

The Garden Gate



August 2010

Please contribute to The Garden Gate. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome. For questions or comments please email zbolton@gmail.com or call 208.264.1210.

President's Note

Dear Master Gardeners,

Its August...the sun is out, flowers are in full bloom, and vegetables are ready for picking. No matter whether your garden is large or small I hope you are enjoying the season!



As I look to the end of the month and towards the fall I start to think what I might do to prepare for the winter and spring. I borrowed the following lists from backyardgardener.com and I thought you might find it useful as well.

Zone 3

- Sow seeds of wildflowers, spring-blooming annuals and fall veggies
- Lift, divide and transplant perennials
- Plant hardy Oriental and Asiatic lilies
- Aerate, dethatch and fertilize the lawn
- Start moving houseplants and other tender plants indoors to acclimatize
- Pick herbs to dry for winter soups, stews and baking
- Order trees and shrubs now for fall planting
- Plan ahead for an extended harvest by building or buying a cold frame
- Blanch tomatoes for freezing and canning by boiling them for just a few minutes and slipping off the skins
- Order spring bulbs to force indoors

Zone 4

- Lift, divide and transplant perennials
- Order peonies for fall planting
- Divide and transplant bearded iris
- Start moving houseplants and other tender plants indoors to acclimatize
- Enjoy a case of the late summer "blues" with a palette of aconitum, caryopteris, fall asters and reblooming iris in your planting schemes

- Blanch tomatoes for freezing and canning by boiling them for just a few minutes and slipping off the skins
- Plant fall-blooming crocus and colchicum for late-season flowering
- Prepare beds for planting bulbs and divide any existing bulbs that might be overcrowded
- Build up weather resistance of trees and shrubs with deep waterings now throughout the fall
- Look forward to something different next spring: try alliums in your bulb garden

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the BCMGA please do not hesitate to contact me.

Zoe M. Bolton, President
zbolton@gmail.com
 264-1210



Agent's Corner

It's Fair Time!

This is the time of year when all the gardens are in full swing – and so are Master gardener activities.

The **Learning Garden** is looking fantastic again, and there are many people who visit it. This year, we had a problem with diamondback moth in the cabbage. That's OK, when things go "wrong" in the garden it serves as a moment of discovery for all of us. Thanks to all who have contributed to it this year. I encourage those working in the plant clinic to take some time to see what is going on in the garden, and then bring plant clinic clients out into it to interact. One of the best ways to learn about gardening is to see other gardens.

The **Bonner County Fair booth** will be in line with the theme "Fiesta at the Fair" by having the slogan "Fiesta la Tierra Rica" or "Celebrate the Rich Earth". I am certain a very good effort will be made to match last year's multiple awards. Whatever the outcome, this is a real opportunity for master Gardeners to reach the public. I encourage everyone to participate and reach out to participants with your knowledge.

The **informational booths** at the area farmers markets have been a success. I see this as a real opportunity to reach out to the community with general information on a wide variety of topics. I see a real opportunity to expand this program and to have a presence at many events throughout the County.

The **home hort classes** have a very promising lineup again this fall. Among the subjects being offered are Soil Prep, Composting, Garden Insects and Landscaping with Native Plants. Look for the program and consider helping out to make it a success!

Mike





Farmers Market *Mole Problem Reported*

Under the leadership of Janae Dale, the BCMGA has been working the Sandpoint Farmer's Market one Saturday a month to respond to gardening questions from the general public. Janae reports a high number of requests on how to deal with an overabundance of moles this season. The following article was posted by Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension. A more indepth article (pdf) entitled *Wildlife Damage Management Fact Sheet Series – Moles* can be found at:
<http://www.peopleandwildlife.org.uk/crmanuals/Moles.pdf>

If you too have had a request for the eradication of moles you might find these two articles helpful.

Moles

First, the good news. Moles in your lawn and garden do NOT eat plants or bulbs. In fact, they are often blamed for the work of mice, voles, squirrels, or skunks. Moles eat only insects, primarily dining on grubs, some insects, and earthworms. They actually help to reduce the population of Japanese beetles. Moles are territorial and solitary animals, and need a large territory in which to forage for enough food to survive. (It needs to eat its own weight in insects daily.) One mole may tunnel 200 feet in a 24-hour period, making tunnels just under the soil surface. (They also maintain deep tunnels that are their more permanent thoroughfares.) So, the homeowner struggling with mole damage may have only one mole to catch or repel - but that mole can do a lot of damage in the meantime.

Mole control is not an exact science and there are no easy answers, but alternatives range from persistently stamping down tunnels to traps and repellents. The

family cat is often an excellent mole hunter.

Other natural predators include owls, hawks, and skunks, so natural habitat nearby can help.

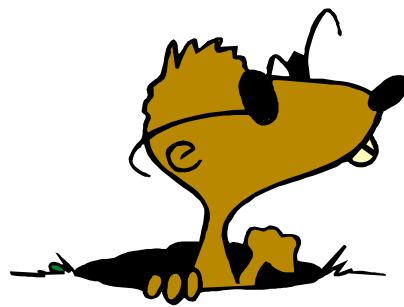
Traps are effective if the homeowner places the trap in an actively used tunnel and does not leave human scent on it. (To determine an active tunnel, stamp down the tunnels one evening and watch which one(s) pop up again by morning.)

In the past, Extension educators have suggested grub control to control moles. However, moles also eat earthworms - which are desired in a healthy soil - and the lack of grubs could cause the mole to dig even more tunnels looking farther for the food. Therefore, grub control is only recommended if indeed you have a grub problem, usually indicated if there are 8 to 12 grubs found per square foot of soil.

Many other home remedies have been promoted for mole control but most do not work. (Remember that moles eat insects, and just tunnel around other impediments.)

Finally, mole damage is most severe in late winter and early spring when the soil is moist. Sometimes improving lawn drainage decrease mole activity, and in any case the moles dig deeper or move on once summer comes and the lawn dries out between rains.

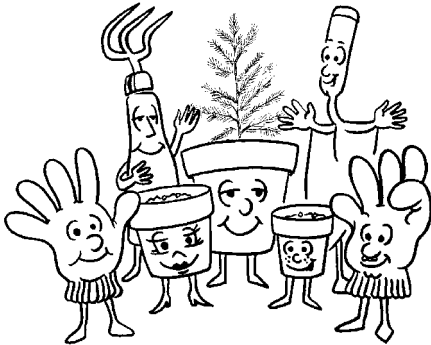
It is an individual decision whether or not you fight the mole problem, but patience and some tolerance are helpful.





Our Home Horticulture Committee has once again put together an excellent program for the Fall Home Horticulture series. The following lists this season's line-up. If you are interested in attending please fill out and mail the brochure below to the address listed.

2010 Home Horticulture Workshop Series



presented and coordinated by
Bonner County Master Gardener Association

All programs will be held from 6pm - 8pm
at the Bonner County Extension Office
4205 N. Boyer, Sandpoint, Idaho

Email inquiries to bonnermg@uidaho.edu

Dates and Topics

September 15 "Composting"

Presented by Extension Educator Mike Bauer

What is composting? How do you use compost? What can it be put on? Learn all this and more from the Master Composter. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

September 22 "Soil Preparation"

Presented by Certified Master Gardener Mikey Haven and Extension Educator Mike Bauer

The most important component of gardening is the soil. Learn how to get your garden soil ready this fall for planting in the spring. Find out about soil amendments and cover crops. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

September 29 "Raised Beds"

Presented by Certified Master Gardener Becky Reynolds

Come and learn how to make raised beds using various techniques and a variety of methods. Learn handy tips, dos and don'ts. Becky will teach you how to get started from the ground up. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

October 6 "Controlling Garden Insect Pests"

Presented by Tom Ekberg, Entomologist for Land Management in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Tom will help you learn to identify which insects in the garden are pests and give you some ideas of how to control them. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

October 20 "Growing Garlic"

Presented by Pat Van Volkinberg, the Potato Guru

Learn all of Pat's tips on growing the "Stinking Rose" here in north Idaho. Pat has been a long time seller of garlic and potatoes at the Farmer's Market in Sandpoint. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

October 27 "Simple Greenhouses and Cold Frames"

Presented by Marsha Semar, Gardener Extraordinaire

Marsha has people waiting in line for her produce at the Bonners Ferry Farmer's Market. Learn how she extends her growing season with simple, easy greenhouses and cold frames. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

November 3 "Landscaping with Native Plants"

Presented by John Hastings, co-owner of All Seasons Garden and Floral

John has been giving classes for several years on reducing lawn area and replacing some of that area with native plants. Learn what and where to plant and how to care for them. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**



Fees cover the cost of publications, materials, and the support of non-profit activities of the Bonner County Master Gardener Association.

Please check the classes you wish to attend and send with check. Class fee is \$10 per class or \$5 per class for Master Gardeners.

Class space is available on a first registered and paid basis.

**2010 Fall Home Horticulture Workshop Series
Registration Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

- | | | | |
|-----------|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| September | 15 | "Composting" | Presented by Extension Educator Mike Bauer |
| | 22 | "Soil Preparation" | Presented by Master Gardener Mikey Haven and Extension Educator Mike Bauer |
| | 29 | "Raised Beds" | Presented by Master Gardener Becky Reynolds |
| October | 6 | "Controlling Garden Insect Pests" | Presented by Tom Ekberg, Entomologist for Land Management of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho |
| | 20 | "Growing Garlic" | Presented by Pat Van Volkinberg |
| | 27 | "Simple Greenhouses and Cold Frames" | Presented by Marsha Semar, Gardener Extraordinaire |
| November | 3 | "Landscaping with Native Plants" | Presented by John Hastings, co-owner of All Seasons Garden and Floral |

\$_____ enclosed.

**Please make checks payable & return to:
Bonner County Master Gardener Association
PO Box 58
Ponderay, Idaho 83852-0058**



**IDAHO
MASTER GARDENER**
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION

Our next visit is at Ellie's Friday August 20th from 11am – 1pm. All are welcome and we look forward to another laughter filled event. Look for Ann's email for directions or call Anne at 263-2844 or Becky at 264-3214 (our co-chairs) for more information.



Sign up now for the Advanced Master Gardener class on Garden Insects, Good and Bad, being taught by Pat Munts of Spokane, on Friday, September 24, from 1 to 3 pm. Call or email Janae at 265-2205, dalejanae@gmail.com . This class is open to both Master Gardeners and 2010 Class.



ing questions and refer questions to the plant clinic if needed. It is also an opportunity for us to make the residents of Bonner County aware of our organization and to promote attendance for the U of I class of 2011.

Thanks for helping out with this important Master Gardener event.



Janae - 265-2205



BCMGA - Event Calendar
2010 Working Copy



Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Notes
Membership Meeting	8/4	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Sandpoint Farmers Market	8/14	Janae Dale	Information Booth
BCMGA Home Visit	8/14	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Becky Reynolds - Host
Hope Farmers Market	8/20		BCMGA Theme; 2-5:30pm
BCMGA Home Visit	8/20	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Ellie Lizotte – Host; 11am – 1pm
Bonner County Fair	8/24-8/28	Gail Locke	BC Fairgrounds
Yard Sale	8/27	Janae Dale	Lake Pend Oreille Alternative High School; 1005 N Boyer Ave
Membership Meeting	9/1	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Home Hort Class - Composting	9/15	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm-8pm
BCMGA Home Visit	9/18	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Barbara Moore - Host
Home Hort Class – Soil Preparation	9/22	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm-8pm
MG Class – Gardening Insects – Pat Munts	9/24	Janae Dale	Extension Office 1-3pm
Home Hort Class – Raised Beds	9/29	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm-8pm
Membership Meeting	10/6	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Home Hort Class – Controlling Garden Insects Pests	10/6	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm-8pm
Graduation/Recognition Reception	10/15		Sandpoint Community Center 5pm – 9pm
Home Hort Class – Growing Garlic	10/20	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm-8pm
Home Hort Class – Simple Greenhouses and Cold Frames	10/27	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm-8pm
Master Gardener Evaluation Meeting	10/28	Mike Bauer	Extension Office 9am-noon; open to all
Membership Meeting	11/3	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Home Hort Class – Landscaping with Native Plants	11/3	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm-8pm
Membership Meeting	12/1	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Holiday Reception	12/4		Sandpoint Community Center