

The Garden Gate



edited by Kit Cooley (the_editrix@yahoo.com)

February 2009

👉👉👉 You are invited to brunch! 👉👉👉

The University of Idaho/Bonner County Master Gardeners cordially invite you to a “Welcome Back” reception, Friday, March 6, at 10:30 a.m. at the Extension Office, 4205 N. Boyer. Regardless of your current status, we want you back as a member and have taken steps to make this possible. Please join us for food, drink, camaraderie, and to hear what we have come up with!

President's Note



Dear Master Gardeners,

Now the more difficult part of the winter sets in as the days get longer, but we still can't get out to dig in the dirt! I must admit, I have my garden designs drawn – several times – and a list of the seeds and plants I want (need?). I am going to try starting some of them inside. I tried that last year and was only slightly successful. The first Home Horticulture class of the spring season is “Start Your Garden Indoors With Seed” on March 18. Jennifer Costich-Thompson is teaching it, so you know it will be great! That should help to improve my success rate! Look over the list of classes. They are all worthwhile.

Soon the new session of Master Gardener instruction will begin. It's always exciting to see the new students come in and go through the classes. You still might be able to sign up to sit in on some of them. Please go out of your way to warmly welcome the new students.

The MG brunch/reception on Friday, March 6, will be a wonderful chance to visit with past and current members. Please plan to attend.

Our next big event after the brunch is the Home and Garden Show held at the Bonner County Fairgrounds on April 18 and 19. Members are asked to spend some time at the table during those two days to advertise the Plant Clinic, answer questions about the Master Gardeners, and help with general gardening questions. There will be demonstrations by local experts and handouts available for the public.

I continue to stumble on at the membership meetings as your new president, but I am learning. If you haven't attended a meeting, perhaps you can make it in the future. Believe me, they are never dull.

Please contact me with any concerns, issues, or questions you may have. Positive comments are always welcome, too!

Janae Dale, President
jjdale@live.com
265-2205 or 610-0403

Agent's Corner



As Winter Drags On, Dream of Spring

As winter drags on and we wish for warmer weather, this is also the time of year that some exciting things start to happen in the Master Gardener Program.

On February 19, our new class of 18 MG trainees begins its journey. They will meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning from that date until April 30. This year, CMGs have been given the opportunity to attend a limited number of sessions as a refresher. Still more have offered to facilitate the classes. Hopefully all of you took advantage of this and we'll see you then.

The Bonner County Master Gardener Association has been looking at recertification requirements and we feel we have something to offer those who may not have been involved in the MG program for awhile. There will be an Open House to which all past MGs are welcome on Friday, March 6 at 10 a.m. at the Bonner County Extension office. We are making a special effort this year to get past MGs involved and we hope to see you there.

Master Gardeners have once again put together a nice Home Horticulture Workshop Series this spring. Participants will learn about seed starting, composting, potatoes, pruning, and a French technique of soup gardening – potagers. At ten bucks a class, you can't beat the price. If you haven't received a brochure, we have more information at the office, just give us a call. Spread the word to those who might be interested.

Finally, as we begin a new Master Gardener year, more people seem to be interested in backyard food production, and I am sensing a greater need for guidance for beginning vegetable gardeners. I also expect there will be an increased need for good, accurate information for plant problem-solving.

For those who are involved in the Master Gardener Program, I cannot express enough gratitude for the important work you do on behalf of the University of Idaho. For those of you who are thinking of getting involved again, I look forward to working with you to achieve our important mission: to improve the lives of Bonner County residents through community horticulture.

Happy Dreams of Gardens,

Mike

🍷 Please check with the Extension Office for available space for CMGs to sit in on the MG Training classes. There are just a few seats left!



Important Dates

February 19, Thursday, 8:45 a.m., New MG Training Class begins. All welcome in order to welcome the new students. (We need volunteers to bring food, so please contact Janae if you can provide snacks at the break.)

February 19, Thursday, 1 p.m., MG Scrapbook Work Party, Extension Office

March 2, Monday, 9 a.m., Membership meeting, Extension Office

March 6, Friday, 10:30 a.m., BCMG Reception, Extension Office

March 18, Wednesday, 6 p.m., "Start Your Garden Indoors With Seed," Extension Office, Home Horticulture Workshop Series, \$10

March 25, Wednesday, 6 p.m., "Composting 101," Extension Office, Home Horticulture Workshop Series, \$10

April 6, Monday, 9 a.m., Membership meeting, Extension Office

April 18-19, Home and Garden Show, Fair Building (Chair: Brenda Fletcher)

Please contact any Board Member or Officer if you wish to participate in or organize any activity.

🍷 We need Chairs for the following events: Fair Booth, Fourth of July Parade, Arboretum, City Baskets, Mickinick Trail, and Teaching Classes.

📌 A Note on Meeting Manners

If you want to say something at the membership meeting, please raise your hand and wait to be called on by whomever is presenting or facilitating. Be mindful of the length of your comments and whether they are pertinent to the agenda topic at hand. Keep your stories for a social time. Thank you!

📌 Janae



Announcements

📌 **Reception** for all current & past MGs. Please contact organizers Valle Novak, 265-4688, or Penny Barton, 265-9733, for information or if you know of anyone who should be included in this event.

📌 **BCMG Historian:** A committee was formed to compile information and create the position of Historian for BCMG. Bob Blair has volunteered to take on the job. If you have any photos, information, or documents you feel should be included in the archives or scrapbook, please contact Bob at 263-8416. If you can identify old MG photos, or just want to play with scissors and glue, come to the BCMG Scrapbook Work Party on February 19 at 1 p.m. at the Extension Office.

📌 **Submissions** to *The Garden Gate* are welcome. Photos (digital preferred), garden hints, and suggestions for articles that you would like to read are especially needed. Please send them to Kit Cooley by the 1st of the month for that month's issue.

📌 **Donations:** Penny Barton is collecting donations of planting pots and trays and canning jars for a friend in need. Please call her at 265-9733 if you have any to give.

Garden Hints

If you haven't got one yet, this is the best time of year to start a Garden Journal. Any notebook can serve as a place to draw up designs for your garden, especially changes from last year. Add any plans, purchases, and ideas now, and then keep track of dates of anything you do in your garden during the growing season. You can record observations, weather, cycle of the moon, planting, transplanting, when things come up, what doesn't come up, problems, infestations, etc., throughout the year. You will be surprised how often you look back and can use what you have written down to help guide your gardening. And next year, after another long winter, it will remind you of what you did!

"Swap Meet"

Time to go through the seed packets and tidy up the houseplants! If you have anything to give away or swap (of a garden nature only, please), this is the place to list it. Swaps need to be in to Kit by the first of the month to be listed in that month's *The Garden Gate*.

All through the long winter, I dream of my garden. On the first day of spring, I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth. I can feel its energy, and my spirit soar.

~Helen Hayes

