (*Ilex opaca*) is native to North America and in 1939 Delaware named it their official state tree. This beauty grows up to 60 feet tall, has a similar look to the English holly of song and lore, and produces red berries in time for the Holiday season. So deck the halls with boughs of holly and enjoy a happy holiday season.

Jan

December Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:
http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Montzonestep01.html



Zone 3

- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom
- Water living Christmas trees (ice cubes work well)
- Prechill tulips and hyacinths for forcing indoors

Zone 4

- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water living Christmas trees (ice cubes work well)
- Prechill tulips and hyacinths for forcing indoors

Zone 5

- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water living Christmas trees (ice cubes work well)
- Prechill tulips and hyacinths for forcing indoors



BCGA Membership Meeting December 4, 2013

Present: Butterfly Burke, Howie Fennimore, Bob Blair, Jan Wilfert, Gray Henderson, Janae Dale, Cindy Hayes, Jenna Bertus, Barb Pressler, Penny Goodman, Penny Barton, Mikey Haven, Ann Warwick, Bonnie Pick and Gail Swan

Meeting called to order @ 9am by Pres Jan Wilfert

New OfficeAddress: BCGA, 401 Bonner Mall Way, Ponderay, Id., 83852

MEETING IN JAN WILL BE ON 2ND WED, JAN 8TH BECAUSE OF NEW YEARS DAY AND WILL BE HELD IN THE NEW OFFICE AT: 401 BONNER MALL WAY, SUITE F

Due to sharing the office on Wed's with the Bridge Club, (they use the office from 11am-5pm), the membership meetings will begin at 8:30 instead of 9; please be on time as it is a disruption for people to be coming in late.

We have signed a lease for 5 years @ \$300/month with an option to renew at the same price for another 5 years; we are sharing with the bridge club to reduce the monthly charge to a more affordable price. There will be a numerical key pad on the door & members will be given the code as well as the bridge club and the manager of the event center. We will be moving into the new office on Dec 20th, starting @ 9am. There is a secure closet in the office for some items and also a second storage area on the ground floor that we can utilize for large items. The shed will be sold. A suggestion was made regarding a thank you gift for Becky Jensen, the office manager at the business center where we have been for the last 2 ½ years. Since she has attended some of the home hort classes, a gift certificate for the spring series was decided on.

Treasurer's Report: \$4015.69

This years Christmas party will be held in the large room at the Ponderay Event Center on Friday, Dec 6th from 5:30 to 9:30 and decoration will be done the same day @ 10am; Penny Goodman has volunteered to be at the door to collect \$10 from attending members to help defray the cost of the venue.

Membership Classes: Penny Barton has graciously accepted the chair position for the membership course. A planning meeting will be held in the conference room at the office (on Airport Way) on Tuesday, Dec 10th @ 10am. The classes will begin on Tuesday Feb 4, 2014.

Membership Renewals:

So far, we have 34 members renewing plus 3 Emeritus members; the new directory will be put together in Jan, so please get your renewals in the mail so you can be included in it. An e-mail copy

will be sent out when it is ready & members can print their own copies.

Trisha Murphy Committee:

Tom Brunner, local artist, brought a clay model of the bench we are commissioning him to do as a remembrance for Trisha. The model will be at the office for everyone to see. Tom will build the bench in place at the farmer's market where it will be located. It will be constructed of concrete reinforced with rebar and wire mesh, and will be colored green throughout the entire piece. It will have the BCGA logo at one end & Trisha's initials at the other, along with Tom's.

If you wish to see some of Tom's previous work, you can see some at the Healing Garden.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30



Event Chairs and Contact Info			
Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Contact
Membership Meetings	Ongoing – 1 st Wednesday of each month	Jan Wilfert	263-7405 or rj.wilfert2@frontier.com
Continuing Education Program	Ongoing		
Membership Committee	Ongoing	Penny Barton	H 265-9733; C 610-1493 or miatamaven@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	Ann Warwick and Ellie Lizotte	Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or w.redguy@frontier.com Ellie – 264-5462 or hopeellie@aol.com
School Gardens	Ongoing	Janae Dale	265-2205 or dalejanae@gmail.com
Farmers Market	Spring/Summer	Sandra Gevurtz & Vicki Johnson	(509)922-2359 or sangevurtz@gmail.com 892-8586 or visandpoint@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	Gail Locke	Blasingame/gardenersdaughter@yahoo.com
Potlucks	Summer	Ann Warwick, Jenna Bertus, Becky Reynolds	Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or w.redguy@frontier.com Jenna - 255-7585 and grnhsgal@pot.net Becky - rplace180@yahoo.com
Garden Tour	July	Penny Barton	H 265-9733; C 610-1493 or miatamaven@gmail.com
Bonner County Fair	Aug	Lynn Pietz	lynnpietz@hotmail.com or 265-3563