

The Garden Gate

November/December 2006



Edited by Debbie Crain (crain3610@hotmail.com)

Master Gardener Class of 2006

Shirley Barksdale	Jan Griffitts	Blaine Harvey
Gina Harvey	Linda Kirchmann	Charlene Blowers
Bonnie Cavanaugh	Julie Cooke	Martha Fortunati
Chris McIntosh	Willie Millard	Jane Roach
Jim Seyfert	Deanna Vick	

2006 Special Awards

Volunteer Hours

New Master Gardeners

Most Plant Clinic Hours.....	Martha Fortunati	35
Most Community Service	Linda Kirchmann	31
Most Education	Gina & Blaine Harvey (tie)	22.5
Most Total Hours	Jan Griffitts	83

Certified Master Gardeners

Most Plant Clinic Hours.....	Jennifer Costich-Thompson	22
Most Community Service	Penny Barton	80.5
Most Education	Joyce Lane	19
Most Total Hours	Ann Keiser	113

Special Recognition Awards

Ann Keiser	Teaching Garden
Ann Warwick.....	Plant-a-Row
Sue Lopez	Leadership

Christmas Party

Saturday December 9 at 6:00 pm at the Brown House! Bring a dish to share. Soft drinks provided, bring your own wine or beer. Dinner will be followed by a white elephant gift exchange. If you would like to participate, bring an inexpensive new or slightly used gift. Must be wrapped. See you there!

Plant A Row

It was a very successful first year of the Plant A Row project. 4500 pounds of fresh produce was donated to the Bonner Food Bank. Ann Warwick did a magnificent job getting the word out. We look forward to even more donations next year!

Master Gardener Interviews by Chris McIntosh

Ann Warwick (MG class of '96):

What got you interested in becoming a Master Gardener in the first place?

⊗ I was raised on a farm in eastern Washington, where, at that time, we grew most of our food, as well as crops. As an adult, I've gardened wherever I've been, with an emphasis on vegetables for the table. In 1991, I started pressing flowers, then had to start growing a variety of flowers to use in my art work. My friends didn't particularly like me picking all their best and favorite posies to press. This led to a severe flower addiction, which just keeps getting worse. I collect plants now just to see if they will survive here, or for any other reason.

⊗ Bonner County has been home since 1974. Back then, it was a pretty bucolic place, and there were no jobs in my field (social work), so my life partner, Jim Furlong, and I worked in the woods, doing about anything you can do with a chainsaw and toned muscles. We continued with that for some 15 years. It was a great life, working outdoors, enjoying nature.

What book, publication, magazine, person, etc. has continued to inspire you?

⊗ I wanted to know more about growing plants of all kinds and some of the science behind it, so took the MG course in 1996, when I had a boss who would let me take time off to attend. There are a couple of publications that always inspire me: The Garden Gate is a practical magazine with good ideas for any garden. Penny Black's book, Pressed Flowers always has some wonderful new idea for me to explore. Also, Loie DeLaVergne, Valle Novak, Penny Barton, Pat Munts, and many other gardeners are great role models for achieving more in my garden.

What has been your biggest challenge in your own world of gardening? And what has been your greatest achievement?

⊗ My biggest challenge is definitely my ongoing love-hate relationship with wildlife, particularly deer. Living in a cold spot has led to my trying many season extending devices. I'm not sure if I've had any really great achievements. My involvement with Plant A Row has been very rewarding, in that this community took the concept and ran with it, helping many local families have more nutritious meals to eat.

What else are you interested in and would like to share with the group?

⊗ I'm involved with the farmers market in Sandpoint, belong to a dynamic garden club in Spokane, The Inland Empire Gardeners, and belong to the local garden club in Sandpoint. Getting to know other gardeners and learning from them is tremendously interesting to me.

If you watch TV, what program(s) do you never miss?

⊗ I haven't had a TV since 1973, when I watched every single minute of the Watergate hearings, a marathon session. Jim and I decided we could live a more productive and creative life without the tube, and we haven't ever had the urge to resume watching it on a regular basis.

Chris McIntosh (MG class of '06)

What got you interested in becoming a Master Gardener in the first place?

⊗ We moved here in March '02 and for the first two years, I did nothing with the blank landscape that was my yard because we were in the throws of construction around the house. So when the time came to actually plant something, I didn't really know where to start. My neighbor, Pat Moss, introduced me to the idea of becoming a MG and I thought, knowledge is key! I was thrilled to be accepted into the program. I knew if Pat were a member, it would have to be fun!

What book, publication, magazine, person, etc. has continued to inspire you?

⊗ I read The Garden Gate and enjoy Birds and Blooms for ideas. The book I refer to time and time again is the Sunset Western Garden Book. But I get the most inspiration from everyone of the MG's – I always pickup a tidbit or two.

What has been your biggest challenge in your own world of gardening? And what has been your greatest achievement?

⊗ Learning about gardening in a climate with four seasons. And our backyard is nothing but a big sand pit. I feel like my greatest achievement was seeing my first raised flowerbed return in all of its glory last spring – I must have done something right. Such simple pleasures!

What else are you interested in and would like to share with the group?

⊗ I worked and volunteered for a humane society for 13 years in their development department (raising the \$\$\$ needed to keep the non-profit going) and the last two years, ran their Pet-Assisted Therapy program (with 70 volunteers). I can't hardly make it through a conversation without saying spay and neuter! My husband and I have 5 fur kids – two dogs and three cats.

If you watch TV, what program(s) do you never miss?

⊗ Ok, ok I watch TV – and not just PBS!! I do enjoy the History Channel and The Food Network, but I admit I watch these shows most often: House, Gardening by the Yard, and The Daily Show/Colbert Report.

Elections

The Nominating Committee has chosen candidates for the 2007 MG Board. All candidates have indicated a willingness to serve in the positions they are nominated for. A ballot for the MG Board is attached. Please fill it out and return it to the Extension Office on or before Dec. 11, 2006. Emailed ballots will be accepted however you cannot just click on the box you want to choose. To fill out the ballot electronically, open it in MS Word. Delete the box next to the name of the preferred candidate, then type in an "X" in its place. Then send it as an email attachment to rwilson@uidaho.edu. Additional ballots will be available at the Christmas Party.

Recertification

Its time once again to commit yourself to another fun-filled year of Master Gardening. I have attached the recertification agreement and the volunteer activities form. These need to be completed and returned to the Extension Office by Dec. 31.

Please note, I have included one more project in the listing - Website committee. Susie Daffron has agreed to continue to maintain the site, but could use some help with new content and keeping everything up-to-date. We need to make sure everything we are doing is included on the website.