



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

January 2015

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

The new year is upon us and a complete turnover of the officers of our Association has taken place. Therefore, I take this opportunity to recognize and commend Jan Wilfert, Janae Dale, Ann Warwick, and Bob Blair and departing board members Jon Bair and Linda Gjording for the dedicated service they have provided for the Association for years. The Association is in excellent shape and the transition to the new officers has been easy. There are many other dedicated members who continue as chairs of committees and/or are involved in the functioning of the organization. The experience and commitment of these members also makes the transition nearly seamless.

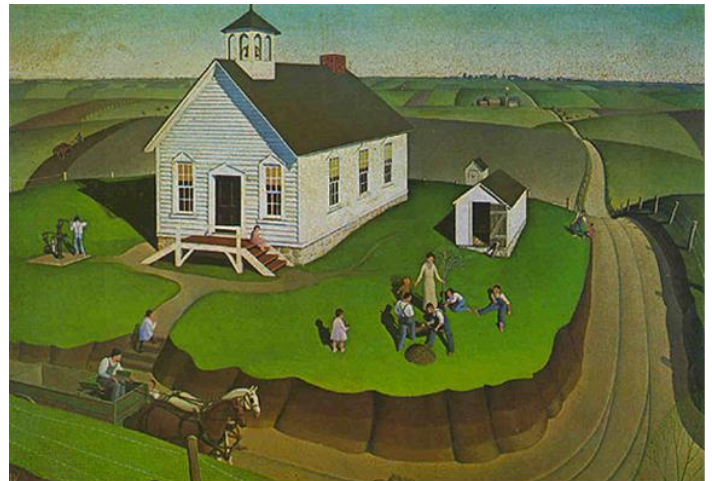
The new officers are Gray Henderson, Deb Steffen, Patti Pietron, and Rob Lilley; president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, respectively. In addition the board of directors, Butterfly Burke, Marge Clements, Howie Fennimore, Penny Goodman, Cindy Hayes, Bonnie Pick, and Barb Pressley backstop the officers and guide the Association. Please contact any of us with your ideas and concerns.

This is your newsletter. As I looked back through past issues I noted that there used to be a number of articles and pictures both documenting Association activities and presenting topics on various members' interests. In the past few issues the newsletter more

often consists of only the President's Message, the To - Do List and the Minutes of the most recent general meeting. As a member you may contribute to newsletter and share your interests and experiences with the rest of us. Instructions for doing so are at the top of the newsletter. **Have at it!**

For the past two years Jan has shared her love of flowers on these pages. I am trained as a soil scientist and I thought I would try to include a bit on various aspects of our natural resources each month. Let me know if this works for you (or not). Or, tell me if there are topics about which you would like to know more.

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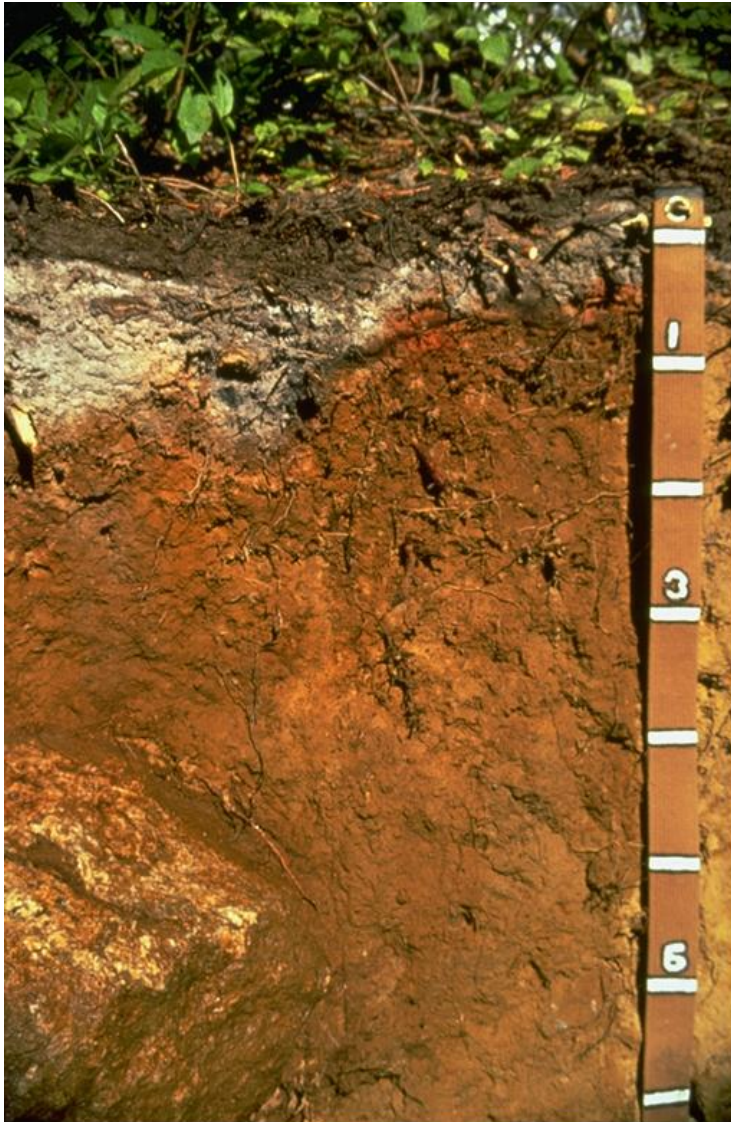


Grant Wood's Arbor Day (1932) showing soil horizons in an Iowa prairie soil.

How many people in this country really know where their food comes from? Where would we be without

soils? How did the soils of Bonner County come to be? How did they form?

For the most part the soils of Bonner County are "young". They were formed primarily as the result of glaciation, volcanism and wind. The exceptions are soils at high elevations in the mountains that are formed largely from rock weathering. These "older" soils are primarily used for forestry, recreation, and they meter out the water that we use and that keeps our streams running and lakes full.



An "old" forest soil in the Selkirks formed in weathered rock, loess and volcanic ash.

The "lowland" soils in Bonner County are almost universally influenced by some aspect of glacial advance and retreat. This period of glacial activity occurred less than 20,000 to 30,000 years ago and this means the soils are "young" by geologic standards.

Soils in many parts of the U. S. and the world have been forming for a million or more years. In addition all our soils have received inputs of volcanic ash from the eruption of Mount Mazama (Crater Lake) about 6500 years ago and to a lesser extent from the recent eruption of Mount St. Helens. The soils have also received inputs of wind-blown silt (loess) related to periods of glaciation. The Palouse soils of Eastern Washington and parts of Central Idaho are examples of deep deposits of loess in which productive soils have formed. The loess in the Panhandle is more often mixed with other materials originating from glaciers or upland erosion.

Soils influenced by glaciation can be classed as glacial till, glaciofluvial, or glaciolacustrine. In a few parts of the county (especially along Highway 95 near Samuels and Elmira) there are also eolian deposits (sand dunes) where sand from glacial outwash has been sorted and reworked by the wind to form nearly pure sand deposits in the form of dunes.

Glacial till is material deposited directly by the glaciers, usually as the ice melts in place and whatever is carried in the ice drops out. It has not been appreciably influenced by running water. It is characterized by a wide mix of particle sizes ranging from boulders to fine silt and clay and tends to be found on the sides of the valleys and other areas where meltwater streams did not flow.

Glaciofluvial deposits refer to materials that have been deposited by running water. Commonly these are called Glacial Outwash. Particle size ranges from gravel to fine sand or coarse silt. These are areas where the meltwater streams sorted the material and deposited it based on the energy required to transport the particles. The fine silt and clay was washed away and the sand and gravel remained; gravel where the water was running faster and sand where it was slower; a gradient. The type of deposit can vary greatly over short distances. There are many areas in the valleys where glaciofluvial deposits are found.

Glaciolacustrine deposits are materials deposited by water that has little flow (think lakes) and therefore reduced energy to transport sediment. These deposits are mostly silt and clay. During glacial times there were numerous such lakes. The longer the lake was in place and the more stagnant the water, the greater the proportion of clay to silt that settled out. And, the largest in our area was Glacial Lake Missoula, the source of the ice-age floods in our area. There are many areas in the valleys of Bonner County that

have soils formed in these deposits. These soils are characterized by a large percentage of silt and some clay.

This is a brief primer on the base materials in which our soils formed. More information can be found in the [Soil Survey of the Bonner County Area, Idaho](#) (USDA Soil Conservation Service); and from the [Surficial Geologic Map of the Sandpoint Area, Bonner County, ID](#) (Technical Report 84-8 of the Idaho Geological Survey). Additional information on soils in general can be found at the Smithsonian Museum Soils Exhibit - <http://forces.si.edu/soils/index.html> on the web.

February 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
- Sow seeds for tender perennials

Zone 4

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

- Sow seeds for cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors

Zone 5

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



BCGA Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2015

URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Meet and Greet for the new class of 2015 will be held on January 29th at 10:00am in the BCGA office in the event center. Any members attending are asked to bring food for the event.

2. Results of election were unanimous and as follows:

2015 Officers

President: Gray Henderson

Vice President: Deborah Steffen

Secretary: Patti Pietron

Treasurer: Rob Lilley

2015 Board Members:

Butterfly Burke

Marge Clements

Howard Fennimore

Penny Goodman

Cindy Hayes

Bonnie Pick

Barb Pressler

3. Revision of By-Laws passed and approved

Following are the minutes for the BCGA meeting on January 7, 2015:

Members Present: Patti Pietron, Penny Barton, Deborah Steffen, Gray Henderson, Rob Lilley, Penny Goodman, Cindy Hayes, Howie Fennimore, Janae Dale, Butterfly Burke, Ann Warwick, Gail Swan, Marjory Clements, Mikey Haven, Barb Pressler, Bruce Greene

At 9:00am January 7, 2015 President Gran Henderson brought the meeting to order.

December Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve, Gray Henderson, seconded by Deborah Steffen, motion passed.

Treasures Report: No financial report at this time. New Treasurer Rob Lilley met with Bob Blair and was given funds for deposit. Rob to meet with Bob and go over procedures and other critical information. Gray Henderson, Penny Barton, and Rob Lilley to go to bank and be put on the signature list for the BCGA account.

Membership Committee: Penny Barton has seven people committed to taking the course, which begins February 3rd, 2015. She needs members to sign up to facilitate classes. The Meet and Greet for the new members will be on January 29th at 10:00am in the BCGA office. Members attending are asked to bring food.

Efforts are being made to work closely with Jennifer and the UI Bonner County Extension Master Gardeners program to see how we can best work to-

gether and benefit the community. Also, there is a possibility that those took the BCGA course after our break with the UI may be able to take their test and receive the Master Gardener title.

Home and Garden Show: Ann Warwick is the chairman. She needs help to set up the booth on Friday, April 10, 2015. Set up will be after 5 pm. Ann has secured a place at the fair entrance where we can put up a whiteboard indicating the dates and times of the classes we will be offering at the show.

Spring Fund Raiser: This event still needs a chairman. A possible change of venue was suggested. It was also suggested that we make length of this event one day instead of the current two days.

Farmers Market: No report. This program still needs a chairman.

Garden Tour: Penny Barton has partnered with Idaho Granite Works to create some amazing new granite stones to thank the participants in the tour. The Garden Tour is scheduled to occur on July 5th, 2015. Penny would like to step down as chairman and is looking for a replacement to come on board.

Yard and Plant Sale: No report

School Garden Program: Janae Dale and Gray Henderson had a meeting with Michele Murphree and discussed setting up a model for the school garden program involving the BCGA. It was also suggested that we have one BCGA volunteer for each school in the program. So Janae will be looking for volunteers in the near future.

Advanced Education Program: Mikey Haven is the chairman. Mikey made a list of the most requested classes. The most requested class is one on Mushrooms. She is working on classes both in the classroom and in the field. Other topics include, How to Teach a Class (for those of us who have lots of knowledge but don't know how to share it with a class,), Forest Edibles, and Native Trees and Shrubs, to name just a few of the topics in this exciting new category!

Fair: Cindy Hayes is the new chairman of this event. She has no report but will contact the fair for the theme and entry forms and will meet with Janae Dale for details on putting it all together. Janae pointed out that there is a sheet listing all of the elements necessary in putting together the fair booth suggest-

ed that we update it each year with new information and tips on managing this event.

Fairgrounds Project: Penny Barton brought up the subject of Fairground beautification and will be spearheading the project to add beauty to the front of our fairgrounds. She will be looking for volunteers in the near future to help with this endeavor.

Potlucks: Mikey Haven had a potluck at her home in December; all who attended enjoyed it. Ann Warwick is stepping down as chairman of this program. Since there is no chairman for the Potlucks, it was suggested that we try a different approach and let each potluck host put up the signs and manage the details for their potluck. Deb Steffen volunteered to coordinate the dates to make sure we don't have overlapping potlucks.

Christmas Party: Gray Henderson reserved the Event Center for December 12, 2015 for the BCGA Christmas Party.

BCGA program vs. UI Master Gardener program: Diane Green voiced her concerns over our duplicating classes that the University of UI Master Gardener program is offering. Ann Warwick read a letter she wrote to Diane regarding her concerns. There was discussion around the possibility of BCGA not offering classes and putting our energy into other programs, working together with the University and possibly facilitating some of their classes, and reasons why we would want to keep offering our course. We will address this issue again sometime in May of 2015.

Healing Garden: Gail Blasingame believes that the healing garden should be a separate entity from our general beautification projects. Gray Henderson will approach her to see if she would chair a Healing Garden Program.

How We Recognize Members: Bob Blair would like us to consider a more formal way of recognizing members who solve problems for others. Gray Henderson suggested possibly using the newsletter as a delivery system for these kudos. We will get Bob's thoughts on this at the next meeting.

Sip & Shop Fundraiser: Cindy Hayes is going to ask Ponderay Winery to get us on their Sip and Shop Fundraiser calendar. 10% of the day's revenue goes to participants.

Meeting adjourned, 10:45



The Mystery of the Missing Book

Yes, it's a mystery as to what has happened to the book aptly titled "Mushrooms Demystified". Some person checked it out from our library in the office on October 22, but the book has not been returned. And the name of the person is illegible. Who took the book?

If you "borrowed" this book from our library, could you please return it? We hope to do lots of work on mushrooms this coming year and we would really like to have that particular book.

