



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

January 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 When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.

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President's Message

Happy New Year Everyone! This year I am going to share information on twelve of my favorite perennial flowering plants. This month I chose Idaho's State flower *Syringa Philadelphus lewisii*, also known as Lewis's Mock Orange, Wild Mock Orange, and Indian Arrow Wood.



The Lewis and Clark Expedition members were the first white men to encounter these amazing deciduous shrubs that are native to Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, and Canada's British Columbia and Alberta Provinces. On their journey homeward, the expedition traveled through Indian Arrow Wood territory during its fragrant bloom season. On May 6, 1806 samples, including flowers, were taken from a shrub living alongside the Clearwater River. Once the expedition returned home, Fredrick Pursh was commissioned to take charge of the expedition's plant specimens. Pursh named the shrub *P. lewisii* in honor Meriwether Lewis.

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Cornales
Family: Hydrangeaceae
Genus: *Philadelphus*
Species: *P. lewisii*

P. lewisii shrubs prefer northern and eastern exposures, full sun to part shade, and well-drained rocky or gravelly loam. They thrive in open coniferous forests, snuggled next to forest borders, and share slopes with Serviceberry, Chokecherry, and Ninebark.

In spring, supple red stems sprout forth from the crown and quickly grow from 3 to 10 feet tall. As these stems age they fade to gray and their bark shreds and flakes. The light-green oval leaves are rough textured with smooth or lightly serrated edges.

P. lewisii are their most spectacular when in full bloom. Starting in May thru June and into July

these shrubs dress themselves in bountiful clusters of fragrant white blossoms adorned with plentiful white stamens tipped in gold. The flowers fill the air with a fragrance evocative of orange blossoms mixed with a hint of pineapple. This intoxicating scent lures insects, butterflies, and birds to come sample their delicious nectar. Once the blossoms drop away, small dark brown seed capsules sporting pointed wings take their place.

A number of American Indian tribes harvested *P. lewisii* hard wood to create digging tools, bows, arrows, snowshoes, pipe stems, furniture, and more. The leaves and bark, which contain saponins, were mixed with water to produce a mild soap.

P. lewisii shrubs are low maintenance, fire-resistant, and adapt well to home landscapes. Then once a year, they reward their owners richly when they burst into full fragrant bloom.

Jan



January Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:

http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Montzonesep01.html



Zone 3

- Order seeds
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom

Zone 4

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds indoors for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)

Zone 5

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors

BCGA Membership Meeting

January 8, 2013

Members present: Ann Warwick, Howard Fenimore, Bob Blair, Jon Bair, Gail Swan, Janae Dale, Penny Barton, Jan Wilfert, Penny Goodman, Gray Henderson, Barbara Pressler, Patti Pietron, Deborah Steffen, Butterfly Burke, Bruce Greene, Marge Clements, and Kathryn Chase.

The BCGA membership meeting was held at the new office at 401 Bonner Mall Way, Suite F. After a few minutes of rearranging furniture and exploring the new digs, President Jan Wilfert brought the meeting to order at 8:41 am. She thanked everyone for a good year in 2013, and welcomed us all to a promising 2014.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Blair, Treasurer, prepared a comprehensive summary of income and expenses for 2013, as well as a monthly report. Current balance is \$3162.01.

DECEMBER 2013 MINUTES: Jan Wilfert moved to approve, Bob Blair seconded, motion passed.

DIRECTORY: Gail Swan graciously completed the 2014 directory, which has been emailed to the membership as an attachment that members can print out or file. Because all members have not completed the paperwork by now, there are spaces on the last page of the directory to fill in additional names and contact information. Updates will be emailed to members to add to their copies of the directory.

EMERITUS STATUS: The by-laws are vague concerning a definition of "emeritus" status. The plan is to revisit the topic in February to possibly change the by-laws for more clarification and specific criteria for nomination.

TRISHA MURPHY GIFT: The bulk of the TMG remains in the bank pending other arrangements for investment. Gray Henderson will continue researching alternatives with Janae Dale and Jan Wilfert. Membership decided that we need to set priorities for the fund—security vs. risk, loaded funds vs. non-loaded funds, income potentials. Revisit in February.

2014 MEMBERSHIP COURSE: Penny Barton has done a wonderful job of pulling the curriculum schedule together and getting instructors lined up. The course plan is complete and ready to go. Some facilitators are needed. Contact Penny Barton if you wish to assist. So far, six people have signed up for the course. We have 13 manuals, so we'd like to have more class members. Spread the word to

friends who might be interested. There will be a "Meet and Greet" session for the new students at 11am on Thursday, January 30. Members are encouraged to come and bring some food to share.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: 54 members have renewed their membership for 2014 so far. There are three with emeritus status, and several who plan to renew but haven't quite got it done.

BCGA SHED: The BCGA shed remains at the Bonner Business Center and needs to be moved soon. No offers from the Craig's List price of \$600. Bob Blair and Cindy Hayes have offered to store it, thus moving it is needed. Jan Wilfert will call for estimates, unless enough members with the right equipment are able to move it. Offers to buy the shed are welcome. It is well built and sturdy.

POTLUCKS: We had a wonderful potluck and hiking party at Penny and Steve Barton's in December, exploring some of their new trails on their property. January 25, at noon, Bob Blair and Cindy Hayes will host a potluck/snowshoe party at their home at 330 E. Bronx Road, Sandpoint. Food first, then exercise. In 2014, we will organize car pooling so those who don't drive can get a ride with another member. Anyone who would like to host a potluck in 2014, contact Ann Warwick to schedule.

WEBSITE UPDATES: Gordon Fish continues to do a great job keeping the website up to date, and Regina Mundell is maintaining the Facebook page beautifully. A counter has been installed on the website and over 2000 people have visited the site. Laurie Brown would like BCGA to start a plant problem Q & A section online, where BCGA can help the public solve garden problems.

OLD BUSINESS

HOLIDAY PARTY REVIEW: A good time had by all. Cleanup after was fast with everyone helping. Discussed possible change to earlier for those who don't drive at night. Most want it to remain an evening party, with transportation for those who don't drive. We will set up a car pool option. 2014 Holiday Party will be December 13 (Saturday) 2014. The room will be booked at the Ponderay Events Center.

OFFICE MOVE: The move went well with many volunteers. Jenna and Dave Bertus constructed a very nice looking curtain to shield our belongings from the shed, which are under the staircase in the

entry hall of the building. All contacts have been notified of the address change.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:25 am.

The Year the Monarch Didn't Appear

Jan Wilfert brought this to my attention: An article in the November 22, 2013 New York Times, about how the yearly monarch butterfly migration has had its numbers cut in half- from a number that was already at an alarming low.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/24/sunday-review/the-year-the-monarch-didnt-appear.html?_r=0



Monarch caterpillar on milkweed (asclepias incarnata) Linda Tanner

The article isn't just about monarchs; it's about all the native insects in the US and how they are being impacted by humans. Interesting reading; hopefully more people will start planting host & food plants for the little critters that, as the article says, stitch together the web of life.



Monarch on lantana. All butterflies seem to love lantana. Thomas Bresson

Grow Light Study

The most recent issue of Fine Gardening has an article on grow lights. They tested several different types of lights, including a new type due out this spring called Heliospectra, a new LED lighting system. It produced the best growth and is fully programmable. However, it costs between \$700 and \$1400. After looking at the results and costs, they recommended the plain old T12 shop light for the best light to use.

There is also a great article with photographs on planting potatoes in a cage made of fencing, using straw and compost. A great plan for people who have limited space, clay or rocky soil, or those who just want to try something different.

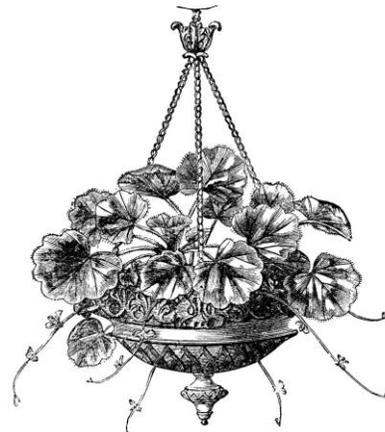
Check it out!

Janae Dale



Call for Articles

We need articles, pictures, whatever for the newsletter! Do you have a short article, either informational or a personal item about your garden? Do you have a picture of something you're especially proud of? Are you looking for a specific plant or seed, or do you have something to share? Send it to me lauriebrown54@gmail.com; Please put GG in the subject line. Thanks!



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