



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

September 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

The Fall Equinox is just around the corner and September's birth flowers greet the cooling nights and shorter days with glorious star-like blooms, leading Us into this third season of the year.

Asters have been around for centuries and their name comes from the ancient Greek word ἀστήρ, which means 'star', referring to the shape of the flower head. Asters purportedly arrived on earth when the Greek Goddess Asterea looked down upon the Earth and saw no stars. She cried copious tears filled with stardust at this sad sight. Where each tear touched the earth a colorful and elegant star flower burst into glorious bloom. Soon Asterea was happy for the Heavens and the Earth were filled with glowing stars.

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

The genus Aster use to contain close to 600 species found in Eurasia and North America. In 1994 molecular research proved that the North American species are different than the Eurasian species. The North American species are now listed under a

variety of genus, though many of Us still call the North American varieties 'Asters'.

Asters can be grown and enjoyed in all hardiness zones. They are daisy-like in appearance with pointed petals. They come in shades of white, purple, lavender, blue, red, and pink. Aster centers are a sunny yellow and are comprised of hundreds of tiny florets. The plants come in a wide variety of sizes. Some are less than a foot tall and some tower almost three feet tall. These beauties rely on insects for pollination.

The flowers of all Aster varieties make long-lasting cut flowers and are often used in bouquets. They retain their vigor and color for a long period of time; long after most of their bouquet mates are but a sweet memory.

In times past it was believed Asters exuded a mystic power that drew forth admiration and affection. Offerings of single or dried aster flowers were given as gifts. The Victorian era took this idea to a whole new level and people presented bouquets of these beauties to the ones they loved.

Besides their beauty in gardens and arrangements, Asters have many medicinal uses. Certain varieties are touted to alleviate migraines, lessen the effects of colds, and treat sciatica pain and muscle spasms. Many North American tribes used wild asters for a variety of reasons. Burning the leaves and flowers in their Sweat lodge (Inipi) ceremonies was believed to warded off evil spirits and heal the ill. Inhaling Aster smoke was used as a treatment for nosebleeds, headaches, and congestion. Aster tea made from flowers and roots was used to treat earaches, relieve gas pains, stomach aches and fever. Asters were added to Kinnickinnick smok-

ing mixtures to be enjoyed for both pleasure and their medicinal value.

Our native Showy Asters (*Eurybia conspicua*) are blooming profusely this month. They are waving cheery hellos from area meadows, fields, edges of woodlands, and our yards. I like to think they are beckoning and welcoming Us to Fall. Jan



## September 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

- Divide peonies and other spring and summer-blooming perennials
- Plant perennials
- Plant bare-root and containerized trees and shrubs
- Sow wildflower seed for spring bloom

- Plant spring-blooming bulbs
- Dethatch and aerate lawns
- If September rainfall is scarce, water trees and shrubs to keep them supple and prevent winter damage
- Clean and restock birdfeeders
- Plant garlic for harvest next summer
- Set out bareroot peonies

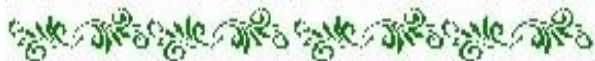
### Zone 4

- Harvest apples and store in a cool place
- Plant garlic
- Dethatch and aerate the lawn
- Clean out rose beds and apply fungicide one last time to susceptible varieties
- Plant perennials
- Move tender houseplants, etc. indoors after rinsing and repotting, and set up a grow light to supplement natural light
- Clean and restock birdfeeders
- Begin to move tropical water lilies and other tender aquatics indoors
- Plant spring-blooming bulbs; refrigerate those you intend to force
- Set out bareroot peonies

### Zone 5

- Set out transplants of cool-weather vegetables
- Plant winter-hardy pansies and fall annuals (calendula, dianthus, ornamental cabbage and kale)
- Plant tag teams of perennials and spring-blooming bulbs that will complement each other or bloom in sequence next season
- Water trees and shrubs when rainfall is scarce to "winterize" them
- Dethatch and aerate the lawn

- Dehead chrysanthemum plants to keep flower buds forming through the fall
- Clean out rose beds; apply fungicide; leave hips for winter color and bird food
- Prune summer-bearing raspberries
- Mow back strawberry plants; remove weeds and mulch
- Move tender houseplants, etc. indoors after rinsing and repotting, and set up a grow light to supplement natural light



## **BCGA Membership Meeting September 4, 2013**

Present: Penny Barton, Jenna Bertus, Jan Wilfert, Ann Warwick, Bob Blair, Janae Dale, Gray Henderson, Howie Fennimore, Gordon Fish, Penny Goodman, Jon Bair and Gail Swan  
Meeting was called to order @ 9:05 am by President, Jan Wilfert

August minutes approved as written.  
Treasurer's report: \$3798.36 (current balance)

### **New Business**

Gail Swan ordered and picked up BCGA greeting cards from Mt Sky Printing. We have 150 available in the office and they can be purchased for 50 cents each, which is what they cost for the association to purchase them.

Ann Warwick purchased 3 new 6 ft folding tables since ours are very old & becoming difficult to use; they were on sale at Home Depot for \$42/each; they are used for the pot lucks, the garden tour, the garage sale & much more

The home hort committee put a fall series class line up together, with classes to begin on September 25th; a home hort flyer is included in this newsletter and will also be emailed to the membership

### **Elections for 2014**

Jan Wilfert will send an email to the membership asking for volunteers to sit on a nominating committee for officers and board members for 2014

### **Membership Course**

At this time, we have 8 people interested in taking our membership course in 2014

### **Old Business**

#### **Bonner County Fair:**

We had a terrific booth once again; many thanks to Lynn Pietz for heading up the committee for the booth again this year; we took a red ribbon & a good time was had by all; unfortunately, there were several talks scheduled to be given by members, but they were not announced before hand, and so were very poorly attended; we may have to put up our white board listing any classes and demonstrations being given so people know what we are doing

#### **Yard Sale:**

The yard sale was held on Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the old high school on Boyer; many hands made quick work of the pricing and set-up; the association made close to \$1600, so helps pay for our liability insurance; thanks-so much to the entire crew, led by Janae Dale

#### **Pot Lucks**

Thursday, Sept 5<sup>th</sup>-11:30am-Ann Warwick; and Sat, Sept 14 @ noon at Marion Newsom-Banks; directions will follow

#### **T-Shirt Logos**

Our logos, 30 large & 30 small, paid for by the association; are available at the t-shirt shop to put on most any item you want, such as a t-shirt, button shirt, hat, etc; you just need to pay for the item; the logos are in color & look great on the shirt that Bob Blair modeled

#### **School Gardens**

Jan Wilfert stopped by the Charter School garden on the way to the meeting to take pictures for the Garden Gate and facebook; unfortunately, something had eaten the cabbage, but everything else seemed to be okay, there is still lots of produce to harvest. The students will be planting garlic this fall, and possibly a cover crop.

## Farmers Market:

If you would like to have a presence at the farmers market, contact Sandra Gevurtz or Vicky Johnson to sign up for any available days; a good way to put in volunteer hours. There has been a good amount of interest from the public regarding the booth there. The dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. We seem to be becoming much more accepted at the market than previously.

## Web Site

Our website has been launched-much thanks to Gordon Fish; he has done a lot of work to get this done. The site looks terrific!! Be sure to take a look at [www.bcgardeners.org](http://www.bcgardeners.org)

Meeting adj @ 10:30



BCGA booth at the Bonner County fair



*"The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the whole world."*

*Charles Dudley Warner, 1829-1900, American novelist and essayist*



Dahlia



*"But now in September the garden has cooled, and with it my possessiveness. The sun warms my back instead of beating on my head. No longer blindingly bright, it throws things before me into sharp relief and deepening color. The harvest has dwindled, and I have grown apart from the intense midsummer relationship that brought it on."*

*Robert Finch, naturalist, Common Ground*

**2013 Fall Home Horticulture Workshop Series  
Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sept 25 Pollinators, Predators & Plant Grazers  
Presented by Stephen Augustine

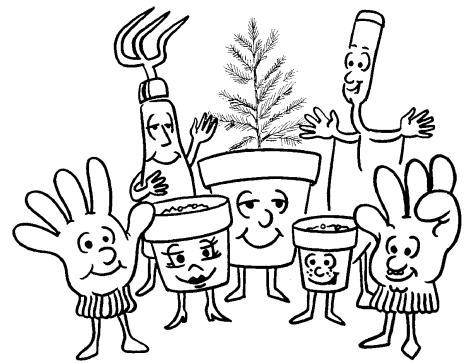
Oct 2 Making the Most of Your Herbs  
Presented by Vicki Johnson

Oct 9 Creative Irrigation  
Presented by Marci Crockett & John Hastings

Oct 16 Cover Crops  
Presented by Diane Green

**Classes \$10 Each per Person**  
**We would appreciate no children under 12**  
***Please make checks payable & return to:***  
**Bonner County Gardeners Association**  
**804 Airport Way**  
**Sandpoint, Idaho 83864**  
**Or pay on-line with Pay-Pal**  
**@ [www.bcgardeners.org](http://www.bcgardeners.org)**

**We are unable to provide credits, refunds or transfers for  
any classes**



Presented and Coordinated by  
Bonner County Gardeners As-  
sociation

**Classes are held Wed  
eve's from 6pm – 8pm**  
**at the Ponderay Event Center**  
**401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E, Pon-  
deray, Idaho**

Directions can be found at  
[www.bcgardeners.org](http://www.bcgardeners.org)

*Email inquiries to [bcgarden-  
ers@gmail.com](mailto:bcgardeners@gmail.com)*

*Or call message line: 208-265-2070*

**Dates and Topics**

Sept 25 "Pollinators, Predators & Plant  
Grazers: the Role of Insects in the Gar-  
den" Presented by Stephen Augustine  
Stephen will address the diversity of  
roles of insects in gardens, pollinators &  
the plants that benefit from them, hon-  
ey bees & colony collapse disorder, hab-  
itat for native pollinators, and finally,  
the crucial role played by hornets &  
wasps in healthy gardens.

**2013 Fall Home Horticulture  
Workshop Series**

Oct 2 **"Making The Most Of Your Herbs"**

Presented by Vicki Johnson

You grow herbs in your garden, but now what? Learn how to incorporate these wonderful plants into your cooking by gourmet cook, Vicki. The class will include several demonstrations and recipes.



Bonner County Gardeners Association

Oct 9 **"Creative Irrigation"**

Presented by Marci Crockett & John Hastings

Not much water? Learn how to make the most of alternate sources of water and water management to keep your veggies and flowers happy. Get answers to your irrigation questions from someone who deals with this problem in her own garden.

Oct 16 **"Cover Crops"**

Presented by Diane Green

Diane says: I couldn't believe the dramatic results in my garden that I got from cover crops! She can tell you the varieties of crops and how to incorporate them into the soil for the benefit of your garden.

***Directions to Event Center can be found at***

***[www.bcgardeners.org](http://www.bcgardeners.org)***

**Fees cover the cost of venue, publications, materials, and the support of non-profit activities of the Bonner County Gardeners Association.**

***Classes are \$10 Each per Person***  
***All classes will be held Wed eve's from 6 pm – 8 pm***  
***at the Ponderay Event Center***  
***401 Bonner Mall Way, Suite E, Ponderay, Idaho***

***ALL CLASSES WILL START PROMPLY***  
***@ 6pm;***  
***Check-in STARTS @ 5:30;***  
***PLEASE BE ON TIME***

Please check the classes you wish to attend and send with check to Bonner County Gardeners Association  
804 Airport Way  
Sandpoint, Id., 83864

You may also bring your registration form & check to this address

Or

You can pay on-line with a credit card via "Pay-Pal"

at [www.bcgardeners.org](http://www.bcgardeners.org)

We are unable to provide credits, refunds or transfers for any classes

Event Chairs and Contact Info			
Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Contact
Membership Meetings	Ongoing	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	264-1210 or <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	Ellie Lizotte and Ann Warwick	Ellie – 264-5462 or <a href="mailto:hopeellie@aol.com">hopeellie@aol.com</a> ; Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or <a href="mailto:w.redguy@frontier.com">w.redguy@frontier.com</a>
School Gardens	Spring/Summer	Janae Dale	265-2205 or <a href="mailto:dalejanae@gmail.com">dalejanae@gmail.com</a>
Farmers Market	Spring/Summer	Sandra Gevurtz	(509)922-2359 or <a href="mailto:sangevurtz@gmail.com">sangevurtz@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="http://jan@looptravel.com">jan@looptravel.com</a> , 290-1973
Healing Garden	Spring/Summer	Valle Novak	
Potlucks	Summer	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Becky - <a href="mailto:rplace@directv.net">rplace@directv.net</a> or 264-3214; Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or <a href="mailto:w.redguy@frontier.com">w.redguy@frontier.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 and Jon Bair	<a href="mailto:lynnpietz@hotmail.com">lynnpietz@hotmail.com</a> or 265-3563

