



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

June 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: Asparagales  
Family: Amaryllidaceae  
Genus: Allium

### President's Message

Four days to go until the start of the Summer Solstice and the official beginning of the summer season. Due to the fluctuations in weather conditions, my flowers are trying to decide if it is spring or if it is summer. One day it is toasty warm outside and I can almost watch the corn grow. The next day the temp drops into the chilly zone, the corn stops growing, and the flowers slow down too. One of my favorite garden flowers, Alliums, seems unfazed by the weather fluctuations.

There are approximately 750 varieties of alliums. Their flowers come in all sizes, from the soccer-ball sized Stars of Persia (*allium cristophii*) to the diminutive *allium moly*. Some varieties are tall, some are short. Some varieties like Purple Sensation start blooming in late April or early May, Globemasters start blooming in June, and Millenniums start blooming in late summer.

Most alliums are native to Asia. They are related to onions and garlic. The word allium means 'garlic' in Latin. Allium bulbs are edible, yet rarely used as food.

Alliums form onion-like leaves. The plants then send up sturdy leafless stalks. One stalk forms per bulb. At the top of these stalks the flower heads covered in star-shaped flowers emerge. The leaves of many allium varieties begin to fade as the flowers take on color. Allium flowers come in shades of purple, lavender, pink, white, and blue. *Moly* flowers are yellow

Alliums, especially the tall globe-shaped varieties, create a focal-point from the time they bloom; first as showy flowers, then as green globes, and lastly as dried seed pods. These seed pods look wonderful in dried bouquets. If left in the garden they add winter interest to the landscape.



Many varieties self-sow and if allowed form colonies. I have an early blooming variety that thrives and blooms prolifically in the tall grasses, seemingly unfazed by the invasive grass roots. I allow their seed heads to ripen and self-sow. This patch of alliums continues to expand every year both by seed and by bulb.

Pollinators, especially bumblebees adore allium flowers. I have seen butterflies visit them too. They tend to be deer resistant. I personally have never had any of my alliums noshed on by our resident deer herd. Underground critters seem to steer clear of these beauties too.

Alliums thrive in our high-mountain gardens, blooming year after year with minimal care. They offer so much and require so little. I know they make my heart sing! Jan



## June 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

- Set out seedlings of warm-season annuals and vegetables
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs
- Weed asparagus and strawberry beds
- Put up trellises or netting for peas, pole beans and flowering vines
- Divide and replant spring-blooming perennials after the flowers fade
- Plant container roses
- Fertilize and aerate lawns
- Plant balled-and-burlapped and container trees, shrubs and vines
- Apply sulfur to control fungus problems on apple trees, roses and grapevines
- Pinch off first flower buds on chrysanthemum and carnation plants to coax bigger blooms
- Protect cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, kale) from egg-laying cabbage white butterflies with insect barrier cloth
- After their leaves yellow and dry up, divide and transplant crowded spring bulbs

### Zone 4

- Plant seedlings of warm-season annuals and vegetables
- Sow seed of fast-growing, heat-loving herbs, vegetables (basil, squash, melons) and flowers (nasturtiums, zinnias) directly in ground
- Thin out small green fruits on apple, peach and plum trees to one every 6 inches on the branch
- Dust potato plants to prevent infestations of potato beetle
- Set up trellises to support pole beans, morning glories and cucumbers
- Remove newest shoots from geranium plants to encourage fuller plants
- Plant new lawns and fertilize and aerate established lawns

- Plant container roses, shrubs and trees in well-amended soil
- Divide and transplant spring-flowering perennials that have finished blooming
- Protect cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, kale) from egg-laying cabbage white butterflies with insect-barrier cloth
- Weed asparagus and strawberry beds
- Remove new flower buds from chrysanthemums and carnations to coax bigger blooms

## Zone 5

- Divide and transplant spring-flowering perennials that have finished blooming
- Harden off and plant seedlings of warm-weather vegetables and flowers
- Thin out small green fruits on apple, peach and plum trees to one every 6 inches on the branch
- Sow seeds of perennials directly into the ground
- Dust potato plants to prevent infestations of potato beetle
- Pinch newest shoots on geranium plants to encourage fuller plants
- Train your lawn to grow deep roots; Mow often, at a high setting
- Plant balled-and-burlapped and container shrubs and trees
- Feed roses as the first flower buds appear; apply fungicide to prevent powdery mildew or blackspot
- Weed asparagus and strawberry beds
- Feed young corn plants with high-nitrogen fish emulsion fertilizer
- Mulch flower and vegetable gardens to conserve water during heat waves



## BCGA Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2014

Members present: Jon Bair, Howard Fennimore, Butterfly Burke, Bob Blair, Janae Dale, Gail Swan, Patti Pietron, Penny Goodman, Barbara Pressler, Jan Wilfert, Bruce Greene, Ann Warwick.

President Jan Wilfert brought the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

May Minutes: Motion to approve, Bob Blair, seconded by Jon Bair. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Checking Balance as of May 31: \$2898.11. Discussion last month re Fair Booth Fees of \$75. Fee is valid and paid.

### Between Meetings:

Janae Dale reported on Charter School progress. Carrots planted three ways: direct seeding, seed tape, and pelleted seed. Pumpkins coming up. All veggies are fall harvested for a stew. Herb garden doing well. Members invited to visit the school garden during the summer.

Kim Woodruff, City Parks Director, asked Gray Henderson for soils advice for a park. Hopefully, Gray will fill in the details at the next meeting.



Idaho Garden Association Visit: Penny Goodman visited in Boise, hoped to connect with contact Dan Evans, but no meeting was achieved. Visit plans continue.

Facebook Promo: We paid \$20 for special 4 day promo on Facebook. We had 85 "likes" initially, which increased to 105 "likes" by the end of the promo. Thanks, Regina!

Spring Fund Raiser Plant Sale: Mikey Haven, chair. Mikey was not at the meeting, so we will hear more in July. Total earnings were \$1202.50, a 61% increase from last year, despite inclement weather and the need to locate the sale inside Sears Store. Some suggestions/ideas from members to improve the sale if we have it next year:

Have a schedule for personnel at the booth

More organization for set-up and pricing of items

Sale would be better in an outdoor venue

Two days vs. one day--logistics to consider re setting up and down twice? Especially outdoors.

Garden Tour: Penny Barton, chair. Penny B not at meeting, but the tour is scheduled for Sunday, July 6 and will involve a number of gardens near Hope. Penny Goodman reports that there are currently four gardens in Hope and one on the Sunnyside Peninsula. We will be able to sell some of the glass garden ornaments created by members during the tour.

Idaho Garden Association Visit: Members of the Boise IGA will visit from July 5 through 7. Members will provide housing for them, and they receive tickets for the Garden Tour and guides if they want them. The whole Membership is invited to an After the Tour Party at Barbara Pressler's home. Pizza, salad, dessert, coffee and water will be provided, as will plates, flatware and napkins. Party starts at 5 pm. Members are asked to bring beverages and chairs. July 7, 9 am, meeting at the office to discuss how our organization functions--fund raising, general organization

Home Horticulture Classes: Gail Swan, Janae Dale, Don Childress, co chairs. The spring HH series grossed about \$979. There was discussion of whether to continue to pay \$50 per class for the auditorium, or to save that amount and hold them in the office. Howard F stated that the room can hold up to 35 people, if necessary. Most members prefer to continue to use the larger room and the access to kitchen,

coffee, tables, drop down screen and other amenities.

Board Vacancy: Linda Gjording, board member, will not be able to attend meetings for the rest of this year, and requests that someone fill the remainder of her term. Butterfly Burke graciously consented to join the board for the interim period.

Potluck/Garden Visits: Ann Warwick, chair. The next garden visit is at Butterfly Burke's home and garden on Saturday, June 28 at noon. On July 6, after the garden tour, members will meet at Barbara Pressler's home to visit with the IGA members and enjoy pizza, to be purchased by BCGA. Patti Pietron will host a potluck in September, date TBA. Anyone who would like to host an opportunity for a garden party, contact Ann W to schedule the event.

Bonner County Fair: Bonnie Pick, chair. Bonnie requests a co-chair. Theme: "The Land of Awes." Dates; August19-23.

Bonnie has many ideas on the theme, all sound great. "Wicked Weeds of the West," featuring potted weeds, for example. More information in July.

Annual Plant/Yard Sale: Janae Dale, Chair. August 22 at Pend Oreille High School at 1005 N. Boyer date and place of the sale. Members urged to donate items. Items are stored at Bob Blair and Cindy Hayes' home. Call before bringing donations. Members also urged to pot up any extra plants for the plant sale. We are our best customers, and the deals are great.

Procedures/Guidelines Changes: Janae Dale has been making needed changes to the Procedures and Bylaws of the BCGA. Specifically, a document named "Job Descriptions" is referred to but has not existed. Janae is drawing up job descriptions for the officers.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:40 am.

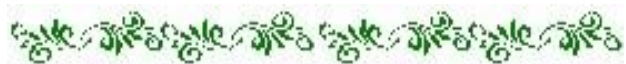


## Plant Pots Available

The annual Plant and Yard Sale is coming up on August 22 at the Lake Pend Orielle High School on North Boyer Avenue. To make the sale a successful endeavor, members donate starts from their favorite plants. Members are encouraged to pot up a few plants and bring them to the sale. Often, home gardeners have plants that are hard to find at nurseries, which makes a sale of this type especially enticing to other gardeners. That said, we are our own best customers, but many other people come to the sale especially to find unusual specimens or old fashioned favorites.

In the past, some members have not had planting pots available. Thanks to Penny Barton, who has donated many of her pots to BCGA, that is no longer a problem. The pots are mostly of the 5" square type, with accompanying flats that hold 16 pots. There are also some larger pots. If anyone wishes to donate plants to the sale, but lack the planting pots, call Ann Warwick at 263-2844 to make arrangements for getting some. They are currently stored at Ann's home.

Please start selecting plants to share with folks at the Plant and Yard Sale. And maybe clean out that storage area for items that will sell, as well. We want to continue the tradition of having a fun day while creating income for the organization. Thank you, everyone.



*"Hope is a necessary ingredient in gardening, for nature is often capricious, and our best efforts may be unsuccessful or need repeating."*

Ruth Shaw Ernst, 'The Naturalist's garden'



*"A garden that one makes oneself becomes associated with one's personal history and that of one's friends, interwoven with one's tastes, preferences and character, and constitutes a sort of unwritten but withal manifest, autobiography. Show me your garden, provided it be your own, and I will tell you what you are like. It is in middle life that the finishing touches should be put to it; and then, after that, it should remain more or less in the same condition, like oneself, growing more deep of shade, and more protected from winds..."*

Alfred Austin, 1835-1913, English poet. I disagree; who can leave a garden alone?

