



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

November 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](mailto:lauriebrown54@gmail.com) When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.*

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### President's Message

To be happy for a lifetime, grow Chrysanthemums - ancient Chinese saying.

November is the month where Chrysanthemums reign supreme. These amazing plants and their flowers derive their name from the Greek words chryso (gold) and anthemom (flower). Chrysanthemums are oft times called Mums and occasionally called Chrysanth.

Chrysanthemums are native to Asia and North-eastern Europe. There are approximately 40 original species, with the majority of these species located in China. Records show that the Chinese cultivated Mums as a flowering herb as far back as the 15th century BC.

Kingdom: Plantae  
Order: Asterales  
Family: Asteraceae  
Genus: Chrysanthemum

By 1630 AD over 500 cultivars had been recorded. Now there are thousands of cultivars that receive accolades for their fancy and showy flowers. The native chrysanthemums are various shades of gold and yellow. Now chrysanthemums are available in

what appears to be endless shades and combos of yellow, orange, white, purple, red, pink and green.

During the Eastern Han Dynasty a devil lived in the Nu River. The devil spread disease via magic amongst the neighboring people. A young man named Hengjing went to extraordinary lengths to learn how to eradicate the Nu River Devil. On the ninth day of the ninth lunar month Hengjing led the villagers to a mountain next to the river. Each villager held a cup of Chrysanthemum wine and a single dogwood leaf. The fragrance of the wine and dogwood stopped the devil in his tracks. Hengjing took this opportunity to battle the devil and won.

Since then the custom of climbing mountains, drinking chrysanthemum wine and holding onto dogwood leaves on the ninth day of the ninth month have become popular. This auspicious day is known as the Chongyang or Double Yang Festival.

The Double Yang (also called the Double Nine Festival) is also celebrated in Hong Kong (Chung Yeung Festival), in Japan (Chōyō), and in Vietnam (Tết Trung Cửu) where chrysanthemums play a pivotal role.

Around the 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D. chrysanthemums made their way to Japan. The Emperor was so impressed; he adopted the flower as his official seal. The original Japanese flag depicts a golden chrysanthemum with 16 petals around a disc on a red background. A symbol of the sun, the Japanese considers the orderly unfolding of the chrysanthemum's petals to represent perfection. As the flower gained importance amongst the people, a National Festival of Happiness came into being and is still celebrated today.

Nowadays, chrysanthemum petal tea and wine is consumed for its health giving qualities. Boiled yellow or white mums of the species *C. morifolium* make a sweet drink known simply as Chrysanthemum tea. The Koreans relish a rice wine spiced with chrysanthemum flowers called *gukhwaju*.

Young steamed chrysanthemum leaves are popular greens, especially to the Chinese. Small chrysanthemums are used as a garnish for Japanese sashimi (thin slices of raw fish or meat).

There are many health benefits to chrysanthemums. There are also a number of possible unhealthy side effects. Chrysanthemums contain chemicals known as Pyrethrins that may cause eye damage, allergic reactions, skin sensitivity, and inflammation of the central nervous system. People on insulin or on HIV medications should refrain from using chrysanthemum.

Pyrethrins attack the nervous system of all creatures. Pyrethrins are especially toxic to insects and fish. They are far less toxic to mammals and birds than man-made insecticides, but prolonged exposure is not recommended. Chrysanthemum repellent stops female mosquitoes and a host of other insects from biting and are available to purchase. Pyrethrins are biodegradable and decompose easily on exposure to light.

Chrysanthemums are a favorite amongst florists for all types of arrangements and corsages. The flowers are especially long lasting and come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. An added bonus; Chrysanthemum plants have been shown to reduce indoor air pollution by the NASA Clean Air Study.

It's said that a single petal of this celebrated flower placed at the bottom of a wine glass will encourage a long and healthy life. Jan



## October 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**

- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)

### **Zone 4**

- Cover perennial, vegetable, bulb, and strawberry beds for winter
- Plant winter- and spring-flowering bulbs
- Divide and replant crowded fall-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow
- Buy spring-blooming bulbs
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Protect roses for winter

### **Zone 5**

- Plant winter- and spring-flowering bulbs
- Divide and replant crowded fall-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow
- Buy winter- and spring-blooming bulbs
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Protect roses for winter



Tom Brunner has designed a bench for the BCGA as a remembrance for Trish Murphy; he will be making a clay model & will bring it to the next membership meeting; he will also contact Kim Woodruff, parks & rec, to assure his approval of the bench.

## **BCGA Membership Meeting November 6, 2013**

Present: Bob Blair, Jan Wilfert, Ann Warwick, Janae Dale, Howie Fennimore, Jon Bair, Butterfly Burke, Linda Gjording, Marjory Clements, Bruce Greene, Susan Burrow, Gray Henderson, Kathryn Chase, Barb Pressler, Cindy Hayes, Penny Goodman, Bonnie Pick, Jenna Bertus and Gail Swan Meeting was called to order @ 9:00 am by President, Jan Wilfert

Oct minutes approved as written.  
Treasurer's report: \$4068.55 (current balance)

### **New Business**

New BCGA office search: Gray Henderson has volunteered to chair a committee to find suitable office space; Jan Wilfert & Gail Swan will also be on the committee

### **Membership Course**

We are in need of someone to chair the membership course for 2014; Zoe Bolton has been chair in the past, but is spending most of her time in Wash at this point; anyone interested in chairing the course, please contact Jan Wilfert; at this time we have 3 people signed up for the course & 2 of them have already paid their fee; Susan Burrow, student for 2014, came to the membership meeting; Welcome!!

### **Membership Renewal:**

Jan Wilfert will email the volunteer sheet to the membership; if you are unable to print it, she will have some at the office for anyone to fill out; please fill out & send in to the office with your \$20 renewal fee & any changes in address info, including new e-mail addresses; Gail Swan will assemble the new directory and e-mail it to all members; for those who don't have e-mail, there will be copies at the office

### **Old Business**

#### **Trisha Murphy Committee**

### **Pot Lucks**

A great pot luck at Janae Dales-lots of folks came & had good food & good time!

### **School Gardens**

Howie Fennimore gave a demonstration & talk at the chartered school on planting garlic & was very well received by the students; they will be replanting some of the raised beds there, to contain more fall veggies since there is no one there during the summer to take care of them

### **Face Book Page**

We now have a web address on our Facebook page; Regina Mundell has been taking classes at the Chamber of Commerce to learn more about maintaining our facebook page. Make sure you check it out-it looks terrific!

### **President's Volunteer Service Award**

BCGA received a "President's Volunteer Service Award"; the presentation was on Monday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6PM in the South Wing of the Main Exhibit Building. We were presented with Gold, Silver & Bronze awards for our volunteer time spent on updating the landscaping at the fairgrounds.

### **Home Hort**

All classes are finished for the fall series; we had an average of 20-25 students per class; all classes got high marks from those attending.

### **Christmas Party:**

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are unable to hold our Christmas Party at the Coldwater Creek venue as we have for the past several years; instead, we will be holding the party at the Ponderay Event Center, across from the Bonner Mall, behind Sandpoint furniture and above Selkirk Glass & Cabinet; the party will be on **Fri-day, Dec 6** from 5:30pm to 9:30pm & because we are paying for the use of the venue, we will be asking members for **\$10** at the door; invitations will be sent out with all of this information, including directions to the event center.

Meeting adj @ 11:00 am



Event Chairs and Contact Info			
Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Contact
Membership Meetings	Ongoing – 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month	Jan Wilfert	263-7405 or <a href="mailto:rj.wilfert2@frontier.com">rj.wilfert2@frontier.com</a>
Continuing Education Program	Ongoing		
Membership Committee	Ongoing	Zoe Bolton	<a href="mailto:zbolton@gmail.com">zbolton@gmail.com</a>
Home Horticulture Series	Spring & Fall	Don Childress, Janae Dale and Gail Swan	Don – 255-7928 or <a href="mailto:dwc1rsc@televar.com">dwc1rsc@televar.com</a> ; Janae – 265-2205 or <a href="mailto:dalejanae@gmail.com">dalejanae@gmail.com</a> , or Gail H 263-0180 C 290-4126 or <a href="mailto:gswan8274@hotmail.com">gswan8274@hotmail.com</a>
Home and Garden Show	April	Ann Warwick and Ellie Lizotte	Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or <a href="mailto:w.redguy@frontier.com">w.redguy@frontier.com</a> Ellie – 264-5462 or <a href="mailto:hopeellie@aol.com">hopeellie@aol.com</a>
School Gardens	Ongoing	Janae Dale	265-2205 or <a href="mailto:dalejanae@gmail.com">dalejanae@gmail.com</a>
Farmers Market	Spring/Summer	Sandra Gevurtz & Vicki Johnson	(509)922-2359 or <a href="mailto:sangevurtz@gmail.com">sangevurtz@gmail.com</a> 892-8586 or <a href="mailto:visandpoint@gmail.com">visandpoint@gmail.com</a>
Mickinnick Trailhead – meet the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed of each month at 9am at the trailhead	Spring/Summer	Jan Griffiths	<a href="mailto:jan@looptravel.com">jan@looptravel.com</a> , 290-1973
Healing Garden	Spring/Summer	Gail Locke	<a href="mailto:Blasingame/gardenersdaughter@yahoo.com">Blasingame/gardenersdaughter@yahoo.com</a>
Potlucks	Summer	Ann Warwick, Jenna Bertus, Becky Reynolds	Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or <a href="mailto:w.redguy@frontier.com">w.redguy@frontier.com</a> Jenna - 255-7585 and <a href="mailto:grnhsgal@pot.net">grnhsgal@pot.net</a> Becky - <a href="mailto:rplace180@yahoo.com">rplace180@yahoo.com</a>
Garden Tour	July	Penny Barton	H 265-9733; C 610-1493 or <a href="mailto:miatamaven@gmail.com">miatamaven@gmail.com</a>
Bonner County Fair	Aug	Lynn Pietz	<a href="mailto:lynnpietz@hotmail.com">lynnpietz@hotmail.com</a> or 265-3563