

The Garden Gate

August 2003



COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE:

- September 3: Concrete Possibilities - John Siegmund
- September 17: Season Extenders - Jennifer Costich-Thompson
- October 1: Pressed Dried Flowers – Ann Warwick
- October 8: Dried Flower Decorations and Wreaths - Beth Evans
 - *all Home Horticulture Series held at the Brown house -
 - Wednesday eves 6-8-pm

September 20 - 23: Bonner County Fair

Michelle Reichelt, our hard working President, is on vacation this month. A bountiful harvest and 'happy swinging' Michelle.



Tips Tried and True



*Frustrated at those uninvited yellow jackets crashing your picnic? Marge Carlson says to place fabric softener Bounce squares around the area, bees don't like the smell and will likely leave. If you do swat one, be sure to get rid of the remains – the pheromones will bring in clan members to investigate.

*Joyce Pence has a tip for managing our very hardy spotted knapweeds. Douse them with white vinegar – early in the spring is the best time.

*Gary Pietsch reports that now is the time to divide and replant your iris. This will give them a couple of months to develop a root system before the cold weather sets in.

August Board Meeting Highlights:

- * Beth is Chairing the planning for the BCMGA booth at the County fair. Three hour shifts will be scheduled for September 20-23rd. Jan will help with booth decoration- suggestions included Michelle displaying her guinea hens – a real draw.
- * Michelle and Ann attended the Coeur D'Alene garden tour and came back with enthusiasm and ideas for a possible fundraiser for our Association in 2004.
- * Bob's Insect and Disease Diagnostic course is going very well. Approximately 16 persons are in attendance and reports are that it is an excellent class.
- * Bob and Don are set to attend the Master Gardener Conference in Corvallis, OR. District 1 selected 5 to attend this year. Discussion will be had as to the viability of having an annual statewide MG Conference.
- * Thank you to Penny Barton and Judith Pagliasotti for volunteering to help at the Arboretum.
- * Valle has scheduled the autumn Home Hort series:
- * In appreciation for the MG Helping MG program aiding in pruning his blueberry bushes, Bill Tedesco has offered the fruit at \$1.00 a pound to Association members. We are grateful for the good crop and the chance to be of help.
- * Michelle and Valle reported that will need volunteers will be sought to help plant perennial beds at the Hospice Garden of Life in late September or early October
- * Don and Bill have done a great job with the landscaping at the Extension Office. The new trees, beautifully mulched, are doing well and certainly make a nice welcome for visitors. Thank you to Extension Office staff for keeping up the watering this hot summer. Michelle will arrange to have metal identifiers placed by the trees.
- * Community service hours were approved for volunteer work at the Cancer Center.



Wild Greens

Greetings Master Gardeners,

There seems to be no end to this summer and interminable heat; well, that's an exaggeration for certain...just as certain as the fact that, in a few months, we will wonder if we were ever so warm that we needed fans, cool dips in the river, iced tea. We will think back on long, early morning walks where the damp, pungent fragrance of the still-sleepy earth is sweeter than expensive French perfume; we will pine for lengthening days and summer's fecundity. Alas, the heat is still turned sky high and, living in the moment, the harvest is on!

Our garden has been atypical this season. Sometime in early July, I came to the realization that because of very limited water from our well and family obligations, the garden which we had planted and so carefully tended during the spring was just too big. With reluctant hearts and hands, one recent evening we pulled all of the half-grown eggplant, peppers, immature cabbage and cauliflower. Honestly, I tried to restrain myself when starting seeds way back in April...but...the pull to sow and reap was too strong to resist. Blame it on those darned seed catalogues, those alluring color-glossy prints of everything one has ever wanted to grow. Thus, a lesson has been learned: garden realistically.

Nevertheless, all was not given over to the compost pile. We have been harvesting buckets of pole beans, summer squash and raspberries. Sugar snap peas have come and gone; basil, cilantro and parsley grow riotous; immature carrots and beets remain in the ground, well mulched, as are the potatoes. Morning glories, rudbeckia and foxglove have carried the day in the perennial garden; sweet peas linger on their vines, scenting the searing breeze. My calendar said, "Till St. James's Day be come and gone, you may have hops, you may have none": We have hops! It has been a wonderful summer~satisfaction abounds!

Soon, a new season will be taking center stage: Autumn. This is my favorite time of year...not too hot, not too cold, with a sparkling, magical clearness to the air, colorful falling leaves, the first hint of wood smoke on a crisp, sunny morning. This will be a time to reflect on how our growing season ended out...add up the pluses and minuses, give thanks for a long, hot summer and the bounty which we have received. How lucky we are and how blessed.

Until then, I wish you all a bountiful harvest and happy end-of-summer days.

J'nene Wade

Master Gardener

