

The Garden Gate



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

November 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 votes are in and the slate of officers for 2016 has been approved. They are as follows:

Cindy Hayes - President
Gordon Fish - Vice President
Patti Pietron - Secretary
Penny Barton - Treasurer

The Board of Directors will be: Penny Goodman, Howie Fennimore, Pamelarose Crawford, Barb Pressler, and Gray Henderson.

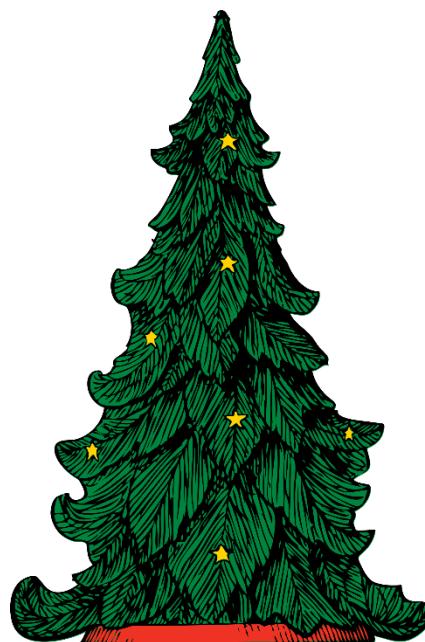
I would like to thank the present officers and board for their leadership this past year: Deb Steffen, Patti Pietron, Penny Barton, Butterfly Burke, Marge Clements, Howie Fennimore, Penny Goodman, Cindy Hayes, Bonnie Pick and Barb Pressler. Thanks to all of you.

Membership dues are due for 2016. Send \$20, along with the Renewal Form (this is important as it provides a check on phone numbers and email addresses for the directory, as well as giving you an opportunity to specify in which activities you would like to be involved) to the BCGA office.

Also a reminder that the Christmas party will be Saturday, December 12th, starting at 5:30. There will be a white elephant gift exchange for all those who choose to participate. So wrap up those goodies and

put on your lucky hat! The main dish will be supplied but you are asked to bring a side salad, dessert or veggie. Look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, Shannon Callister is working to put together an interactive email based list-serve for members of the association. Its purpose will be for members to post questions, suggestions, comments to the list-serve, and for other members to respond to those with answers and comments of their own. When it is ready to go you will receive an email "invitation" to have your name and email be part of the list-serve. Expect to receive this in the near future. Thank you Shannon for helping me make this happen. I hope it will add to the Association members' ability to communicate with each other on gardening and other topics.



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

- 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 Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2015

Attending Members: Butterfly Burke, Gordon Fish, Marjory Clements, Barbara Pressler, Gray Henderson, Deborah Steffen, Pamelarose Crawford, Janae Dale, Cindy Hayes, Penny Goodman, Howard Fenimore, Ann Warwick.

Special Guest: Michele Murphree, Coordinator and fund raising specialist for the Bonner County school garden projects.

Pre-Business Meeting Discussion: Beets--when to pull (now) and how to store--refrigerator, moist sand in cool place, in tubs in a cool place, or pickling. ID of mystery plant brought to the group by Marjory Clements: some kind of impatiens that reseeds. When to dig dahlias--now or after they "harden off"? Consensus is to dig now and store in a cool dry place. Gray Henderson reported on pH--city water now at 7.5. Gray's own garden has come down to 6.9 after addition of peat moss and sulfur previously to raise soil acidity.

Business meeting: Gray Henderson, president, called the meeting to order at 9:13. Minutes from October were approved, by motion, second, and unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$1343 in checking account. BCGA spent \$369 on the Harvest Party, \$169 more than authorized. Discussion of using a different caterer for the Holiday Party. Gray will attempt to negotiate the room rental for that date. Butterfly Burke moved to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Deborah Steffen, passed.

Membership Dues and Forms: Trickling in, will send out paper forms to those who are computer challenged.

School Gardens: Guest Michele Murphree. She has been in charge of financing, organizing, and promoting community participation in the school garden project from the beginning. Recently, a bike raffle netted \$2300 for funding the project. Winner: Sandy Compton. Reports that all but two elementary schools in the area now have school gardens established or in the works. Sites have been problematic at some schools--needing water, sunny area and room to build. Charter school will use the gardens for special needs mathematics students. Grants from many

community organizations have assisted--Elks, Food for our Children, Selkirk Realtors, Home Depot, CAL, BCGA, and others.

Potlucks: Next potluck is scheduled for November 15 at Janae and John Dale's home. It will include a brief introduction to yoga concepts.

Christmas Party: Scheduled for December 12. This year, BCGA will charge \$10 per person to cover expenses. Special guests of BCGA will be admitted free of charge. Selection of different caterers will be explored, and a committee will decide on decorations, invitations, and entertainment options (White Elephant gift exchange or other?)

OLD BUSINESS

Elections: Board members--BCGA By-Laws state that we will have 5 board members, Procedures and Guidelines say 7. We will resolve the conflict later, but will stay with 5 board members for now. BCGA will amend the wording of the By-Laws (perhaps to say "minimum of 5 board members) in 2016.

As of now, the slate is as follows for officers and board members for 2016: President: Cindy Hayes, Vice President: Gordon Fish, Secretary: Patty Pie-tron, Treasurer: Penny Barton. Board members: Penny Goodman, Howard Fennimore, Barbara Pressler, Gray Henderson, Pamelarose Crawford. Ballots will be sent out soon.

NEW BUSINESS

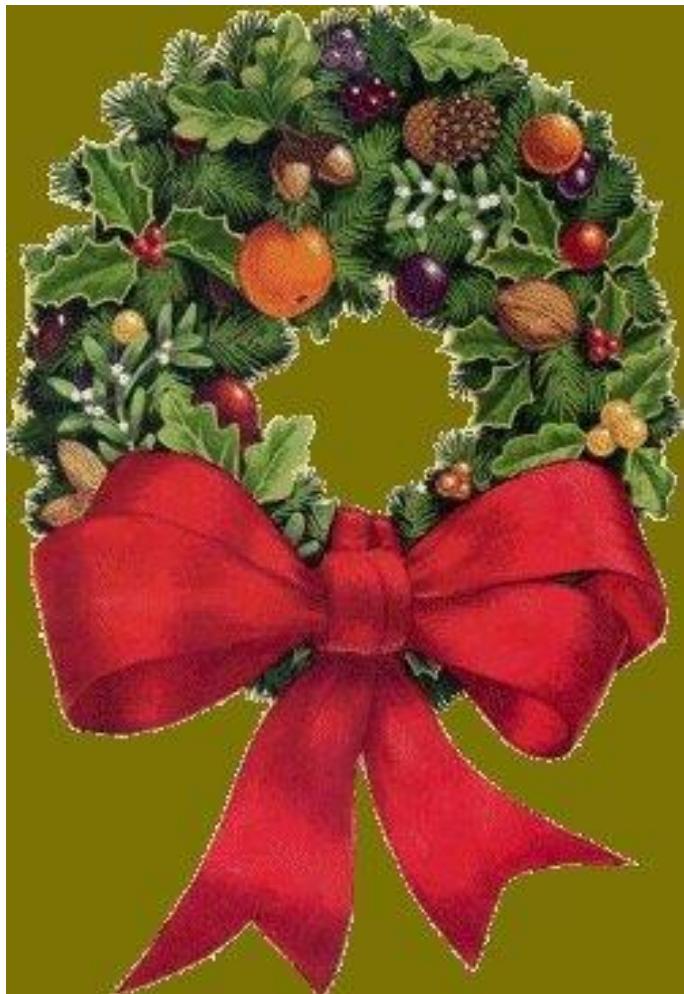
List-serve possibility: Shannon Callister will look into creating an email list of members who would like to share garden information or those seeking answers to garden questions. Gray Henderson will contact Shannon Callister to investigate the possibilities. It will be a voluntary list.

Scholarship: Discussion of possible scholarship as a memorial tribute to Jan Wilfert. Issue remains undecided. Becky Reynolds will be contacted for more information.

Other: Question: Do we need a professional marketing expert? The Library has hired such a person and has seen increased participation in events and library offerings. Might we do the same? To be explored and decided later.

A Public Relations person is still needed to replace Chris McIntosh, who wishes to resign that position. She has lists of contacts. Suggestion: to have a committee to share the work.

Addendum to Christmas party: Consider hiring a person to prepare the food in the kitchen and clean up. We will consider options in committee. Meeting adjourned at 10:25.



"The Earth that's nature's mother is her tomb, what is her burying grave that is her womb, and from her womb children of divers kind we sucking on her natural bosom find, many for the virtues excellent none but for some and yet all different. O mickle is the powerful grace that lies in plants, herbs, stones and their true qualities, for naught so vile that on the earth doth live but to the earth some special good doth give."

William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*