



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

December 2011

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 When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.

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President's Note

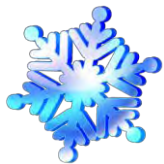
Dear Gardeners,

May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;

The spirit of Christmas which is peace;

The heart of Christmas which is love.

~Ada V. Hendricks



I want to begin by thanking you for all of your support over the past twelve months. It has been a year filled with spectacular events...all due to the efforts of you, the members of this association.

As I review the projects completed in 2012 I take pride in all that we have accomplished. It reflects a strong adherence to our mission of education, community service and camaraderie. We provided education via the Home and Garden Show, Home Hort series, Farmers Market, Garden Tour, Bonner County Fair, Continuing Education classes and School Gardens. Community service was delivered via the building of the City Baskets, maintenance of the Mickinnick Trailhead and Healing Garden and our beautification project at the Bonner County Fairgrounds. Camaraderie was promoted with the potlucks held at many of our member homes not to mention all of the events mentioned above. It was a productive and beneficial year for both our members and the community we serve.

As the year comes to a close it is time for the 2011 board to step down and pass the baton to the incoming board of 2012.

The election results are final. The voting was unanimous! The list of 2012 Officers and Board members follows:

Mikey Haven	President
Penny Barton	Vice President
Gail Swan	Secretary
Bob Blair	Treasurer

Board Members:
Jon Bair
Jenna Bertus
Howie Fennimore
Linda Gjording
Kim Peterson
Becky Reynolds
Jan Wilfert

It has been my pleasure to serve you as president and I look forward to supporting the efforts of the association in 2012. In the meantime, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

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

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

“Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells”...Everybody Sing!

On December 10th we held our annual Holiday Party with great merriment, attendance, conversation, food, decorations, slide show, music, and gift exchange – an overall great time was had by all! It was a wonderful time to celebrate the 2011 accomplishments of the association and to wish everyone in attendance joyous holidays.

Special thanks go to Robin Beams for once again facilitating the venue, Bob Blair for creating the slide show, and Penny Barton for her spectacular decorations!



Say The Name Of That Plant

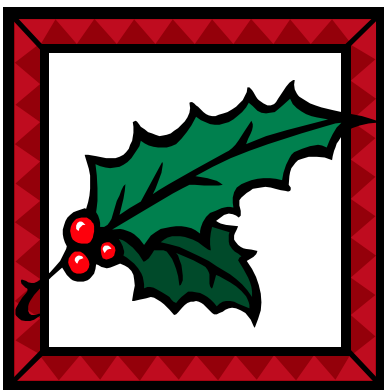
How do you pronounce the name of that plant? I know what the plant is, but I don't know how to say the name correctly. How do you pronounce these Latin words, anyway? Fret no longer.

To listen to the correct pronunciation of most plant names, go to <http://www.finegardening.com/pguide/pronunciation-guide-to-botanical-latin.aspx> . It is written phonetically and said correctly for you. Try it! Check "clematis" and "heuchera".

ZOE As President

The end of this year marks the end of Zoe's two years as president of our group. She was the final president of the Bonner County Master Gardeners Association and the first president as we morphed into the Bonner County Gardeners Association. It was a difficult, emotional, and confusing time for our group. We came through it all a better, stronger organization than before. And for that, we can be grateful to Zoe and her skills for communicating, negotiating, and organizing. Her cool head prevailed and if she got emotional, she rarely showed it. Although she has a calm exterior, she is tenacious, and when she takes on something, she gives it her all and stays with it until it is done. She sees the big picture and doesn't get bogged down with short term (picky?) issues. None of us can begin to know the amount of time, energy, and effort she put forth, but we all agree, no one else could have gotten it done. Thank you, Zoe.

Janae Dale



Winter Potlucks, Anyone?

Would anyone like to host a winter potluck/snowshoeing party this winter? Visiting gardens seems a bit out of season, but that's no reason to stop the social events, is it? We can enjoy the snow, have fun, or just visit with each other. If you would like to host such an event, just email Ann Warwick (w.redguy@frontier.com) or call me at 263-2844. Becky Reynolds and I will bring the BCGA party kit. Everyone else can bring something to eat and snowshoes or cross country skis or just some good wintertime congeniality.

Unclaimed Clothing

Many of you contributed clothing for the Bonner County Fair booth which was greatly appreciated! There are three items of clothing not yet collected; two corduroy jackets and a pair of overalls. Please contact Zoe at zbolton@gmail.com or by phone at 264.1210 to claim your items.

Continuing Education – GMO Class

The term GM foods or GMOs (genetically-modified organisms) is most commonly used to refer to crop plants created for human or animal consumption using the latest molecular biology techniques. These plants have been modified in the laboratory to enhance desired traits such as increased resistance to herbicides or improved nutritional content. Dr. Joseph C. Kuhl from the University of Idaho presented a class on GMOs to the membership on October 13th. His enthusiasm regarding the topic along with the education received made for a very interesting and informative class according to Janae Dale. Getting just a little knowledge frequently leads to a craving for more. We hope to have him back to continue our education on this topic and how it applies to meeting the projected food requirements for an ever increasing population. Special thanks go to Jay Baker and his family for providing overnight accommodations for Dr. Kuhl. Their willingness to open their home is greatly appreciated. It certainly assists in minimizing the travel costs to the association.

Continuing Education – Committee Meeting

It is time to start planning our continuing education classes for 2012. There will be a kick-off meeting on January 9th at 1pm at our offices at 804 Airport Way. At this meeting we will discuss topics of interest for 2012 classes. If you have attended the planning meetings in the past, or even if you haven't, you are encouraged to attend and assist in developing the curriculum for the upcoming year. See you on the 9th!

Membership Committee

A new membership committee has been formed to review the parameters for new and ongoing membership. The BCGA has received numerous requests from various outside individuals interested in joining the association. Criteria need to be developed. We are reviewing educational materials that could be used in conjunction with other membership requirements.

The first meeting for the Membership Committee will be held on Monday January 9th at 10:00am at the BCGA offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint. Hope to see you there.

If you are interested in participating on this committee please contact Zoe Bolton at zbolton@gmail.com or by phone at 264.1210.



BCGA Library

The association has built a respectable gardening library over the past six months covering a wide range of topics. In addition to books that have been purchased by the association we have received generous donations from some of our membership.

The membership is welcome to check books out from the library. There is a list of available books in alphabetical order based on both the name of the book and again based on author name. The list is available in the office. Feel free to swing by the office Monday through Friday, 8am – 5pm to review the list of books and to check out any that you may be interested in. The internal office door is unlocked so that you can have access to the library. If you have not been to the office just ask Becky at the front desk to direct you to our office. The check out sheet is hanging on the book shelf. Please identify yourself and the books you have taken on the check list. All that we ask is that you not check out the book for longer than 30 days. Happy reading!



BCGA Membership Minutes – December 7, 2011

Present: Ellie Lizotte, Jay D. Baker, Penny Barton, Becky Reynolds, Gail Swan, Ann Warwick, Janae Dale, Howie Fennimore, Jon Bair, Kim Peterson, Linda Gjording, Jan Wilfert, Mikey Haven, Jenna Bertus, Zoe Bolton, Lynn Pietz.

Zoe Bolton called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The November minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: \$4276.60 currently. Zoe commented that this is a nice amount to carry into the next year. Last year at this time, we had \$4274.

Committee reports:

Continuing Education, Janae Dale, chair: Janae discussed the opportunity to purchase a DVD from the Master Gardener program in Washington State, with a cost of \$150. We have our own DVD from The University of Idaho, but this one is more complete. The question was raised about whether we could print hard copies of materials from it, should we purchase it. We are aware that we cannot reproduce it onto another DVD. Also, now that we do not represent U of I, we do not know if we would be allowed to reproduce anything from the disc that we all have now. Answers to these questions can be brought to the next meeting before we make a decision about purchasing the new DVD.

Zoe Bolton agreed to chair this committee for 2012.

BCGA Potlucks, Ann Warwick & Becky Reynolds: Penny agreed to host a potluck in 2012, and this is the only one scheduled so far.

Old Business:

Library update: Janae reported that a group met at the office, went through the books, and Jenna catalogued them. There is a new stack of books on the office table; we shall inquire through the Garden Gate as to the donor. A suggestion was made that we purchase nameplates for the donated books, so that donors can be acknowledged. Janae and Linda Kirchmann are working on a design for nameplates. The office has a system for checking out books; it is a paper pad where the person will write the book's name, who took it, the date when catalogued, and the date when returned. Ann volunteered to be the "Library Police". There will be a list of books on the library shelf.

Memorials: Becky and Penny will be working on memorials this spring for Lois Wythe, Trish Murphy, and Fields Cobb.

Membership Committee: This committee will be determining how we will accept new members. They are: Janae Dale, Mikey Havens, Penny Barton, Becky Reynolds, Gail Swan, Ann Warwick, Jan Wilfert, and Jon Bair.

A reminder was given by Zoe, that should we want to use the conference room for a meeting, we should go online to reserve it.

Mikey reported that we now have a membership of 59, and "they keep coming in".

Christmas Party: Zoe reported that food has been ordered. There will be a video put on by Bob Blair. We do have dinnerware supplies, coffee, punch,

and poinsettias. We do not have a working microphone. Janae suggested purchasing a mike, and maybe going in with Ponderay Events Center for the cost. Mikey and Ann stated that they believed we should purchase our own, and look for one of quality.

Gail said that she can ask the chamber of commerce if we could rent theirs. Gardening gloves will be given out; we must make sure we have all sizes, particularly larger ones. Gail will take care of this.

For decorations and set-up, people should arrive at 4:00; the party starts at 6:00.

The door at Coldwater Creek must always be locked. Someone must be there to open the door for guests.

New Business:

2012 Planning: We discussed projects for 2012, and our ideas as to the attention they should receive. The Fourth of July parade has declined in attention from our group, so we agreed that it is not something to support in 2012. Mickinnick Trail Project should have a commitment to maintain it, possibly once a month. The Healing Garden should possibly receive work from us twice a month. We should be looking at what is there, and how to maintain it. (A suggestion was that when we write labels for plants, we should use painter's pen so it will not wash away.) The school gardens are a good project, but sometimes when we go to Northside, Kootenai, or the Charter School, we do not know what is expected of us. We need a more specific idea of our jobs each time. The Charter School has been easier because there is a gardening curriculum in one of the classes. Michelle Murphy is our contact person with the gardens. Washington School has expressed an interest. Becky suggested that we have a tour of the school gardens; Ellie asked that we be able to commit to a specific day of the week; we need someone to help initiate us and give us direction. Jon stated that he uses his expertise; he takes specific information on a topic when he goes; he talks about berries. Ann suggested that we ask Michelle to come here for a meeting to help initiate us. Janae will coordinate this.

Zoe asked the membership committee to determine what numbers of hours should be required for volunteer service to keep up our membership year-to-year. Penny stated that we are a service organization.

Farmers' Market: It was suggested that we expand its presence, probably concentrated more at the beginning and end of the season. If we are there at least 12 Saturdays during the season, we can have a permanent place. We perform a ser-

vice and it gives our group exposure. We need to compile a file for brochures and handouts. We need more books for sale, particularly the book, Planning an Idaho Vegetable Garden. It is also a good place to advertise Home Hort Classes.

A suggestion was made that we support the Community Garden group this year. Zoe asked that the group approach BCGA with a "structure" for how we might contribute, and we will discuss working on it.

Garden Gate Newsletter: When we want to submit an article, we should write it, and Laurie Brown will print it up. We need a few who regularly contribute. We might apply this to volunteer hours.

Website: The website needs updating.

Home and Garden Show: Ann and Ellie will coordinate this for next year.

With the suggestion that we consider purchasing a computer for our office, it was decided that this would be good for the agenda in January. Lease-purchase options for a printer were brought up. That idea was discussed.



2012 Event Calendar

Calendar			
Event	Date	Chair(s)	Notes
Membership Meeting	Wed 01/04	Mikey Haven	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am
Membership Committee Meeting	01/09	Zoe Bolton	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 10am
Continuing Education Committee Meeting	01/09	Zoe Bolton	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 1pm
Membership Meeting	Wed 02/01	Mikey Haven	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am
Membership Meeting	Wed 03/07	Mikey Haven	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am