



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

July 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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### President's Message

If you want big, bold, and showy in your shade gardens, You need Ligularias.

**Kingdom:** Plantae  
**Order:** Asterales  
**Family:** Asteraceae  
**Genus:** Ligularia

Ligularias thrive when planted in partial-shade in humus-rich soil well-mulched to keep their large root systems cool and moist. These beautiful plants have a tidy yet free spirited growth habit, gorgeous leaves, and long-lasting golden-hued flowers. Their large showy leaves dance at the end of long strong stems when watered and kissed by a passing breeze. The leaves hide shades of gold, pink, red, and purple from our view until the short cool days of autumn come to call.

My ligularias 'The Rocket' are in full bloom right now. They started blooming the end of June and will continue to bloom for many more weeks. They are approximately 15 years old and garner lots of attention. Jan



*Ligularia stenocephala* 'The Rocket'



*Ligularia dentate* 'Britt-Marie Crawford'

# July Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:  
[http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening\\_Montzonesep01.html](http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Montzonesep01.html)



## Zone 3

- Now's the time to start seeds of cool-season vegetables for fall growing
- Rogue out (remove) virus-infected plants from the garden and control leaf-hopping insects to prevent virus spread
- By pruning off faded blooms from annuals, you can prevent seed formation and coax additional flowers
- Mulch flowerbeds with dried grass clipping or compost to maintain moisture and reduce weeds
- Save maintenance and water by allowing perennial rye and Kentucky blue grass lawns to go dormant during the summer
- Raspberries are ripe when they pull readily from the central core
- Prune water sprouts (upright, vigorous shoots) from apple trees
- Avoid deep cultivation around shallow rooted trees and shrubs such as evergreens
- Add a water-soluble fertilizer to hanging baskets and patio pots every 2 weeks to keep plants blooming their best
- Cut flowers for drying at their prime or when just opening
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## Zone 4

- Add one last planting of gladioli bulbs for flowers into fall
- Harvest veggies as soon as they're ripe to encourage further production
- Avoid the sight of a weed-infested garden: weed first before you leave on vacation
- Harvest sweet corn when silks are brown and punctured kernels produce a milky juice
- Prevent blossom-end rot on tomatoes by providing plants with at least an inch of water each week
- Let melons ripen on the vine--this is where they will develop their best flavor
- Start fall garden transplants from seed
- Petunias, coleus and other summer annuals might be leggy by now. Pinch them back just above a leaf to encourage bushy growth and more flowers
- Leave faded flowers on those plants that form ornamental seed heads, pods, or berries
- Provide water in a shallow pan or birdbath for your feathered and fluttering friends

## Zone 5

- Remove annuals with stunted or unusual color; these are usually virus infected and the disease can spread to neighboring healthy plants
- To control disease on fruit trees, maintain a summer spray schedule
- Clean hummingbird feeders filled with nectar solution regularly to ward off mold and bacteria
- Consider drip irrigation and/or soaker hoses for watering in the flowerbed and vegetable garden
- Bats help control mosquitoes; attract these friendly mammals with bat houses
- Muskmelons and cantaloupes are ready for picking when the stem "slips" easily from the fruit with gentle pressure

- Harvest veggies as soon as they're ripe to encourage additional production
- Sharp mower blades prevent leaf blade damage and lawn stress
- Prevent diseases on susceptible rose varieties: apply fungicide every 7-10 days
- Lanky annuals need your help! Pinch them back now to encourage bushy growth and more flowers



*Ligularia japonica*

## BCGA Meeting Minutes – July 7, 2014

Note: This meeting is a joint meeting of BCGA and the Idaho Garden Association from Boise. Members of the IGA were visiting Bonner County for the Garden Tour and this meeting. This is not a regular membership meeting.

Present: Gordon Fish, Patti Pietron, Butterfly Burke, Penny Barton, Marjory Clements, Howard Fenimore, Penny Goodman, Gray Henderson, Bob Diderich, Johna Diderich, Dan Evans (IGA), Bob Blair, Jan Wilfert, Suzanne Craig (IGA), Vivian Chan (IGA),

Elaine Walker (IGA), Cindy Hayes, CS Chan, Ann Warwick.

8:30 meet and greet with food.

9:00am, meeting called to order by Jan Wilfert, president. She introduced the visitors from Boise and welcomed them to our meeting and to our county.

Garden Tour: Chair Penny Barton delivered another (twelfth) stunning garden tour in Hope, Idaho, with eight diverse gardens, all charming and creative. A record 213 tickets were sold, netting about \$1500 for BCGA. This beats last year's record 158 tickets. Kudos to Penny. Several people taking the tour expressed interest in next year's membership course, and many thought it was the best garden tour ever.

After Tour Party: Barbara Pressler hosted a pizza and salad party at her imaginative garden for the BCGA members and visitors from Boise. Visiting and comparing notes on the garden tour in a lovely setting allowed everyone to relax after the busy tour. 23 people attended.

### IGA DISCUSSION TO HELP GROW THEIR ASSOCIATION:

The members of the Boise IGA came to visit BCGA to discuss ways to increase their membership and to create a more vibrant organization. Currently, they meet at one another's homes. They have several ongoing projects. The IGA is involved with 4-H, helping young people learn to garden. They are also involved with Habitat for Humanity, where they hope to teach the new owners of homes how to landscape and care for their outdoor space. They also have occasional plant sales to bolster funds. The problem expressed with the first two projects is a sense of having different expectations than the parent organizations (4-H and Habitat) and having to work within the priorities and regulations of those groups.

In addition, there seem to be ongoing attempts by the University of Idaho to gain control of the group in some way....including a recent trademarking of the Master Gardener name.

At this point, 10:40 am, a short board meeting of BCGA was called. Gray Henderson moved that BCGA take steps to determine how to alter our legal name to Bonner County Gardeners Association on all legal documents. This would remove "Bonner County Master Gardeners" from all documents and materials. Bob Blair seconded the motion, and a hand vote of board members present was unanimous. Janae Dale, Zoe Bolton, Gray Henderson will research.

Meeting adjourned at about 10:55.

After a short break, BCGA members offered suggestions to IGA:

Bob Blair stated that he felt that the Boise group was depending on other organizations to generate projects, and that they were dissatisfied with the results. Suggestion to remedy this is to have projects generated and carried out by the IGA.

The need for close personal relationships to cement the organization was mentioned, and we pointed out our frequent potlucks and other social events.

Funding. We talked about all our projects for raising funds to support an office and other expenses--Home Horticulture classes, Garden Tour, Yard and Plant Sales.

Outreach and Advertising: We discussed our web site, Facebook page, and participation in community events (Home and Garden show, BC Fair, planting city baskets, beautification projects, Farmers Market, etc) and how it gets us known. We mentioned the classes and how that sometimes leads to signups for the membership course. And we talked about the membership course to increase our membership.

The members of the Boise IGA seemed pleased with the meeting, and felt they could take home the ideas and suggestions and perhaps put a more dynamic organization into action.

Photos taken, meeting adjourned a bit after 11am.



*Ligularia seed heads*

## BCGA Garden Visit Potlucks

Several potluck garden visits are scheduled for this summer, and everyone is invited to attend. Here are the potlucks coming up:

Sunday, July 27 at 1pm: Vicki Johnson, 103 Strong Creek Avenue, Hope, Idaho.

Sunday, August 24, Kit Cooley will host a potluck at her home on upper Flume Creek.

September ?, Patti Pietron invites BCGA members to her home on Wrenco Loop Road,

BCGA supplies all the tableware for each event. Members bring a potluck dish and beverage of choice. Come out and visit the gardens of members, have a nice meal, and enjoy a relaxing time with fellow gardeners. Each garden is unique and all have ideas to share.

Look for announcements and directions to the potlucks via email. Summer is the time for fun and friends. If anyone would like to host a potluck, please contact Ann Warwick to schedule a date.



*Ligularia dentata*

"I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden"

*John Erskine (American writer)*