



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

November 2016

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 "GG" in the subject line.

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### President's Message



This is the season of Thanksgiving. A few things that head my Thanksgiving list are friends and family, freedom of worship, surrounding nature, food on the table and my health. What's on your list?

The Fall foliage was beautiful this year, but there was a bumper crop of leaves to rake. Thanks to Ellie for her efforts in helping **Healing Garden** volunteers rake piles of leaves to be chopped later into mulch. Our two newest **Board Members** Monica and Sean Mitzel volunteered to share a podcast with radio station KRFY on the topic of "Putting Your Garden to Bed in the Fall". Marrion has recruited three more

volunteers (Nancy Hastings, Sean and Monica Mitzel) for the **BCGA Speaker's Bureau**. Gordon will add this new link to the BCGA website later next month. This list will be available to community organizations seeking speakers knowledgeable on horticulture related subjects. Thanks to everyone involved in these community oriented BCGA outreach opportunities.

**Home Hort** classes are over for the Fall but Gail and Janae are already seeking speakers and topics for the Spring series of classes. If you have an idea for a class and hopefully know someone willing to teach the class, please contact either Gail or Janae.

The results of the **BCGA election** were unanimous. The new BCGA Secretary for 2017 will be veteran Gail Swan and two new Board members; Monica and Sean Mitzel. Returning Officers are Gordon Fish – Vice President and Penny Barton- Treasurer; Board members: Gray Henderson, Barb Pressler, Penny Goodman, and Shirley Barksdale. Two Officers and two Board Members are stepping down but plan to remain active: Cindy Hayes –President, Patti Pietron-Secretary, Tim Gift- Board and Howie Fennimore-Board. At present there is no one slated to fill the President's position. With Gail's election to Secretary there is also a vacancy for another Board Member. If you are interested in serving for 2017 please contact either me or one of the Board members.

The **BCGA Christmas Party** will be held at the Ponderay Event Center on Saturday December 10, 2016. BYOB for cocktails starting at 5:30 P.M... Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange will be from 6-10. There will be a **\$5.00 cost per person** at the door. Spouses are welcome. Bring a potluck dish to share. Tri-tip, Chicken, and stuffed Portobello mushrooms will be provided by Pack River Caterers.

RSVPs ( [bcgardeners@gmail.com](mailto:bcgardeners@gmail.com)) are encouraged to help get an accurate “nose” count so we plan for enough entrees and chairs.

Hope to see everyone at the Christmas Party!

Cindy Hayes – President- 2016

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- 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

## November/December Birthdays!



Patti Pietron  
Marjory Clements  
Ann Warwick  
Marrion Newsam Banks  
Gray Henderson  
Bob Diedrich  
Gail Swan  
Laurie Brown

## November Meeting Minutes

**Following are the minutes for the BCGA meeting on November 2, 2016:**

**Members Present:** Cindy Hayes, Patti Pietron, Ann Warwick, Howie Fennimore, Janae Dale, Penny Barton, Tim Gift, Gail Swan, Barb Pressler, Gray Henderson, Jon Bair, Ellie Lizotte, Gordon Fish, Butterfly Burke, Sean Mitzel, Monica Mitzel

**Meeting Called to Order: 9:05am**

**October Minutes:** No corrections noted. Gail Swan motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Penny Barton. Minutes approved.

**Announcements:** Gray Henderson will MC the white elephant gift exchange at the Christmas party. Penny Barton volunteered to assist him.

Michele Murphree gave BCGA a lovely chalkboard as a thank you for all we do for the school gardens. A thank you card will go out to her from BCGA.

## December Gardening To Do List



### **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**

**Treasurer's Reports:** Penny Barton reports a balance of \$4,339.61. Home Horticulture classes made \$2,597.00 from the fall classes.

## **Committee Reports**

**Home Horticulture** – Gail Swan and Janae Dale will begin work on the spring class schedule soon. They need to have the lineup of classes by the first week of February in order to have the schedule appear in the Co-Op newspaper. Janae and Gail appreciate suggestions for classes and also names of instructors for the classes. Tim Gift and Valle Novak did a great job getting the word out for the last impromptu class on orchards. A big thank goes go to Gail Swan, Janae Dale, and Howie Fennimore for all the hard work they put into these classes.

**Healing Garden** – Ellie Lizotte reports BCGA's area is looking sad. Lots of bushes in our area were cut due to the trees that fell during a storm months ago. There will be a workday on Saturday November 5. Bring rakes and shovels. It starts at 9:00 am. Ellie asked the board if we thought we should continue working with the Healing Garden. The board will revisit this issue at a later time.

**Speaker's Bureau:** – No report.

**Farmer's Market** – The Farmer's Market is finished for the year. No report.

**Highway Cleanup** –Tim Gift reports that we are signed up for 2017 and 2018.

**Fairgrounds** –No report.

**Membership** –No report.

**School Gardens** – Janae Dale received bids for the tree removal. Gray Henderson motioned that BCGA pay \$650.00 for the tree removal and Penny Barton seconded this. The board approved the expenditure. Peregrin was selected with the lowest bid of \$650.00. Howie Fennimore asked Janae to make sure treatment of the stump was included.

**Potlucks** – No potlucks are currently scheduled. Deb Steffen is stepping down as chairman. Ann Warwick will take over as chairman. Ann and Penny Barton will create a supply tote and keep it filled.

**Website/Directory**– Gordon Fish will work on the website this winter.

**Publicity** –Tim Gift is asking what sources are people using to find out about us and are the sources we use effective. Gail and Janae will give Tim this information when they have it. Gail Swan thinks that the Co-Op paper and her extensive email list are very effective. Tim said he's very pleased with the radio advertising he's put into action.

**Facebook** –Laurie Brown will continue working on this.

**Listserve** –Gray Henderson reports all is well.

## **Old Business**

**BCGA Aprons** – Cindy Hayes has all five aprons. They are in a bag in the office and are available for chairmen and their teams to use.

**Electronic transfer of data** – Tim Gift and Gray Henderson say this is in process.

**Yard Sale** –Janae Dale is stepping down as chairman. The continuation of this event will be discussed at a later date. Thanks went to Janae for her 12 years of chairing this event.

**Nominations** – Cindy Hayes reports that no nominations have come in for President. She will send the ballot out to members via email. Cindy proposed that if no president is found the president's duties be divided up among board members.

Cindy broke her duties into the following categories:

1. Set up tables and coffee for board meetings
2. Functioning as a clearinghouse. She thought that the Secretary or another Board member might take this on.
3. Presidents message in the Garden Gate. Omit this.
4. Type up the board meeting agenda. This could fall to the Secretary.
5. Lead the board meetings. The vice president or a board member on a rotation basis could do this.
6. Christmas party. The potluck chairman could take this or possibly a new chairman created for the party.
7. Helping the various chairmen. Other board members could step in and do this.
8. Maintain a calendar of events. This could be the minutes taken by the Secretary.

**Christmas Party** – Cindy Hayes will send out an email with the decorating time. Penny Barton will be

in charge of decorating. Contact her for details. Cindy has received bids on the food. Bids were bid for 60 guests. Gray Henderson motioned BCGA charge \$10.00 per person for the party, this was seconded by Ellie Lizotte. Cindy Hayes thought we should amend this to \$5.00 per person and Patti Pietron seconded this. This amendment was passed by a 6 to 3 vote. The charge will be \$5.00 per person for the Christmas party.

Cindy Hayes will print out the invitations and will leave out the charge for our special guests, Michele and Don Murphree, Art and Setsuko Church, Jennifer and Eric Jensen and Gail and Ken Burkett. Cindy will need a headcount by December 1<sup>st</sup> for the food. Pack River was selected to cater the party.



## **New Business**

**Young Living Field Trip** – Barb Pressler suggested this trip and it will be discussed at a later date.

**Service Hours** – Cindy Hayes suggested we require new members to serve 4 hours at BCGA events of their choice. This will be discussed at a future date.

**KRFY Morning Show** – Janae Dale was contacted by KRFY asking BCGA to do a radio spot. Sean and Monica Mitzel volunteered to contact the Julie Kallemeyn in regard to doing a spot on “Putting Your Garden to Bed in the Fall. They will also bring her a membership application.”

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:45**



## **Hot Spot**

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My earliest gardening memories are from eastern Tennessee and involve weeding and harvesting peanuts from the patch that Daddy always planted for my sister and me. We enjoyed warm roasted peanuts well into the winter along with Bartlett pears from the four large trees in our front yard

I have lived in many horticultural zones including those in Tennessee, southern California, Mississippi coast, northwest Arkansas, Tacoma, Washington, and Idaho. I dabbled in planting herbs and tomatoes among my perennials but never tried other vegetable crops. I waited until I moved to a zone with one of the shortest growing seasons before I tried to plant a garden! Having planted a garden for only three years, I consider myself a novice gardener. I’ve had some successes and many failures – my neighbor’s goats and horses enjoy the miniature immature ears of corns at each season’s end...

I always enjoyed nature and the biological sciences. I attained a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Sciences in 1977. I’ve had some unusual jobs in my course of employment. I like to say that my career path went from” bugs to boats to bottles to bits to btu’s.”

In the late 60s in Mississippi, I worked for the USDA in the study of the Imported Fire Ant biology. I performed lab and field studies and reared mealy worms and crickets to feed the ants. In the lab, I used a gas chromatograph (like a spectrophotometer only the GC reads chemical concentrations in a gaseous

vapor rather than a liquid) to detect the presence of pesticides in non-target organisms of the bio-system.

When David returned to college after his air force service, I landed a job in the Entomology Department for the University of Arkansas. My job involved rearing Lepidoptera larval species (moths) for field and lab studies using naturally occurring viruses that were specific to certain moths and not harmful to other insects or animals in the bio-system. I collected the fertilized eggs from the adult moths, hatched the eggs in environmental chambers and grew the larvae to a specified instar of growth as directed by the PHDs for which I worked. These were used in viral field studies. I also propagated the various viruses and used an electron microscope to determine viral solution strengths for dilutions. I finished my senior year of college while David completed a five-year professional degree. I particularly enjoyed classes in landscape materials and landscape design. David and I both completed our degrees in December of 1976. We moved to Tacoma, Washington, the next year after David found employment there.

I went the work for the Washington State University Extension Service in Puyallup under a carrot growers' grant. I monitored carrot fields in three counties during the growing season for presence of adult flies in the fields. Using these surveys, the optimal treatment time for fly infestations were determined.

The knowledge of the GC equipment from the USDA led me into employment in quality assurance with a PET bottle manufacturer using a heat and re-blow manufacturing process (those plastic soda bottles). I returned to night classes in quality assurance methodology/practices and in statistical process controls. This QA manufacturing experience then led me into quality assurance in shipbuilding including government contracts. I received heat number certifications for steel by weight for each heat number and traced compliance to standards and contractual requirements. My experience with government contracts in ship building later opened the door to employment in electronic circuit board device (bit) manufacturing for government contracts.

My last ten years of employment were in quality assurance management for a custom heating and air

conditioning manufacturer that designed and built custom air conditioning/heating systems for class 8 trucks, agricultural equipment, buses, ambulances, and off-road equipment.

I left the air conditioning and heating company QA management after 10 years to get experience in growing in a greenhouse. (Was that a pay cut!!) I found employment with DeGoede Brothers, in Sumner, WA, a year round floral wholesale grower. The company had 42 acres under greenhouses! We grew spring bedding plants, summer and fall annuals and perennials, large hanging baskets, fuchsia starts, and poinsettias crops. I learned a lot about growing in a greenhouse in preparation for the small greenhouse that we hoped to build here.

After moving to Sagle from Washington in 2009, it took us four years to get garden structures, fences, decks, watering systems, gardening and landscaping areas laid out, and the 500-square-foot greenhouse built. I have always loved landscaping with perennials and grasses. I like to study catalogues and books to find just the right plant with growing conditions of soil, light, and moisture to match the site I have in my landscape plan. I started my Sagle landscape plan with about 400 irises which I dug up and removed from my mother-in-law's yard in Wendell, ID. Many of them are the old fashion type with lots of fragrance. In my landscape plans, I am using mostly native and deer resistant plants since we are located in the middle of a forest. I have had many donations and greatly appreciate the plants from fellow BCGA gardeners.

Two years ago, we finally completed our front yard with a fenced in patio and planting area. There I can plant any plant I desire from this zone since no deer can get in!!

Once the greenhouse was completed in 2012, I began a small business growing the tomato seedlings. The first year of operation, I started about six hundred plants on boards placed on saw-horses. This last spring now with permanent wire-topped benches, I increased that number to 900 plants, 26 varieties.

I start the plants in plug trays in the house in late March on growing benches equipped with heating

mats and timed fluorescence lights. The growing benches are placed in front of southwest facing glass doors for additional light. When the seedlings develop their second set of true leaves, I transplant them into four-inch pots and move them into the greenhouse. A kerosene burning heating unit was installed last Spring in the greenhouse. I start sales in early May. I have tried different varieties each year. I discard previously tried ones that are not flavorful enough and attempt to find new ones that grow well in our short season the each year. I plant a lot of heirloom varieties. I hope you'll take the time to drive to Sagle for your tomato starts next May or just to see my greenhouse and landscaping efforts. I'm in the directory and just six miles off Hwy 95 South on Sagle Road. If you have any specific varieties that you would like to try, give me a call and to let me know the name so I can locate the seeds early.



Chalkboard was a gift of appreciation to BCGA School Garden Volunteers from Michele Murphree. The eraser tray was added on by Bob Blair. Thanks Michele for thinking of us



## Winter Sowing

If you're a gardener, these January warm spells can be as much a curse as a blessing. It's bad enough to page through the seed catalogs that started arriving right after Christmas (sometimes before!) while the weather outside is frightful, but when a warm chinook is blowing and it's raining instead of snowing, you're almost tempted to see if you can't get a shovel in the ground!

Instead of breaking tools or your back, you might want to try winter sowing. Winter sowing is a method used to start seeds outdoors – yes, you heard me, **outdoors!** – during the cold, snowy months of the year. Using mini-greenhouses made of recycled milk jugs, plastic pop bottles or deli/takeout containers with clear lids, you can start cold-hardy annuals and perennials without the expense of setting up an indoor seed-starting rack or table.

Good candidates for winter sowing are annuals or perennials that require pre-chilling or stratification to germinate. Plants that “self-sow,” that can be planted



outdoors in early autumn or early spring or that have seedlings that can withstand frost are also good candidates.

Once you've decided what you're going to grow, you need to create your mini-greenhouses. If you're using recycled deli/take-out containers with clear lids, it's as simple as poking or cutting draining holes in the bottom of the container and ventilation holes in the clear plastic lids. Keep in mind that, even when temperatures are considerably below freezing outside, the temperature in your mini-greenhouse can soar high enough to cook your seeds or seedlings so ventilation is critical!

If you're using milk jugs or 1 liter plastic soda bottles, you'll need to cut the jug/bottle in half leaving about an inch of plastic to act like a hinge to open and shut your greenhouse. Once you cut your drainage holes in the bottom and ventilation holes in the top, your greenhouse is ready to plant.

Use a good quality, light, well-draining potting soil to fill your greenhouse to 2-3 inches, plant your seeds at the required depth, water thoroughly, close up the greenhouses, and put them outside in a location with a southern exposure. Then, sit back and wait for spring and your seedlings to appear! Winter sown seedlings have the added advantage of not needing to be hardened off since they've already been acclimated to the outside.

I hope you'll give this useful gardening technique a try. For more information on this easy way to start your own plants, check out the following websites:

[http://wintersown.org/wseo1/How\\_to\\_Winter\\_Sow.html](http://wintersown.org/wseo1/How_to_Winter_Sow.html)

<http://www.bachmans.com/files/GardenGuide/WinterSowingGuide.pdf>

<http://www.agardenforthehouse.com/2012/11/winter-sowing-101-6/>

<http://www.agardenforthehouse.com/2011/01/making-a-greenhouse-sowing-seeds-updated/>

by Marrion Newsam Banks



*~I hope we all have much to be thankful for this holiday season! ~*



