

<http://sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/>

# *The Garden Gate*

*August 5, 2005*



## **Extension Office Work Party**

It was expressed by Bob Wilson that with the fair coming up, the Extension office grounds could really use a sprucing up. So anyone wanting to join in on some fun visiting time with other MG's please come with a pair of gloves and your favorite trowel. The early birds will be showing up anytime after 7:30 am on **Tuesday the 9th** of August. We will weed and clip until the grounds make us feel proud.

Bring your warm smiles and friendly banter and let's make this a festive event. Hey those who love to bake.....some goodies would be greatly appreciated. Yummm!!

## **Fair Booth Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday the 9th** of August at 1 pm at the Extension Office. We will be painting the wheelbarrow and making the signs that will hang in the booth. If you have anything that will be going in the booth please bring it to this meeting. We are in need of a wooden box to prop the wheelbarrow up on for inside the booth. Paint brushes, magic markers, stuffed pigs, pig signs, whatever your imagination conjures up. Jan bring the pig suit and the snouts please. Should be worth some laughs and anyone is invited to join us.

A big thank you to Joyce Lane for sewing our pig head for us. ... Penny

## **Plant Clinic**

Debbie Crain, Plant Clinic Director

This summer is flying by! I hope you are finding joy in your gardens.

The plant clinic is going very well. Through the end of July we have assisted 126 individuals (per the log book).

Just a reminder to continue to be extra specific in any work you must leave behind. If you have worked the plant clinic after one who specifically documents where the problem stands, it is a pleasure.

Please, please.....for any copies or mailings, give explicit details....page numbers, client's name and address. We are so grateful to Patti and Kristan for the amazing support they give us. Let's make their jobs as easy as possible.

Signs ups! Don't forget, you need 9 hours in the plant clinic for your recertification....15 hours if you took the advanced class. Call Patti...263-8511.

August

9: Penny, Pat      11: Brenda, Pat  
16: Ann, Sue      18: Brenda, Penny  
23: Janae, Bill    25: Closed for FAIR  
30: Parise, Bill

September

1: Parise, Gail  
6: Ann, Debbie    8: Sue, Penny  
13: Penny, OPEN   15: Marsha, OPEN  
20: Gail, Joyce    22: Marsha, OPEN  
27: OPEN          29: OPEN, OPEN

**AUGUST BIO**



**Mary Bruhjell**

Most people think of their grandmothers when they see mums, roses, and peonies. I think of my dad. My dad won ribbons for his flowers. His mums were his pride and joy. He had both an indoor and an outdoor greenhouse. Both were filled year round with color. We had so many different varieties of mums in our yard. We also had a strange and unusual variety of shrub that every once in a while gave us bagels on Sunday mornings. As a child, I marveled at this. I was later told that it really was not the bush that produced the bagels - they were a gift from the Bagel Bunny!

We left the beautifully sculpted flower beds, and the two greenhouses behind when the race riots hit Detroit. My parents purchased an older farm house in the country. The home was empty for five years and had been totally neglected. It needed a lot of work in and out. Over time, our new home became a wonderful place to grow up. The back yard was a full acre of mature fruit trees, apples, cherries, pears, plums, peaches, and one lonely quince tree. There were also raspberry and blackberry patches near the outbuilding that eventually became our chicken coop/garden shed. We also had a large vegetable garden.

My dad was not happy with the soil. He brought in truck loads of dirt which he baked in our oven to sterilize for his starts. I can just smell that wonderful earthy cooked soil smell now! I also have memories of my dad burning tent worms off of our fruit trees with a blow torch. (I guess the flaming scarecrow thing is in my blood!).

I spent the first 27 years of my life in Michigan. Then I moved to CO, followed by AZ then ID. After attending college, I worked in advertising, finance, as an office manager, a sales representative, and an administrative assistant. I met and married my husband Robin while I was living in Arizona. We got married in Sedona by a J.P. who teased us about the Robin Hood and Maid Mary thing. I have been a stay at home mom/volunteer since May of 1998. This fall marks my third

year home educating our two children, Erik (9) and Katelyn (7½).

Most of my adult life I lived in apartments. Not much opportunity to grow much except house plants. My first chance to do my own garden came when we purchased our first home in Eagle, ID (NW of Boise) in 1998. I spent two years battling the moles and our neighbor who would flood irrigate his property and leave it running all day. Every time he did so, my garden area would flood. My garden was relocated to the front side yard. Other than a bout with corn smut the new garden area proved to be fantastic. When we sold out home, the garden was a big selling point. My personal favorite was the two sunflower houses that the kids would play in while I gardened.

In October of 2003, we purchased a home 16 miles north of Sandpoint on 30 acres (8 are wooded). Our family loves it here. We enjoy the lake and hiking. We also all cross country ski. I absolutely love the wildlife. We saw a bear with a cub crossing Samuels Road yesterday!

I signed up for the Master Gardener program to learn more about growing things in the short season climate and to identify the mysterious plants that grow up here. I learned a great deal more from the program than I expected I would. I have also enjoyed getting involved in the various volunteer activities and I have made some really good friends. Since becoming a Master Gardener, I have also become a member of the Native Plant Society.



*Mary's favorite sprouts Erik & Katelyn*

## ***GEAR UP FOR FALL CLASSES***

***Starts September 14***

**Stewardship for Small Acreages**

*Bob Wilson*

UI Extension, in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District, is offering a course this fall in good land stewardship practices. This course begins with land resource evaluation and goal setting. This will be followed by weekly topics on soils, water, pasture, weeds, forestry, and animals. A field trip to look at several types of livestock operations will be included. The final session will look at planning a small farm enterprise and explore of what a person can grow, raise and sell from their land. Each class is based on sustainable practices and considers how a healthy farm is a key component of a healthy community.

This course is open to all but is designed for those who are new to the area, those who would like to do something different with their property, or those who are not getting the results they want with their current practices. Whether your land is overrun with weeds, thickets of trees, or poorly growing pasture; this course will offer a way to turn things around.

Classes will be offered Wed. evenings from 7-9 pm at the Federal Building (1500 Hwy 2, Sandpoint) starting on Sept. 14. The field trip will be on a Saturday, the date to be determined. Cost for the course is \$25 for everything or \$5 for individual classes. Call the extension office (263-8511) to sign up.

***Starts September 15***  
**Home Horticulture Classes**

*...Don Childress*

Home Hort Fall Series will begin on September 15, with our own Valle Novak presenting a sought after program on fall bird I.D. and the how to's of constructing a bird sanctuary. Bob Wilson will present a program on Greenhouse design and use.

Two more programs are in the final stages of negotiations, more about them in the next issue of the Garden Gate.

Programs this fall will be held at the Library on Thursday evenings. The dates scheduled are Sept. 15 and 29, and October 20 and 27.

**GREENPRINTS - The Weeder's Digest**

- Published quarterly (stories, essays, fun things--No "how to" gardening)
- Subscription is \$22.97 for four issues per year
- P. O. Box 1355 Fairview, NC 28730

**Mickinnick Trail**

**Directions:** To get to the trailhead, turn left off Schweitzer Road about 1/2 mile past the railroad tracks onto Woodland Drive. The trailhead is on the right about 1/2 to 1 mile down Woodland Drive.

Contact Ann Wimberley [afwim@yahoo.com](mailto:afwim@yahoo.com) or 264-5379 for more information

**Active and Associate Master Gardeners 2005 CONTACT #'s....**

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|---|----------|--|
| ○ President - Barb Moore                    | 263-7236 | <a href="mailto:togetmom@hotmail.com">togetmom@hotmail.com</a>                     |
| ○ Vice President - Bill Lamson              | 263-3799 | <a href="mailto:lamson@sandpoint.net">lamson@sandpoint.net</a>                     |
| ○ Secretary/Newsletter -<br>Brenda Fletcher | 265-7944 | <a href="mailto:packriverorganics@norlight.org">packriverorganics@norlight.org</a> |
| ○ Treasurer - Penny Barton                  | 265-9733 | <a href="mailto:onecent@surfmk.com">onecent@surfmk.com</a>                         |
| ○ Alice Booth                               | 448-1087 | <a href="mailto:rajbooth@coldreams.com">rajbooth@coldreams.com</a>                 |
| ○ Laurie Ann Brown                          | 263-7108 | <a href="mailto:lauriebr@netw.com">lauriebr@netw.com</a>                           |
| ○ Mary Bruhjell                             | 263-9943 | <a href="mailto:mary@bruhjell.us">mary@bruhjell.us</a>                             |
| ○ Helen Campbell                            | 263-2332 | <a href="mailto:bluesky@sandpoint.net">bluesky@sandpoint.net</a>                   |
| ○ Marjory Carlson                           | 264-5509 | <a href="mailto:marjoryjohn@coldreams.com">marjoryjohn@coldreams.com</a>           |
| ○ Julie Case                                | 265-5462 | <a href="mailto:jkc@nidaho.net">jkc@nidaho.net</a>                                 |



- Beverly Chapin 263-2800 [raecharlton@earthlink.com](mailto:raecharlton@earthlink.com)
- Rae Charlton 255-7666 [dwc1rsc@televar.com](mailto:dwc1rsc@televar.com)
- Don Childress, Hort Series 255-7928 [fieldscobb@hotmail.com](mailto:fieldscobb@hotmail.com)
- Fields Cobb 265-1513 [jcostichthompson@fs.fed.us](mailto:jcostichthompson@fs.fed.us)
- Jennifer Costich-Thompson 255-2056 [Crain3610@hotmail.com](mailto:Crain3610@hotmail.com)
- Debbie Crain, Plant Clinic 265-6744 [crainsnest@peoplepc.net](mailto:crainsnest@peoplepc.net)
- Irene Crain 610-0799 [rainbow7363@yahoo.com](mailto:rainbow7363@yahoo.com)
- Marci Crockett 263-1433 [sdaffron@logicaexpressions.com](mailto:sdaffron@logicaexpressions.com)
- Susan Daffron, Webpage 265-8391 [jjdale@coldreams.com](mailto:jjdale@coldreams.com)
- Janae Dale, Board Member 265-2205 [hotpotatobomb@hotmail.com](mailto:hotpotatobomb@hotmail.com)
- Nicki Donaldson 265-9337 [gfrodolives@aol.com](mailto:gfrodolives@aol.com)
- Laura Gould 263-9888 [idahome98@hotmail.com](mailto:idahome98@hotmail.com)
- Denise Gulman 683-7602 [henfam@sandpoint.net](mailto:henfam@sandpoint.net)
- Vicki Henry 263-6588 [hjames6587@iguanasoft.com](mailto:hjames6587@iguanasoft.com)
- Sylvia Hirning 263-5877 [mrlobo@icce.com](mailto:mrlobo@icce.com)
- Rita Janisse 263-7758
- Ann Keiser 263-8581
- Joyce Lane 265-4567 [jlane@coldreams.com](mailto:jlane@coldreams.com)
- Adrienne Lilly 263-2323 [lillypad@imbris.com](mailto:lillypad@imbris.com)
- Sue Lopez, Board Member 263-1949 [seniorl@coldreams.com](mailto:seniorl@coldreams.com)
- Teri Maurice 263-4447
- Colleen MacGregor 263-1325 [idahogals@peoplepc.com](mailto:idahogals@peoplepc.com)
- Pat Moss, Board Member 255-2667 [geopat@bossig.com](mailto:geopat@bossig.com)
- Ann Murphy 263-7095 [ann83864@peoplepc.com](mailto:ann83864@peoplepc.com)
- Valle Novak, Hort Series 263-4688 [vallejoy@yahoo.com](mailto:vallejoy@yahoo.com)
- Judith Pagliasotti 255-2961 [pagliasotti@earthlink.net](mailto:pagliasotti@earthlink.net)
- Gary Parker 265-0780 [celtickayak@surf1.ws](mailto:celtickayak@surf1.ws)
- Joyce Pence 266-1107 [joycepenance@hotmail.com](mailto:joycepenance@hotmail.com)
- Gary Pietsch 263-4217 [garycarolpietsch@earthlink.net](mailto:garycarolpietsch@earthlink.net)
- Michelle Reichelt 265-1159 [madi850@earthlink.net](mailto:madi850@earthlink.net)
- Jan Rumore, Board Member 255-1827 [rumore@sandpoint.net](mailto:rumore@sandpoint.net)
- Gail Swan, Board Member 263-0181 [gswan8274@direcway.com](mailto:gswan8274@direcway.com)
- Bill Tedesco 263-8982
- Ann Warwick 263-2844 [w.redguy@verizon.net](mailto:w.redguy@verizon.net)
- Parise Whitley 683-6048 [3.sisters@earthlink.net](mailto:3.sisters@earthlink.net)
- Marsha Williams 265-4233 [williamsma@earthlink.net](mailto:williamsma@earthlink.net)
- Ann Wimberley 264-5379 [afwim@yahoo.com](mailto:afwim@yahoo.com)
- Lois Wythe 263-8038

Reach out and email or call someone each week! as of 8/5/05