



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

March 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

Spring is here and a number of BCGA activities are getting into full swing or will be soon.

We have had trouble lately attracting members to volunteer for activities the Association sponsors. Part of our mission is education and community service. Two of the programs we conduct, Home Horticulture Classes and School Gardens, serve a vital role in fulfilling this mission. Both depend on members to volunteer as participants. In the case of Home Hort, it's to serve as facilitators for the Wednesday night classes; for the School Gardens, it's to interact with the teachers and students to educate about gardening.

The Home Hort series is underway and needs additional facilitators. The School Garden Program has expanded this year and has a presence in four schools with the potential for more. Other Association programs, Farmers Market, Garden Tour, Spring Sale, Yard Sale are all going to need volunteer to be successful.

Right now there are a few dedicated Members who carry the load of what we do. Are you somebody who can/will step up to help expand the base of volunteers?

The 2015 Membership Class is about to finish (by the time you get this it will be) and there are 15+ new members about to join our ranks. In addition, once the U of I's Master Gardeners Class finishes I anticipate a few members of that class joining us as well.

Many thanks to Penny Barton for shepherding the new members through these membership classes. Howie Fennimore also deserves many thanks. He assumed the task of setting up and taking down the tables, etc. for each and every class. Thanks Penny and Howie.

I attended a few of the classes and the students in this class outdid themselves when it came to providing snacks and lunch. Tasty is the word. I think Penny assembled a number of recipes. You might ask her about them if interested.

For those of you who took our membership class in 2012 through 2014, the U of I Master Gardeners Program has agreed to let us take their qualification test as one of the requirements to become certified Master Gardeners. I will be sending out via email a copy of the example questions as practice for the test. For those interested, contact Jennifer Jensen, at the Extension Office.

Guess that's all for this month. Next month I think I'll talk a little about soil nutrients and soil testing and test results.

April Gardening To Do List



Zone 3

- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals indoors
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Sow seeds for tender perennials
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials
- Plant bare-root and container roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root shrubs and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees

Zone 4

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees

- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees before buds swell
- Spray apples, peaches, and pears that have been affected with canker problems
- Plant, feed, and aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Plant container and bare-root roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs and vines
- Apply dormant spray to trees, shrubs, and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens

Zone 5

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees before buds swell
- Spray apples, peaches, and pears that have been affected with canker problems
- Plant cool- and warm-season lawns
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables

- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Sow seeds for tender perennials
- Plant container and bare-root roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs, and vines
- Apply dormant spray to trees, shrubs, and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens

BCGA Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2015

URGENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Chairman needed for Spring Fund Raiser
2. Chairman needed for Garden Tour. If you'd like to fill this position you can shadow Penny Barton this year and see how it's done before chairing the event next year.
3. Cindy Hayes will send out an email requesting volunteers for the Sip and Shop event June 9th at the Pend Oreille Winery.

Following are the minutes for the BCGA meeting on February 4, 2015:

Members Present: Patti Pietron, Ann Warwick, Gail Swan, Rob Lilley, Butterfly Burke, Sandra Gevurtz, Howie Fennimore, Cindy Hayes, Deborah Steffen, Gray Henderson, Penny Barton, Janae Dale, Bonnie Pick, Penny Goodman

At 9:00am February 4, 2015 President Gray Henderson brought the meeting to order.

January Meeting Minutes: Motion made to approve by Bonnie Pick, seconded by Gray Henderson, motion passed.

Treasures Report: Rob Lilley received permission to send out PDF treasurer reports to board and bring copies to the meetings. Rob thanked Bob Blair and Penny Barton for all their help. On his report he put parentheses around items that did not show up in this month's statement. He will give verbal summary of the upcoming expenses. Rob will be unavailable February 22 – March 12. He will pass the checkbook to Penny Barton and Gray Henderson for that time period.

Membership Committee: Penny Barton will give the board financial accounting in March. The first class was held on February 4 and had 17 students. Penny said she received lots of thank yous from the class. There were some electrical issues with circuits cutting off in the building. 12 of the 17 students heard about our Membership class via the Co-Op. On February 10 Gray Henderson and Deborah Steffen will go on to the Idaho Master Gardeners class and let the students know about BCGA.

Home Horticulture: Gail Swan and Janae Dale have 7 classes finalized. They are looking for an instructor for a Spring Mushroom class. With 7 scheduled classes instead of 8 the April 22 date will be dropped and Gail will contact Eric to let him know we won't be needing the event space that evening. It was also discussed if and what type of stipend we might offer our non-BCGA instructors. It was noted that checks for mileage for our instructors be requested via email from Rob Lilley.

Home and Garden Show: Ann Warwick is chairman. The fair has asked BCGA to do an outdoor demo. They'd like us to present the demo a total of three times. Ann suggested a demo on building a hoop house.

Spring Fund Raiser: This event still needs a chairman. The event is the second weekend in May. Janae Dale also informed the board that BCGA has a \$100.00 credit with the Community Center. This would be a possible venue for the plant sale, however

we would still need an additional \$100.00 to secure the space. It was also suggested we use the area in front of the theater at the Bonner Mall. Janae Dale will call Valarie Ripley and Gray Henderson will call Marge Clements to see if either would be interested in chairing this event. Ann Warwick will research our plant license for this event and if we need one for the Yard and Plant sale as well.

Farmers Market: Sandra Gevurtz is chairman. The Farmers Market will start the second week in May. Sandra will be unavailable that week so Gray Henderson will cover for her at that time. Sandra will be contacting members to work at the market.

Garden Tour: Penny Barton is chairman. She is still looking for a replacement to chair this event next year. She suggested she mentor next year's chairman. They could shadow her this year to understand all of the details of that go into the tour.

Yard and Plant Sale: No report. Bob Blair and Cindy Hayes are storing items for the sale at their home and members are asked to contact Bob or Cindy if they have items to drop off. Ann Warwick researching if we need a plant license for this event.

School Garden Program: Janae Dale and Gray Henderson had a meeting with Michele Murphree and the schools. BCGA will provide the schools with information, instruction and hands on instruction. It appears that the schools will be having spring and fall gardens, no summer gardens. More volunteers are needed, as Janae would like to have 2 volunteers for each garden. Gray thanked Janae for all of her hard work. Janae will create rough schedules for all garden duties. It was proposed that Janae be given a budget of \$500.00 to spend at her discretion to assist with school gardens. Rob Lilley made the motion for approval; Butterfly Burke seconded it. The motion was passed.

Potluck: Deborah Steffen sent out emails detailing the new Potluck process. She hasn't had any feedback.

Advanced Education Program: Mikey Haven is the chairman. No report. Mikey has sent out emails for some of the classes. Janae Dale and Gail Blasingame

will be offering their class on *How To Teach A Class* in April.

Fair: Cindy Hayes is chairman. Cindy is in the process of filling out the application and taking care of details for the BCGA booth. The theme for this year is *Season's Open*. She will hold a meeting in May with members who wish to participate.

Healing Garden: No report. Gail Blasingame is the new chairman.

Sip and Shop: Cindy Hayes has secured June 9th from 4:00pm-9:00pm for BCGA. Sip and Shop is held at the Pend Oreille Winery. BCGA will receive 10 percent of the profits from sales in the shop, bar and restaurant during that time period. Cindy will be sending out a request for volunteers for this event.

BCGA program vs. UI Master Gardener program:

Gray Henderson has worked with Jennifer Jensen at the Extension office regarding Master Gardener Certification for those members who took the BCGA course during the years when the Idaho Master Gardener course was not offered at the Extension office. It was decided that those members could pass a recertification test, complete a separate online training and test about the University of Idaho's Pesticide Policy (about 15-20 minutes online) and complete 20 volunteer hours. The volunteer hours may include the work we do with BCGA. The recertification test is 65-70 questions and requires a score of at least 70% to pass. Also required is one day in the plant. It is to be stressed that this opportunity is only for those members who have had training up to this year. Thank you Gray for all your work on this!

Road Cleanup: Cindy Hayes suggested BCGA could be involved in road cleanup. BCGA members would clean a stretch of highway 2 times a year. For this effort we would have a sign that would be put up on that stretch of highway. The sign allows for 15 characters including spaces. All bags and equipment would be provided. BCGA would provide the labor.

Purchases: Gail Swan suggested we consider buying a new projector. Our current one keeps quitting. Gail will research projectors and recommend one to buy. Rob Lilley moved that Gail should buy the projector and Butterfly Burke seconded the motion. Motion passed. Janae Dale to buy a book about plant ID ter-

minology to add to BCGA library. Penny Barton to research hand lenses for possible purchase for students in our Membership class.

Recognizing Members: Gray Henderson spoke with Bob Blair regarding his ideas to recognize BCGA members. Bob was not present, so Gray will defer this issue until Bob is present.

Garden Gate: Gray Henderson reminded us that all members are encouraged to write articles for the Garden Gate. Instructions for submissions are noted at the top of the first page of the Garden Gate under the masthead.

Gray Henderson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Patti Pietron seconded. Meeting **adjourned**, 10:45



2015 PBCA Home and Garden Show Booth

The annual Home and Garden Show, sponsored by the Panhandle Building Contractors Association, takes place on Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12 at the main exhibit building at the Fairgrounds. BCGA is the only organization at the event that does not pay for the space, and our role is to provide a number of short talks on various seasonal gardening topics.

This year, the PBCA is considering an outdoor demonstration from our group. We will soon know

which day they would like this, but whether it is Saturday or Sunday, it is likely to be stormy and cold. Thus, it seems reasonable to offer a demonstration on something that does not involve living plants, and can be done hands-on. The obvious choice is to put together a model of a hoop house, and discuss various ways of providing season extenders. I (Ann Warwick) have most of the needed materials in my "may come in handy someday" collection of stuff. I will put this project together, but will need a couple of volunteers to help me with the actual presentation at the fairgrounds. It will be pretty simple, and repeated several times during the day. We may also need to use our canopy.

On the day when the outdoor demo is not happening, we will be putting on talks in our booth, each 15 to 30 minutes or so. We will be able to use our laptop and new projector if anyone requires it to show slides or the like. I'll be sending out a notice and schedule to those who have volunteered to give talks. Each person may select a favorite topic to discuss.

The booth will require tending during the show hours, 9 to 5 on Saturday, and 10 to 4 on Sunday. I'll send out a schedule for volunteers to complete soon. We like to have two volunteers in the booth to greet the public. And we get more acquainted with each other, too.

And, on Friday evening, April 10, we will be setting up the booth after 5pm. We are against a large garage door, and have to wait until the other displays are in.

Thank you to all who signed up to participate in this fun event.



Plants Needed for BCGA Spring Plant Sale

We are going to have a Spring Fundraiser Plant Sale this year, after all! Our fair chairs are Penny Goodman and Marjory Clements. They are making this important event possible this year. Last year, we made about \$1200 from this sale. This makes it a substantial part of our revenue quest.

The sale will be held on May 8, perhaps extending through May 9. This is Mother's Day weekend, traditionally a local plant buying day, as it coincides with the final frost coming soon, and planting time soon after.

It's always a fun event, but the chairs need help. Here's some of what we need for a successful sale:
Plants: If you have any place to start some plants for the sale, please do. The most popular items have been vegetable starts, especially tomatoes and peppers, but other veggie starts were popular, too. Perennial ornamentals have sold fairly well in the past, too. Whatever you can donate, it will be welcome. If you lack pots, contact Ann Warwick, who has a large stash of planting pots of most sizes, donated by Penny Barton.

Help: Contact Penny Goodman (aok@netw.com) or Marjory Clements (clemmj@earthlink.net) to volunteer. Help is needed for organizing the event, for rounding up supplies--we usually need many tables, etc.

Day(s) of the Sale: We need help setting up the tables, sorting the plants, and pricing the plants before the sale starts. Need help with tending the sale location to help customers, load plants into boxes, cashiering. Get on the schedule, and you can also get some favorite plants, too.

Help will also be needed dismantling the booth and finding homes for the extra plants after the sale. This should be fun! And it really gives us a financial boost.

"Let no one think that real gardening is a bucolic and meditative occupation. It is an insatiable passion, live everything else to which a man gives his heart"

Karel Capek, 1890-1938, garden writer

