

The Garden Gate

April 2004

Salutations Gardeners



By Jan Rumore

These early spring days are so lovely
The nights so crisp, starry and gay
MGs come to our meetings
And respond to our pleadings
I can think of just one
Thing to say
Thank You

Donations Needed



Plants Needed

Spring Plant Sale - **May 22**

by Rita Janisse

It's starting to feel a lot like spring. The crocus and daffodils are starting to peek their little heads out of the warming soil and that can only mean that the Master Gardener's Spring Plant Sale is just around the corner. The sale will be held on May 22nd, and again will be held at the Lake Pend Oreille High School during their annual Spring Festival.

This Plant Sale is a lot of fun and a great way to work off some of those community hours. Please mark your calendar, May 22nd, and be thinking about what you'd like to contribute. This annual event benefits everybody in the association. Last year's sale was

successful because of your donations. We can use any and all – vegetable starts, spring bulbs, divided perennials, shrubs, seeds. Can we count on you again this year?

Please help!



Bake Goods Needed

May 1

Irene Crain, BCMGA member (current) Class of 2004, and her husband Wes will co-chair the first appearance of the Master Gardeners at the Sandpoint Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 1st, May Day. Our booth will be a community outreach and fund-raising endeavor in the form of a Bake Sale. We will be offering items for sale as well as selling Garden Raffle tickets, talking up the Garden Tour and disseminating information regarding Master Gardener Classes and services.

Notice anything missing?????

That's right! The baked goods!

And that's where y'all come in.

Please contact me to confirm your donation of your favorite goodies. We will accept your baked goods Saturday, May 1st, 8:00 a.m. ON-SITE at the Farmer's Market.

Please use disposable packaging or individually wrapped items. Please identify your creation (Irene is not a baker and doesn't know a scone from a biscuit! She can sell 'em, but she can't name 'em!).

Irene and Wes Crain strucpro3@yahoo.com or 264-0184



Events at A Glance:

- April 21: *No Fail Flower Gardens* (Loie DeLa Vergne and Valle Novak)
(Events cont.)
- May 1: Farmers Market Bake Sale---- *do I smell the cookies?*
- May 3: BCMGA Board Meeting (all welcome)
Creekside Medical Center, 9:00 am
- May 5: * *Growing Potatoes* (Pat Van Volkenberg)
- May 19: * *Integrated Vegetable Gardening* (Jennifer Costich Thompson)
- May 22: Spring Plant Sale --- *are your starts ready?*
- June 2: * *All About Herbs* (Lois Wythe)
- June 5: Drawing for Garden Plot 2:00pm- Extension Office
- June 16: * *Hypertufa Creations* (Michelle Reichelt)
- June 17-19: Regional Conference (N Idaho College) registration due May 1
- July 18: BCMGA Garden Tour
* Home Horticulture Series : Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Brown House meeting room next to Bonner General Hospital



Free Soil: *Yes Virginia - There is a Santa Claus!* Elmer Hamilton

has generously offered a yard of soil to every graduate of the BCMGA course. You will need a certificate or some reasonable proof of your certification. Elmer is digging a pond near the Sunnyside area - perhaps your need will be met by this soil. You can contact Elmer at 263-7195 for more information.

Plant Clinic starts May 4 - Sign up now!

We are looking for experienced MG's to sign up to work in the Plant Clinic. There are 20 new Master Gardeners eager to get started who will be signing up after the Plant Clinic

Orientation on April 27. Any certified MG's who want to brush up on Plant Clinic procedures are welcome to join us.

The Plant Clinic will start on May 4 and will be open on Tues. and Thurs. As before, shifts will run from 9:00 am – noon and from noon – 3:00 pm. We have a lot of MG's this year, so these shifts will fill up fast. Call Patti at 263-8511 to reserve your spot now.

Gardening Classes 2004 offered in the Community

There are an abundance of classes offered this spring and summer in addition to the Home Horticulture series that is offered by the Master Gardeners. Here is what I have so far. If you know of other classes offered, please contact the Extension Office and pass along the information.

April 18 - Hoop house Workshop - Greentree Naturals, 12:30 PM.

April 21 - No Fail Flower Gardens - BCMGA, 6:00 PM.

April 22 - Plants for Shaded Areas - Kootenai Co. MG Spring Series, 7:00 PM.

April 29 - Planting and Maintenance of Ponds - Kootenai Co. MG Spring Series, 7:00 PM.

May 5 - Growing Potatoes - BCMGA, 6:00 PM.

May 6 - Sow and Grow with Kids - Kootenai Co. MG Spring Series, 7:00 PM.

May 8 - Garden Expo 2004 - A Gardener's Banquet. Spokane Community College 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Contact: 509-535-8434 or tiegclub@wmconnect.com or www.tiegardeners.org.

May 19 - Integrated Vegetable Gardening - BCMGA, 6:00 PM.

May 24 - Planning the Garden - Greentree Naturals On-Farm Workshop, 10:00 AM.

June 2 - All About Herbs - BCMGA, 6:00 PM.

June 7 - Fertilizing Organically - Greentree Naturals On-Farm Workshop, 10:00 AM.

June 16 - Hypertufa Creations - BCMGA, 6:00 PM.

June 17-19 - Inland Northwest Master Gardener Conference - NIC Coeur d'Alene.

June 21 - Natural Weed Control - Greentree Naturals On-Farm Workshop, 10:00 AM.

July 5 - Pest Management - Greentree Naturals On-Farm Workshop, 10:00 AM

July 19 - Harvesting the Bounty - Greentree Naturals On-Farm Workshop, 10:00 AM.

August 2 - Seed Saving - Greentree Naturals On-Farm Workshop, 10:00 AM.

BCMGA - Bonner County Master Gardener Assn. Classes are \$5 for Master Gardeners. Held at the Brown House meeting room next to the Bonner General Hospital from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Contact the Bonner County Extension Office at 263-8511 to sign up.

Greentree Naturals On-Farm Workshops - \$25/class or \$125/6 classes. Contact: Diane Green, 208-263-8957 or greentree@coldreams.com

Kootenai County Master Gardener Spring Series is offered at the Spirit Lake Library, 217 N. 5th Ave., Spirit Lake, from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Contact: Kootenai Co. Extension, 208-446-1680.



Peace Thoughts for Your Garden:

By Michelle Reichelt

Source: The Upbeet Gardener

*T*here is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

*P*lant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

*P*lant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

*P*lant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce really love one another

*N*o garden is complete without turnips:

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

*T*o finish your garden, we must have thyme:

Thyme for each other
Thyme for family
Thyme for friends

*W*ater freely with patience and cultivate with love.



A very special Thank You and Farewell to our member and friend J'nene Wade. She gave us her words, wisdom and wit in our monthly column *Wild Greens*. J'nene is moving

to Oregon to be closer to family; with the additional bonus of a warmer zone for growing. We wish you the happiest of gardening and joy in your new surroundings. You will be missed.



PLANTS DEER AVOID.USUALLY

by Ann Warwick

In North Idaho, one of the loveliest scourges of the home garden is the white tail deer. They seem to be attracted to the very plants we humans like to cultivate, and have appetites that would seem to belong to much larger creatures. Over the years, I have collected a list of plants that deer don't usually eat. Of course, your deer may have a taste for even these flowers.

Annuals: Acroclinium, and most straw flowers, Marigolds, Nemophylla, Poppies, California and opium

Perennials: Artemesias, and most grey plants, Anemones, Asters, fall blooming, Achillea (Yarrows), Bleeding Hearts, Buttercups, Columbine, Coreopsis, Daffodils
Daisy: Oxeye, Shasta, Gloriosa, Painted (Pyrethrum), Daphne, Forget-me-not
Forsythia, Foxglove, Geraniums, hardy, Goldenrod, Gypsophilia, Helichrysum
Heliopsis, Herbs, Culinary, Iris, Ivy, Lamb's Ear, Lamium, Lavender, Leopard's Bane
Liatris, Loosestrife, Marguerite Daisy, Muscari, Pearly Everlasting, Phlox, creeping
Primroses, Scilla, Snow-in-Summer, Statice, Veronicas, Verbascum

Tips Tried and True

Don't like the earwigs in dahlias and peonies? Try placing a rolled newspaper around the base of the plant. Theory says the little critters *may* stop to read the interesting, moist paper and not climb to your blossoms.



Taters in a Tire: Barb Moore found an easy and fun way to grow potatoes. You will need: 6 recycled tires, 3-4 seed potatoes, compost or steer manure mixed with good soil. Pick a sunny spot, stack 2 tires on top of each other, place soil mixture into the tires. Cut the potatoes into chunks with each piece holding an eye. Space potatoes evenly, cover with soil and water until damp. When potato plant is established, add another tire and more soil, leaving some foliage above the dirt. As the plant continues to grow, add additional tires as needed. Keep moist for fat, healthy potatoes. In the fall, when the plant looks dead, the potatoes are ready to harvest. Have fun.