

The Garden Gate

Feb. 6, 2007



Edited by Gail Swan (gswan8274@hotmail.com)

The next Membership meeting will be held March 6th @ 9am at the extension office. All Master Gardeners are welcome & encouraged to attend all meetings. Input from everyone is greatly needed & appreciated. Also, please feel free to contact any of the officers or board members if you wish to share an idea & are unable to attend the meetings. Phone #'s & e-mail addresses are available in the membership roster.

Board Officers for 2007:

President: Penny Barton

Vice Pres: Joyce Lane

Sec: Gail Swan

Tres: Janae Dale

Board Members:

Ann Warwick

Ann Keiser

Linda Kirchmann

Chris McIntosh

Shirley Barksdale

Nativity Set

Jan & Paul Rumore have donated a "Rare Hand carved Olive Wood 18-piece Nativity Set". It was carved in Bethlehem in 1983 & is in pristine condition. If you have any interest in purchasing this wonderful set contact Pat Moss @ 255-2667.



Home Horticulture Classes

The committee has the spring series arranged and the brochures will be going to print soon. They will be available @ the Bonner Mall Home & Garden Show March 11 & 12 @ the BCMG booth.

Advertising will also go into several area publications. Classes are open to anyone with an interest in the subject. There is a \$10 fee per class to cover printing & advertising. The committee will be working on the fall series soon; if you have an interest in a particular subject please contact Don Childress (committee chair) @ dwc1rsc@televar.com or call the extension office @ 263-8511. Any input will be greatly appreciated.

Winter Parade

Our participation in the winter carnival parade has been cancelled due to time constraints and lack of volunteers for decorating. Perhaps we can get our planning process started earlier next year.

Home & Garden Show

The annual Home & Garden Show will be held March 10 & 11 @ the Bonner Mall. This is always an interesting & fun show. Master Gardeners will be organizing several demonstrations for the 2 day event. There will also be information on the "Plant ID Class" that Bob Wilson will be teaching @ the extension office in the spring, Home Hort classes, Plant-A-Row, & Plant Clinic. Volunteers are needed to sign up to be @ the booth for 2 hour increments. Shirley Barksdale is heading up the committee this year along with Ann Warwick, Willie Millard, Linda Kirchmann, Jane Roach, Penny Barton and Jan Rumore. If there is anything you would like to learn about that can be presented @ the show, please contact one of these members. E-mail address & phone #'s are in your directory.

NEWS & NOTES

Master Gardeners Helping Each Other

Know anyone who needs a hand with something? We are about helping in the community, but we are also about helping each other. If you know of any master gardener needing any assistance with chores, let us know. Contact Bob Wilson @ the extension office & he will send out e-mails to the membership. Let's show each other that we care.

Yard Exchanges

Are you interested in seeing other M.G. gardens? We are all so different & each of us has great ideas for our gardens. We can share our ideas & learn tricks from each other. Linda Kirchmann (bkpkr linda@aol.com) & Jane Roach (jane@roach.net) will organize a "yard exchange" visit; they want to know who is interested & what time of year is best for your garden. Please contact one of these ladies to get your garden on the list!

Learning Garden

Continuing plans for the "Learning Garden" @ the extension office include the possibility of "upside down" tomatoes. It's a good way to keep slugs & other garden pests off the plants, but we need some ideas on what to hang them with that will be sturdy enough to hold full grown plants. If you are not familiar with the garden, it is out in the yard next to the office so there is no overhang above to hang plants from. A suggestion was made of filling a tire with concrete & putting a post into that to hang the plants from. Any other suggestions will be appreciated; also any other ideas for new items in the garden. Ann Keiser is our "Learning Garden" organizer & any ideas can be left @ the office for her.

We would also like to monitor the progress of "Plant-a-Row" for the hungry somewhere around the garden. We did so well last year-our original goal was 1000 lbs for the 1st year and we ended up donating 4500 lbs to the food bank! What a great group of M.G.'s we have in this area. If you have any ideas how we can monitor progress for this year-our goal is 8000lbs-let Ann Warwick know (w.redguy@verizon.net) or call the extension office.

New Directory

Debbie Crain & Ann Warwick have called all members in the 2006 directory to verify recertification status. We currently have 34 members (including associates) + 4 emeritus. Associates pay \$10 to be included in the roster and the mailing list for the newsletter, but have no obligation to work in the plant clinic or participate in any other activities or projects unless they so desire.

By-Laws Changes:

Janae Dale & Joyce Lane have finished the proposed changes in the by-laws; they will be attached to this edition of the Garden Gate for all members to review & vote on this month.

They are still working on the changes in the "Procedures & Guidelines". Joyce is also working on information sheets for all activities and projects. These will be filled out by a chairperson for a record of information to be passed on to the next chair. Hopefully these sheets will make it much easier for the chair to do the job volunteered for.

Garden Tour:

Penny Barton has volunteered to head chair a garden tour if we want to organize one. July 1st is a tentative date. Suggested to be included were the Learning Garden, the Healing Garden & the Arboretum. Other gardens to be announced. Please let Penny know if you have any suggestions of gardens you would like to see on the tour.

Notes:

- ♦ *Sandpointfreecycle.com is a new website to give away & acquire free items. You may just find that long awaited treasure there!!*
- ♦ *Garden stones for the Learning Garden will be ready in early spring to memorialize the wonderful donors who made our garden become a reality.*
- ♦ *A new website is being researched to move BCMG from Sandpoint.com to our own website.*
- ♦ *The Plant Clinic is scheduled to begin May 1st unless Bob starts getting calls before that time. Remember to check out the monthly schedules at the extension office for sign up.*

Dog Sledding:

Bob & Jill Wilson participated in the annual races at Priest Lake on Feb 3rd. Jill placed 1st in the "6-dog purebred class" and Bob placed 3rd in "skijoring" (translation-ski driving-he was being pulled by 2 dogs while on a special type of Nordic skis). The next race in this area is the 1st weekend in Feb of 2008. It was great fun to watch all the activity & the excitement of the dogs. They really love to run. Just remember to dress warmly!



Bob and Jill with their dogs



Bob skjoring at the finish

Garden Expo:

"The Inland Empire Gardeners" of Spokane are facilitating this event, to be held May 12th from 9-5; Admission is free. It is to be held @ the Community College, 1810 N Green St. 200 vendors will be there with many specialties including herbs, plants, flowers, water gardens, garden art to name just a few.

Below is this year's schedule of events for TIEG. Much more information can be accessed by logging on to <http://www.tiegardeners.org>.

TIEG CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2007



**"The Year of Flower Power!"
Gardening is Groovy!**

4 - Meeting - **Karen Goldberg** -
The Plant Wizard - "*Fantastic
Flowering Houseplants*"

27 - Event - Member's Winter
Garden Rooms Tour

1 - Meeting - **Spokane Orchid
Society** - "*Opulent Orchids*"

14-18 - Event - NW Flower &
Garden Show, Seattle, WA

24 - A Winter Afternoon of Fine
Dine & Roses Lunch/Workshop



1 - Meeting - **Barbara Murray** -
Spokane Camera Club - "*Lively
Lilies*"

8 - Event - Orlando's Luncheon
& Amazing African Violet Talk

31 - Orchid Show, Orchid Society

5 - Meeting - **Robert Karr** - Newport
Naturals - "*Bridescent Iris*"

17-22 - Event - Skagit Valley Tulip
Festival Bus Trip

27 - Expo All-Day Work Party



3 - Meeting - **Marianne Binetti** -
Seattle Author/Garden Expert -
"*Fabulous Flowering Shrubs*"

11 - Expo Set-up Day

12 - Event - **Garden Expo 2007**

19 - Lovely Lilac Tour/Talk/Lunch

7 - Meeting - **Dan Hinkley** -
Gardening Renaissance Man -
"*Passionate About Perennials*"

16 - Event - Spokane in Bloom

29 - Northland Rosarium Tour/
Divine Delphinium Talk



5 - Meeting - **Cisene Morris** -
Northwest Gardening Personality/
Superstar - "*Ocala Roses!*"

6 - Luscious Lavender Tour/Dinner

8 - Event - CDA Garden Bus Tour

28 - Disco Daylily Tour/Talk/Lunch

2 - Meeting - **Terry Hershey** -
Inspirational Author/Philosopher
- "*Disdained Dandelions*"

18 - Event - Chef in the Garden

25 - Decadent Dahlia Tour/Talk/
Luncheon



6 - Meeting - **Mary Robson** -
Seattle's Garden Guru/Author -
"*Bodacious Bulbs*"

7 - Captivating Cannas Tour

22 - Event - Party/BBQ Movie

4 - Meeting - **Stacey Bishop** -
Petal Pushers Nursery - "*Favorite
Fall Flowers*"

13 - Event - Fiery Fall Foliage
Tour Talk/Luncheon



1 - Meeting - **Phyllis Stephens** -
Spokane Garden Guru - "*Hip
Holiday Flowers*"

10 - Event - Holiday Flowers
Greenhouse Tour/Lunch

17 - Spokane Winery Bus Tour
Part II

No December Meeting!

1 - Event - Annual Holiday
Awards Luncheon

8 - Holiday Flowers/Christmas
Lights/Dinner Bus Tour



PLEASE REMEMBER DATES/TIMES/EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Notes from Bob Wilson

I just received the listing of classes that the Kootenai County Master Gardeners are offering in their Public Horticulture series. Here is the schedule.

- Feb. 5 Managing Backyard Forests. Chris Schnepf, UI Extension Educator
- Feb. 12 Avian Flu Seminar. Kim Knerl
- Feb. 26 Landscaping to Protect Your Home From Fire. Chris Schnepf, UI Extension Educator
- March 5 Pond and Water Garden Care Throughout the Season. Barbara Ford, Serenity Water Gardens, Master Gardener
- March 19 Using Natural Materials to Decorate Picture Frames. Sharry Robinson, Owner of “A Little of This and That”, Master Gardener
- March 26 Building Your Own Hardscape. Pamela Thompson, Master Gardener
- April 2 The Edible Landscape. Lenia Schmidt, Master Gardener
- April 19 “Everything’s Coming up Roses”. Dorothy Kienke, Master Gardener Coordinator

February classes are held at the Kootenai County Admin Building at 451 Government Way in CDA. March and April Classes will be at the UI Extension Office at 1808 N 3rd St. in CDA. Please note that this is a new location for the Kootenai County Extension Office. ALL classes are \$8 and are held on Monday evenings from 6-8 pm. Call 208-446-1680 to register.

Advanced Master Gardener Class:

This class will be on plant identification, & will be held at the extension office. It will be taught by Bob Wilson, U of I Educator. Some field trips will be included. Classes will start mid-May (16th & 17th) with 2 classes being held each week for 3 hours. Sign up for either Wed., 1:30 to 4:30 or Thurs. from 9-12. Classes will run for 7 weeks. Classes will be open to anyone interested; there will be a maximum of 15 students per class. A hand lens will be required & will be available at the office. The cost is \$60 which includes a hand lens and text book.

**Valentine Food for Thought
by Jeanne Losey**

Cabbage always has a heart;
Green beans string along.
You’re such a cute tomato,
Will you peas to me belong?
You’ve been the apple of my eye,
You know how much I care;
So lettuce get together,
We’d made a perfect pear.

Now, something’s sure to turnip
To prove you can’t be beet.
So, if you carrot all for me,
Let’s let our tulips meet.
Don’t squash my hopes and dreams now,
Bee my honey, dear;
Or tears will fill potato’s eyes
While sweet corn lends an ear.

I’ll cauliflower shop and say
Your dreams are parsley mine.
I’ll work and share my celery
So be my valentine.

Penny Barton, 2007 Master Gardener President

By Ann Warwick

Penny Barton, Master Gardener class of 2002, is the president of the Bonner County Master Gardeners for 2007. Penny actively participates in nearly every activity and project of the Master Gardeners, and racked up enough community service hours for 2006 to win the award for most community service hours. She is the person who provides materials and decorative ideas for all MG festivities, the fair booth, the booth at the home and garden show, and the Winter Carnival float. She says she joined the Master Gardeners so she would have friends to talk to about gardening without seeing their eyes glaze over from boredom with the topic.

Penny is, most of all, a gardener extraordinaire, with an expansive perennial garden that spreads out from each side of her lengthy driveway, providing a dramatic and colorful entrance to her beautiful and unusual home. The house is surrounded with lovely flower beds, both perennial and annual, and a large planter in front is full of colorful plantings in summer. She and her husband Steve also have an impressive vegetable garden, from which they donated hundreds of pounds of food to the food bank through the Plant-A-Row program. Her garden has been featured in MG garden tours in past years.

Penny's greatest challenge and achievement has been creating her gardens from logged over land that had never been cultivated, working tirelessly to clear logs and stumps, then amending the soil to make it habitable for domestic plants. She marvels, "There were no earthworms!" Now, with the addition of huge amounts of toil, soil, and manure, the worms are abundant.

Publications that Penny finds helpful are Country Gardens and Backyard Living. Her current goal for her garden is to make it easier to work on by mulching for weed and water control.

Joyce Lane, 2007 Vice-President

By Chris McIntosh

Prior to moving to the NW Zone 5, Joyce lived in the SW Zone 9. She wanted to learn how to garden in Zone 5, and that's why she decided to become a Master Gardener. What continues to inspire Joyce? She says, "I collect reference books and there is not one of them that I use more than another. Before becoming a MG I took all the organic classes Diane Green offered. I think Diane inspired me more than any books I have read because the classes were all held at her farm, and the students were able to receive hands on instruction. Diane is an excellent teacher who has a real passion for teaching."

The biggest challenge has been organic gardening. "It's a challenge for me to grow healthy, abundant fruits, berries, and vegetables without using chemicals," she states. What has been her greatest achievement? Cooking! Joyce says, "Since moving to Idaho I have been able to cook using my own fresh herbs, garlic, berries and vegetables. Food tastes so much better and is better for you when it is grown organically in your own garden."

Joyce is looking forward to two things: flying to remote camping areas with her husband in their own plane, and after buying a couple of kayaks, using them this summer. She says, "I also enjoy sewing, painting, woodworking, and boating." When living in Zone 9, she really enjoyed designing landscapes. After moving to Idaho, she only planted some trees, bulbs and perennials. Joyce has yet to design the landscape around her house, and says, "I plan on starting this project this spring." When asked about her favorite programs on TV, Joyce states, "I enjoy reality shows like Survivor, Dancing With The Stars and the Amazing Race. I try not to miss Criminal Minds, or CSI shows. My favorite garden show is P. Allen Smith's Gardening." Joyce adds, "Why have I chosen to serve on the MG board? When I took the MG classes I met many people who shared the same interest that I had, which was to learn how to garden in this zone. All the MG's that I have had the opportunity to get to know are great people to be around. They all share a passion for gardening, and many of them give unselfishly to the community. This organization has standards that I support and I'm proud to say that I'm part of that organization."