

<http://sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/>

The Garden Gate

February 10, 2005



WINTER CARNIVAL PARADE A SUCCESS

GRANDCHAMPION !!!

Don Childress

That's what your Bonner County Master Gardener Float received in the Sandpoint Parade of Lights on Friday, January 22, 2005! After a planning session earlier in the week, the float was masterfully crafted in Fields Cobb's warmed garage. Those participating included Fields, Tom and Joyce Lane, Mary Bruhjell, Sue Lopez, and Don Childress.

After the float was readied on parade day, Valle Novak, Fields, and Mary Bruhjell (our new resident scarecrow, complete with roaring flame) rode in the float being "steered" by Don Childress. Janae Dale and Roxann Childress carried our new banner, which showed up better than our previous one. Paul Van Volkinburg drove the lead car. Seeds were distributed with great fanfare by Pat Moss, Sue Lopez, and Rae Charlton. Many thanks to Gail Swan for donating and packaging the seeds, also to Penny Barton for the use of her many props in the construction of our winning effort.

After much post-victory celebrating, Sue, Mary, Joyce and Don joined Fields and Octavia for coffee, cookies, and float demolition the following day.

Kudos and many thanks to those Master Gardeners who made this parade our best ever.

The Grand Champion ribbon is on display in the Plant Clinic. Check it out!

Can you say, "Grand Champion"?!

Sue Lopez

Master Gardeners sure can! Our float in the 2005 Winter Carnival Parade was a real crowd pleaser! Our eclectic float of pure genius, creativity, and just plain fun, won over the hearts of parade watchers and judges alike. Our blend of gardening mixed with the theme, "playing in the snow" was rewarded with the purple ribbon of Grand Champion! It didn't even hurt our status when we passed the judges on the last go - round and our float lights went out! Everyone laughed when they announced "Did we mention that this was the Parade of Lights"?! All in good fun!

With a crack of Don Childress' fishing rod, our float complete with flower child Valle Novak, flame thrower/scarecrow Mary Bruhjell and the honorable Fields Cobb was off! Guided by the expert driving of Mr. Van Volkinburg and his trusty co-driver and photographer, Octavia Cobbs, we were led through the course as our two MG banner girls, Roxanne Childress and Janae Dale announced our place in the parade line. Thanx to our seed packet stuffer, Gail Swan, our seed girls; Sue Lopez, Pat Moss and Rae Charlton had plenty of hopeful blooms to share!

Thanx goes to Fields and Octavia Cobbs for their warm hospitality, hot coffee and toasty garage. We couldn't set up the float without them. Thank you Penny Barton for donating lights and decorations and thank you to the creators; Don, Sue, Mary, Gail Joyce and husband Tom.

4th of July Parade....Here we come!!!

UPCOMING CLASSES FOR ADVANCED MASTER GARDENERS



GSI - Garden Scene Investigation: A course in pest diagnosis and management

An in-depth course in garden and landscape pest management will be offered this spring. The course will cover insects and mites, infectious diseases, and abiotic (environmental) diseases and will focus on the pest

and beneficial organisms that call your garden their home. You will learn diagnostic methods will help you distinguish one pest from another, and friend from foe. Pest management will emphasize an integrated approach and low-impact treatments. There will be a heavy emphasis on live material and hands-on learning.

The course is offered on Wednesdays and will run from **April 27 - June 8**. Two sections are offered with an enrollment cap of 15 for each. Section I: Morning 9:00 - 12:00; Section II: Afternoon 1:30 - 4:30. All classes will be held at the Extension Office. **Call Patti to sign up - 263-8511**. Please tell her which section you would like, or if either section will work. Fee is \$40 (\$28 if you already have a good hand lens). This course is being offered to Master Gardeners first, but empty spaces will be opened to the general public after April 1, so sign up soon!

GARDEN TIPS (thanks to Pat Moss)

The best soil temperature for most seeds is in the 70Fs. Use heat mats to keep the seed starting soil warm. These electrical devices are placed under the seed-starting trays and keep the soil consistently warm while the seeds germinate.

Cut pussy willow branches 10 to 12 inches long when the catkins or pussy willows are just

beginning to emerge. Place cuttings in a dry vase in a cool room to last the longest indoors.

Start onion and leek seeds 8 to 10 weeks before your last frost date. Sow varieties appropriate for your area in flats of 70F, moistened soilless potting soil, 1/4 inch deep, covered lightly with vermiculite or sand.

Where daffodil, crocus, and hyacinth bulbs are starting to emerge, sprinkle fertilizer around them to help the bulbs grow and flower better. Add 1 small handful of Bulb Booster (9-9-6) or a 10-10-10 fertilizer per square foot of bulbs.

Prune apple trees before buds swell. Remove any dead, broken, obviously diseased, and crossing branches. Prune so the tree has branches evenly spaced around the tree with 45-degree branch angles and an open center.

Spray deciduous fruit trees with horticultural oil to kill any over wintering insects such as scale and aphids. Spray on a calm, dry, day with temperatures above 45F. Spray until the oil begins to drip off the branches.

To minimize the spread of disease at your bird feeder this winter, disinfect it monthly with a solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. Clean droppings off the perch area and make sure your bird food isn't moldy.

Recertification

Final Notice

Any Master Gardener wishing to recertify or sign up as an associate member needs to do so as soon as possible. In order to get your newsletter you have to sign up or this is your last newsletter! (\$10). Associate members are considered inactive and only receive the newsletter. If anyone has difficulty getting Plant Clinic hours completed during the week, it will be possible this year to do weekend Plant Clinic work at the Farmers' Market. Please contact Bob Wilson at 263-8511 if you need sign-up forms.



Monthly BIOGRAPHY

Penny Barton, Treasurer



I developed my love of the soil and flowers from my grandparents I guess, not really sure on that one. My grandma grew lots of flowers and my grampa was the vegetable man, he having raised 8 children was always concerned with feeding his brood.

During my childhood years my parents moved my four siblings and I around quite a bit. We were not a family of many dollars so we were rented wherever we lived.

When I was 11 years old my mother and I went to look at a house for rent. Well when I saw the yard, I know I was more excited than I had ever been in my entire life..... It was filled to the sidewalks with flowers and flowers and more flowers and they spoke deeply to my soul. My face had to have been as bright as any flower in that garden. I wanted that house more than I ever wanted anything in my life.

We ended up renting it and finally move in day came. We drove up to my bright and shiny new world and the day became the darkest of blacks. There was not "ONE" flower in that entire yard. The lady that rented there had planted every flower, so when she moved she took every single one of them. I cannot describe the devastation I felt that day.

We lived there about a year and moved out into the country. We had a lot of land and proceeded to plant an enormous vegetable garden to feed

our large family of seven. My mother had a few iris and a few other things but flowers were not that important to anyone but me.

I have tried ever since to fill my world full of the flowers. And for those that have been to visit me at my home I am sure would agree that I have done just that. My world is full of flowers, and more flowers and more flowers over a vast amount of space. I think I have renewed the soul of the little girl in myself through my gardening. And you can find a small vegetable garden as well, that I have turned over to my husband to attend too.

I became a Master Gardener in 2002 and joined the board at the end of 2004 and finally becoming an officer for 2005. I was an Organizational Leader for Selkirk Pack 4-H for seven years (something I am very proud of). I also taught Entomology and Flower Gardening (go figure) for my club. I am going to celebrate my 30th Anniversary to my husband Stephen this May. We have three children and seven grandchildren (five girls and two boys) newest being baby Clara born January 12th 2005. Shhhhh but I just turned "50" Groundhog Day. I am really excited about what's in store for me in the second half of my century.

When I am not found in the garden, I am still involved in COLOR. I became a Mary Kay Consultant year and a half ago. I love working with women making them look and feel beautiful. It is a wonderfully rewarding job.

Becoming a Master Gardener has been pure joy for me. To be around people that I don't bore silly talking about my love of gardening is a true blessing. If you would like to visit my gardens, please give me a call this spring when there is something to see. And oh, you could throw in your gloves and a trowel and sit, visit and weed with me. I have enough weeds for everyone who visits..... I promise.



SEASONS OF THE MASTER GARDENER

Barb Moore, President

Many MG projects and activities are planned for 2005. So gather your gloves, special garden hats, rakes and shovels, and don't forget the sunscreen!

Begin by sprouting your energy at the Bonner Mall and Garden Show March 12 and 13. Also time to starting planning donation plants for the May Plant Sale.

Expand your Garden knowledge with the Home Horticultural Series beginning in April. Watch for the dates in the Daily Bee. Or are you interested in being a presenter with your seeds of wisdom? Call Don Childress

Take a change on a new plant, shrub, or tree in your garden. Spread runners by volunteering to help the Waterlife Discovery Center and the Mickinnick Trail project.

Bloom (show off?) at the Fourth of July Parade and later in the month at the Garden Tour. Reseed others and yourselves at our Fair Booth in August and the Autumn Home Horticulture Series.

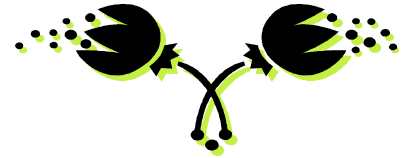
Celebrate Fall with the Potluck Festival for visiting, seed/perennial exchange. Reap the benefits for the "most hours", etc.

CONTACT #'s....

- President - Barb Moore 263-7236
- Vice President - Bill Lamson 263-3799
- Secretary - Brenda Fletcher 265-7944
- Treasurer - Penny Barton 265-9733
- Board Member - Janae Dale 265-2205
- Board Member - Sue Lopez 263-1949
- Board Member - Pat Moss 255-2667
- Board Member - Jan Rumore 255-1827
- Board Member - Gail Swan 265-0181
- Don Childress 255-7928
- Valle Novak 263-4688

Take a well-deserved rest and go dormant AFTER the Christmas Party in December. Let those dreams for the 2006 garden go wild!

See the schedule & contact numbers for your interest and participation....



Activities/Calendar and Chair(s)

March 12 & 13 - Home and Garden Show Bonner Mall
contact Jan Rumore

Baskets, barrels downtown Sandpoint - Jan Rumore

April - Plant Clinic sign-up

April 27 through June 8 -

Master Gardener Advanced Classes

Spring Home Horticulture Series -

Don Childress & Valle Novak

May Plant sale -

Jan Rumore, Pat Moss & Gail & Sue Lopez

May 7 Bake Sale at Farmers Market -

Bill Lamson & Pat Moss

June 4 Bake Sale at Farmers Market

Plant Clinic at Farmers Market

July 4th Parade - Sue Lopez

Garden Tour - Barb Moore & Rae Charlton

August - Bonner County Fair booth -

Penny Barton & Pat Moss

September - November - Home Horticulture series

Don Childress & Valle Novak

October 7 Harvest Party, seed and plant exchange

December 9 Christmas Party

as of 02/10/2005

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GARDEN TIP Sue Lopez



Homemade Garden Cloche

Here's a cheap and simple idea to keep your little garden sprouts protected in early spring.

Take a one gallon milk jug and cut off bottom with scissors.

Next, make an angle cut at top of handle.

Remove lid, place over plant, insert stick through hole in handle, down through soil to secure jug.

Now when the wind blows, your garden cloche won't!

Newsletter / Directory

Master Gardeners: This is your newsletter.

Please email me garden tips and any upcoming garden events to post in the March newsletter.

Thanks... Brenda Fletcher, Secretary

packriverorganics@norlight.org

p.s. we want to be sure everyone is in the new directory ... The membership committee has a goal of getting the new directory out by March 1 so act now if you haven't already signed up (see Bob's article).

2005 International Master Gardener

Conference to be held in Saskatoon, July 24- 27.

For registration and class information go to

www.mastergardener2005.usask.ca

The cost of the conference is \$325 Canadian before April 30. After that it is \$395 Canadian. Two breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 refreshment breaks, Taste of Saskatchewan Banquet, opening reception, all scheduled lectures, workshops, tours (not pre- and -post conference tours) trade show, art show, transportation to conference events and closing ceremonies are included in that price.

Bonner County Extension Office

4205 N. Boyer Avenue

Sandpoint, ID 83864



Storage Shed still on the Wish List for the Master Gardeners - to be at the Extension Office. Any ideas or donations??

Sandpoint Garden Club

3rd Tuesday of each month 6:00 pm Hospital Classroom Call Cindy Wilcox at 263-7930 for more info!

Master Gardeners Board Meeting

Next Meeting March 1, Tuesday, 9am

At the Extension Office ... Everyone welcome and we encourage you to come and participate.

Spring Plant Sale

If you are planting seeds for your garden, don't forget to plant a row for the MG Spring Plant Sale in May. Vegetable seedlings, herbs and flowers are all welcome.

Contact Information

Phone: 208-263-8511

Fax: 208-263-6191

Bob Wilson

Master Gardener Program Coordinator

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