

The Garden Gate



Bonner County

Master
Gardeners



December 2010

Please contribute to The Garden Gate. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome. For questions or comments please email lauriebrown54@gmail.com or call 208.263.7108. When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.

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season is upon us and I sincerely hope you have time to enjoy it with family and friends.

Wishing you the very Best Holiday Season and I will see you next year!

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

President's Note

Dear Master Gardeners,

This past month has been filled with meetings, making plans for the upcoming year. The participation of the membership is expanding and I am so grateful for the growth. The expanded participation brings with it new ideas on how we serve the public; from educational opportunities, to funding, to mentoring the current membership.

The discussions at the meetings have been lively and the camaraderie gives us a chance to know our fellow members and to learn from their knowledge and expertise. I encourage all of you to get involved. Upcoming meeting notices are included in the newsletter under the Event Calendar. Don't be shy to contact the Chairperson if you want to attend or just show up. The more the merrier!

Speaking of Merry...that takes me to the Holiday Season. It is my favorite time of year! The



December Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:
http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Month/zonedec01.html



Zone 3

- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom
- Water living Christmas trees (ice cubes work well)
- Prechill tulips and hyacinths for forcing indoors

Seeking Members for the Community Service – Beautification Project



One of our opportunities for public service related to the 12 hours of non-plant clinic volunteer hours is to identify and implement a single beautification project in Bonner County sponsored by the BCMGA. This is an opportunity to develop a currently undeveloped landscape and something we could put our name on as a project supported by the BCMGA. Specifically this project is to design, acquire plant material, plant and maintain (in the short term) a piece of property that would be enjoyed by the citizens of Bonner County. Some of the suggestions for review thus far include:

Zone 4

- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water living Christmas trees (ice cubes work well)
- Prechill tulips and hyacinths for forcing indoors

Zone 5

- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water living Christmas trees (ice cubes work well)
- Prechill tulips and hyacinths for forcing indoors



- Improving a section of the Arboretum
- Working with the city, county or parks department in improving a public area
- Working with the highway department in selecting a section of the new highway for beautification
- Identifying a section of the Lake Trail for landscaping
- Landscape the front of the Bonner County Fair Grounds building
- Reaching out to the community centers in Priest River and Hope

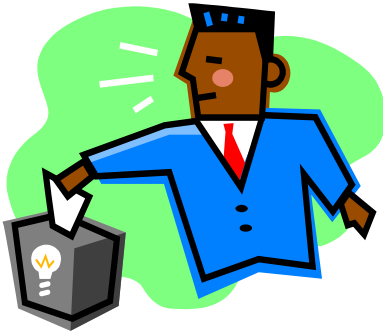
This email is seeking volunteers for a committee that would review these and other options and make a recommendation to the board as to the project we would like to support for 2011. Funding for the project has been reviewed by the Funding Use Committee and approved by the board.

For all of you that are interested in a "hands in dirt" beautification project for the county please don't be shy...sign up now. You can email me at zbolton@gmail.com or call 264-1210 to sign up for the committee. For those of you that have already contacted me to voice your interest in participating, thank you very much! Our first meeting is set for

Saturday, January 15th, 1pm at the Extension Office. See you all there.



Great Suggestions for Improving the Program Lead to Great Ideas for Implementation!



The membership survey contained lots of good ideas for the program...thanks to all that contributed! The comments have been broken into three categories; plant clinic, education and community volunteer projects. This article is in response to the suggestions made for the community volunteer projects and overall comments with a focus on upcoming changes in support of those suggestions.

How could the volunteer programs/projects be improved?

- Expand activities to outlying areas (i.e. Hope or Priest River)

There are several ways in which we can earn time against the 12 non-plant clinic Master Gardener volunteer hours; informational booths, organizing educational programs, writing articles or individual projects as approved by Mike Bauer.

If outlying areas have an annual festival at which booths are set-up or a reoccurring event such as a Farmer's Market we could set up an informational booth at one of those events to provide general education to the public. This could be coordinated and facilitated by those individuals living in the outlying areas. Contact Mike Bauer at 263-8511 or mbauer@uidaho.edu if you have recommendations for outlying events.

Regarding educational programs, if a class topic of interest is identified for the general public and if a

venue can be identified in an outlying area we could take that class to that area. Volunteer hours could be earned by the individual who locates and manages the process. This benefits both the remote Master Gardener and citizens of that community. Contact Mike Bauer at 263-8511 or mbauer@uidaho.edu with suggestions for class topics.

Writing articles for local periodicals or the Garden Gate are also deemed an individual project after approval by the Extension Educator. This can be done from the comfort of your home. Based on the distribution of the periodical it could have a wide reaching audience. Please contact Mike Bauer at 263-8511 or mbauer@uidaho.edu with your article ideas.

Finally, if there is a specific opportunity to provide education or other services to a group in an outlying area, your efforts in assisting in that could be a part of the approved volunteer hour's commitment. Contact Mike Bauer at the Extension Office for pre-approval.

Hopefully these suggestions for greater outreach will assist our membership who lives in outlying areas. Of course this does not preclude you from working on any MG projects regardless of location.

- Use mail and phone for those without access to the internet

The committees will make every effort to plan far enough into the future to get announcements into the Garden Gate on a timely basis.

The Mentoring Committee will set up a phone tree to contact non-internet members when late announcements occur.

- Expand membership participation/have term limits for committees/solicit new leadership from newer members

The Mentoring Committee is putting together an outreach program to inform the membership about association activities. Newer members will be contacted on a regular basis introducing them to the activity and inviting them to participate. Once we have increased member participation we can discuss term limits.

The annual sign-up for activities on the Volunteer List will be used as a resource to reach out to all of the individuals who indicated an interest in any one of the activities.

- Improve project communication break-downs, especially scheduling

The finalized schedule will be submitted via email to all members so that they are aware of their assigned day and time for attendance. Non-internet members on the schedule will be telephoned for confirmation of their assignment. If time permits the schedule will be posted in the Garden Gate.

- Reduce the length of assignments (i.e. four hours in the Fair Booth is too long)

Every attempt will be made to individualize the schedule according to individual member preferences.

- Need flexibility in the schedule to accommodate working members

Many of the events, especially information booths, are outside the control of the association (i.e. Home and Garden Show, Farmers Market, County Fair). Hopefully there is enough flexibility in those programs to accommodate all members.

Regarding Continuing Education, the committee will attempt to add flexibility to the program by offering multiple classes or varying the date and time of classes.

Regarding the scheduling of committee meetings, the committee chair will ask the volunteers from the annual Volunteer List what day and time work best for them and attempt to balance the meetings around those preferences.

- Give all members an opportunity to facilitate Home Horticulture classes

The Home Horticulture committee will reach out to all members who signed up on the annual Volunteer List to inquire about availability for facilitating a class.

- Require all new members to do 30 minutes at each project for familiarization

This was discussed by the committee and decided that this request was onerous. In lieu of requiring 30 minutes at each project it was suggested that the Mentors from the Mentoring Committee should familiarize new members with the various projects.

- Call upon knowledgeable members to give more presentations

The Continuing Education Committee will offer a program in January to teach public speaking skills and will promote expanded opportunities for public speaking.

- The following list of suggestions were reviewed and it was agreed that all of them would be implemented
 - List the Board Members and Committee Chairs in the Garden Gate
 - List all events in the Garden Gate
 - Send the Membership Meeting Agenda to all members
 - Place Membership Meeting Minutes in the Garden Gate

All in all, there is added emphasis placed on working with the annually submitted Volunteer List. If there are events you would like to sign up for that you had not previously indicated please contact Ann Warwick at w.redguy@frontier.com or 263-2844. Alternately as work parties are announced in the Garden Gate please don't hesitate contacting the committee chair and expressing your interest to participate. This association is successful because of the many volunteers who add their time and energy to the effort.

Happy Holidays to Everyone!



Our annual Holiday Party was held on December 4th at the Coldwater Creek Atrium. The turnout was awesome, the food superb! It was a busy event with a pre-function, slide show of the year in review, holiday music filling the air and of course the annual gift exchange.

Thanks to everyone that helped make it be such a great success; Robin Beams, Bob Blair (and Cindy), Janae Dale (and John), Lynn Pietz (and Dave), Valerie Ripley, Ann Warwick and to anyone else I may have missed.

The following pictures will give you just a taste of the fun:



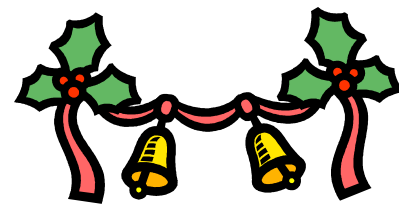
Jay Baker – feeling lucky



Jane Roach stealing a gift – one of Howie's homemade baskets



Ellie Lizotte – giving thumbs up



BCMGA - Event Calendar



Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Notes
Membership Meeting	12/1/10	Zoe Bolton, zbolton@gmail.com or 264-1210	Extension Office 9am
Holiday Reception	12/4/10	Zoe Bolton – see above	Coldwater Creek Cafeteria
Continuing Education Committee Meeting	12/18/10	Janae Dale, dalejanae@gmail.com or 265-2205	Extension Office 9am
Mentoring Program Committee Meeting	12/18/10	Lynn Pietz, lynnpietz@hotmail.com or 265-3563	Extension Office 10am
Membership Meeting	1/5/11	Zoe Bolton – see above	Extension Office 9am
Continuing Ed Class – Teaching How to Teach – Part One	1/11/11	Janae Dale – see above	Extension Office 9:30am - noon
Continuing Ed Class – Teaching How to Teach – Part One (repeated)	1/15/11	Janae Dale – see above	Extension Office 9:30am
Beautification Community Service Project Committee Meeting	1/15/11	Zoe Bolton – see above	Extension Office 1pm
Continuing Ed Class – Teaching How to Teach – Part Two	1/18/11	Janae Dale – see above	Extension Office 9:30am
Continuing Ed Class – Teaching How to Teach – Part Two (repeated)	1/22/11	Janae Dale – see above	Extension Office 9:30am

Teach to Teach is scheduled for (1st session) 1/11 & 1/15-9:30-12 (Tues & Sat)

(2nd session) 1/18 & 1/22-9:30-12 (Tues & Sat)

you can sign up for both Tues classes, or both Sat classes or one of each as room available sign up with Janae or call the extension office.

There will be 8 classes in the Home Hort series this spring; instructors are still being lined up.

