

The Garden Gate

December 2004



Events at a Glance:

January 4: BCMGA Board meeting, 9 am Extension Office -all welcome

January 21: Winter Carnival Parade - 6:00 pm - please join us

Salutations

by Jan Rumore



A few days ago I read a new feature in the Spokesman Review recognizing the new and amazing Waterlife Discovery Center here in Bonner County. I thought, "Wow, we're part of that". So thank you Ann Wimberely for leading the way and drawing us into this project.

And then my thoughts followed naturally to all the willing, excellent volunteers in our MG organization, and the numerous new ventures we embraced, all of them worthy, some even inspiring!

I am grateful to all of you for your leadership and hard work.

And then my stream of consciousness flowed right into that *vision thing* - that view each of us has (often murky) of the future, and the paths we choose to achieve that vision.

On Monday, December 6th, our outgoing and incoming BCMGA Boards met at the Bonner county Extension Office to hash over the *vision thing* and the *mission thing* and outline our 2005 agenda. As always, we welcome input from all our MGs. So drop us a note or an email, and share your visions of where we should be headed and how we might best get there.

I have enjoyed being your President for the past year and thank each and every of you for helping to make it a very full, fun, and fulfilling year for the BCMGA. The organization is in excellent hands (or green thumbs) with Barb Moore as your President and I certainly look forward to another great year with this great group.



Winter Carnival Parade

Looking for a way to shake off the dark winter blues? Join us for the Parade of Lights on Friday, January 21 and begin a bright new year. We were honored with 3rd place last year and with your help we can up the ante this year. Decorating is always a festive time at Field Cobb's warm and toasty barn - the camaraderie and untangling of lights is not to be missed. This will happen a couple of days prior to the parade - you will be informed as to exactly when. On Friday, we assemble in the lot across from Merwyn's just before 6:00 pm. Bring your spirit and your smile - let 2005 begin.

PLANNING FOR 2005

Bob Wilson

Since it has been several years since we had a more formal planning session, and since we have added so many new projects over the past few years, I thought it was a good time to review what we are doing to see if it still meets our objectives. I was very pleased with the turnout for this session, with 2004 Board members, 2005 Board members and other interested Master Gardeners all showing up to participate.

We started by identifying the objectives we are trying to achieve with the Master Gardener program. Then we took a look at the activities we have been doing to see which ones met which objective. More importantly, we wanted to see if the program, taken as a whole, was meeting all of our objectives in a balanced way.

Eight program objectives were identified:

1. Education
2. Community service - providing a benefit to the community
3. Community involvement - being an integral part of the community
4. Promote gardening
5. Beautification
6. Social - sharing the experience with others who have a similar interest
7. Publicity
8. Fund raising

Taking a comprehensive look at the activities, it was agreed that our current list of activities meets these objectives in a thorough and balanced way. No activities were added or dropped from the list. However, for any activity to continue, there must be someone willing to take the lead on it. Our next planning exercise was to start filling some of these positions.

Many of the activities have a chair or co-chairs to lead them. However, many do not. Included in the newsletter is a list of those who have volunteered so far so you can see which ones are still seeking a leader. Please be aware that this is a work in progress. As more recertification forms are received, this will be updated. There are several projects that will need to get organized fairly soon, especially the Home and Garden Show exhibit and the Spring Plant Sale. As you can see, there is no shortage of people volunteering to help with these projects, which makes leading a project a lot easier.

So, for those of you who haven't sent in your recertification forms yet, please get these off to me as soon as possible. It looks like we have another active year ahead, and I am looking forward to working with all of you.

*2005 Master Gardener Volunteer Projects * Committee Chair*

Garden Tour: Barb Moore*, Penny Barton, Mary Bruhjell, Rae Charlton, Denise Gulman, Sylvia Hirning, Bill Lamson, Pat Moss, Gail Swan, Marsha Williams, Ann Wimberely

Spring Plant Sale: Penny Barton, Mary Bruhjell, Janae Dale, Brenda Fletcher, Sylvia Hirning, Bill Lamson, Joyce Lane, Barb Moore, Pat Moss, Judith Pagliasotti, Gail Swan

Bonner Mall Home & Garden Show: Penny Barton, Mary Bruhjell, Rae Charlton, Janae Dale, Sylvia Hirning, Bill Lamson, Joyce Lane, Gail Swan, Ann Wimberely

County Fair Booth: Penny Barton*, Pat Moss, Mary Bruhjell, Rae Charlton, Janae Dale, Denise Gulman, Bill Lamson, Joyce Lane, Colleen MacGregor, Gail Swan

Home Hort Series: Don Childress*, Valle Novak*, Janae Dale, Barb Moore, Marsha Williams

Garden Raffle: Penny Barton, Pat Moss, Gail Swan

Bake Sale: Bill Lamson*, Pat Moss*, Mary Bruhjell, Janae Dale, Denise Gulman, Sylvia Hirning, Joyce Lane, Judith Pagliasotti, Gail Swan, Ann Wimberely

Extension Office Landscaping: Don Childress*, Bill Lamson*, Denise Gulman, Ann Kieser, Joyce Lane, Barb Moore, Gail Swan

Downtown Sandpoint Beautification: Jan Rumore*, Penny Barton, Rae Charlton, Janae Dale, Denise Gulman, Sylvia Hirning, Bill Lamson, Joyce Lane, Colleen MacGregor, Gail Swan

4th of July Parade: Penny Barton, Mary Bruhjell, Rae Charlton, Denise Gulman, Joyce Lane, Gail Swan

Winter Carnival Parade: Don Childress*, Jan Rumore*, Penny Barton, Mary Bruhjell, Bill Lamson, Joyce Lane, Pat Moss

Photography/Scrapbook: Joyce Lane*, Susan Daffron

Plant Clinic Committee: Gail Swan, Marsha Williams

Membership Committee: Gail Swan*, Penny Barton, Brenda Fletcher

New MG Training Committee: Bob Wilson*, Janae Dale, Joyce Lane, Barb Moore, Gail Swan

Additional Activities:

Lake Pend Oreille HS Greenhouse/Priest River HS Greenhouse- *Barbara Moore (co-chair/Priest River)

Landscaping at the Community Cancer Services Bldg. - *Marsha Williams

Waterlife Discovery Center - Mickinnick Trail (INPS): *Ann Wimberely

Healing Garden: * Colleen MacGregor

INPS Arboretum: * Bill Lamson

Habitat for Humanity: *Janae Dale

Bonner Co. Gardening Fact Sheets: Janae Dale (eurasian milfoil, purple loosestrife), Susan Daffron

Weed/Insect Collection: Penny Barton, Judith Pagliasotti

Write articles for newsletter/newspaper: Susan Daffron, Pat Moss

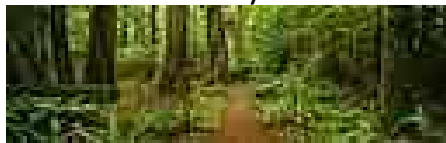
4-H/Youth garden projects: Ann Wimberely

Teach classes, public speaking:

Website: Susan Daffron

***This is just a preliminary list - there is room for all of you to join - please do.*

Friends of the Mickinnick Trail request Master Gardeners' Help



by Ann Wimberely

The Forest Service, with support from the City of Sandpoint and Bonner County, has begun work on the Mickinnick Trail on Greenhorn Mountain above the Fair Grounds. Land for the trail was donated by Nicky Pleass. This will be the closest hiking trail to Sandpoint and will open in the summer of 2005. It offers panoramic views of the city, Lake Pend Oreille, the Selle Valley and the Cabinet Mountains from various altitudes. The trailhead is located on Woodland Drive, which is a left turn off Schweitzer Mountain Road one half mile past the railroad track. The city has begun construction of the trailhead, including a berm. The Friends of the Mickinnick will help in maintaining the trail. They have requested help from the Native Plant Society and the Master Gardeners in planting the trailhead area with native plants. Work will begin this spring. Jan Griffiths and Nicky Pleass will do a brief presentation on the Trail at the next board meeting on Jan 4. Contact Ann Wimberely to volunteer (264-5379, afwim@yahoo.com)

Editors note: This is the last Garden Gate I will edit - I have so enjoyed being a part of BCMGA, getting to know many of you; learning and 'growing' in garden skills. I wish extend my appreciation to all of you who have contributed to the newsletter, Presidents Michelle Reichelt and Jan Rumore with their monthly columns, Patti Speelmon who finalizes all, to those who have given me interesting reads and tips and of course, to Bob Wilson who hoes the row and keeps us all informed. It is with great pleasure to be

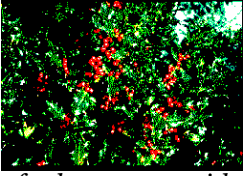
Introducing . . . Brenda Fletcher

Welcome Brenda, new Editor of our gardening and the natural world. She created farm. You can often find her delectable wares Coldwell Banker Resort Realty. I wish her a



Garden Gate. Brenda, Class of 2000 - has a love for Pack River Organics - a certified organic herb and garlic at Yoke's. She somehow finds time to sell real estate with most enjoyable time bringing you the Garden Gate.

Legends of Christmas Plants



The Holly tree (*Ilex aquifolium*) as a symbol of goodwill, peace, health and happiness is one of the sacred trees of Wicca/Witchcraft, but its most common association is as a Christmas seasonal decoration. In the barren whiteness of winter against the frost and snow, Holly forms one of the most striking objects in the woodlands. Its glossy green leaves and clusters of scarlet/red berries, add a flash of color to trees without leaves, cheering the hearts of weary wonderers. Many of the old Christmas Carols are full of allusions to Holly.

Folklore has Holly associated with the spirit of vegetation and the waning forces of nature, which are represented through the mythical figure of the Holly King. The Holly King rules nature during its decline from mid-summer through to mid-winter, when at the winter solstice he is defeated in ritual combat by his brother the Oak King, who then claims and rules the following seasons. The Holly King is often depicted as an old man dressed in winter clothing wearing a wreath of Holly on his head and walking with the aid of a staff made from a Holly branch. Traditionally at Christmas time a man was dressed up and covered in Holly branches and leaves, and a woman was likewise dressed in Ivy. Together they would parade through the streets hand in hand leading the old year into the new. This is symbolic of the fertile interaction of the goddess and god during nature's decline and the darkest time of the year, from which the new light of the sun-god springs forth encouraging fresh growth and renewed vegetation during the coming new year. Today the Holly King has been stylized by the figure of Santa Claus.



The Poinsettia came to be associated with Christmas from a Mexican Legend. After her mother has an accident, a young girl, Lucida, is unable to finish weaving a blanket to give the Christ-child at the village's Christmas procession. An old woman convinces her that anything she can give will be welcome. By a miracle the weeds she takes to the church are transformed to the beautiful flower, the Poinsettia.



one of the
His queen
and was
credited with instituting marriage.

Throughout the ages ivy has been regarded as the emblem of fidelity, and of old, Greek priests would present a wreath of ivy to newly married persons. Today the ivy is still commonly associated with weddings, and is carried or worn by bridesmaids. The custom of decorating houses and churches with ivy at Christmas, was once forbidden by the Christian Church, on account of its pagan associations.



Historians trace countless roots that grew into our present day custom of using a **Christmas tree**. Legends tell of the decorated tree in winter celebrations, long before there was a Christmas. In late December, Egyptians brought palm branches into their homes, as a symbol of growing things. To celebrate Saturnalia, Romans trimmed trees with trinkets and topped them with an image of their sun god. To celebrate the winter solstice, Druid sorcerers hung golden apples and lit candles on oak trees. In the middle ages, the feast of Adam and Eve was held on December 24th and its symbol was a fir tree hung with red apples, which was called a Paradise tree.

It is generally agreed that the use of an evergreen tree, as part of the Christian Christmas, started 400 years ago in Germany and by the 19th century had spread to most of northern Europe and America.

To all a most Joyous Holiday

and a Bountiful New Year