

The Garden Gate



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February 2010

Happy New Year!

Please contribute to The Garden Gate. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome.

President's Note

Dear Master Gardeners,
I am pleased to announce that we have filled two very important positions within the association for 2010. Gail Swan has been selected to fill our vacant Secretary position and Tina Raiha has volunteered for the position of Editor of the Garden Gate. Their efforts and contributions are greatly appreciated.

January was a month filled with planning!



2010 Master Gardener Classes - Thanks to the volunteer efforts of many, the 2010 Master Gardener Class program has begun. Penny Barton, Howard Fennimore, Jan Griffiths, Lynn Pietz and Becky Reynolds participated in the interview and selection process which gave us a nice class size of 20 students. The kick-off orientation for the class was held on January 28th with a group of Certified

Master Gardeners providing the food and event sponsors speaking about their projects. This was led by Ann Warwick.

Once again Certified Master Gardeners are allowed to audit the MG classes. There is a maximum five audit seats available per class. You should have received a class syllabus and a request for class attendance from Patti Speelmon. She assigned CMGs to classes based on your list of priorities and redistributed the results. If you cannot make a class that you have been assigned to please let Patti know so that she can update the list and notify individuals who may be interested in attending that class. Mike Bauer has recommended that if you are interested in a class that is full, you are welcome to show up the morning of the class because frequently not all five audit seats are taken. However if the five seats are taken you will not be able to stay for the class. Finally, when you are auditing a class be aware that the chairs at the tables are reserved for the students and we ask that you sit in chairs on the periphery of the classroom.

Home Horticulture Classes – Don Childress, Janae Dale and Gail Swan have once again put together a top program for our Spring Home Horticulture Series. The classes begin in late March and continue into May. Their dedication to bringing quality programs to the community is an important contributor to our mission of education. Thank you for all you do!

Advanced Master Gardener Classes – Janae Dale is passionate about bringing gardening knowledge to the membership and to the community. She has volunteered to chair the Advanced Master Gardener Classes and has some exciting, innovative ideas both for the short and long term. See the article later in this issue of the Garden Gate for some of the short term details.

MG Home Visits – Last year Valle Novak, while giving an historical overview of the association, reported that the Master Gardeners used to meet periodically at member homes. That discussion kicked off a handful of MG home visits last year. We have decided to make it an annual event. Becky Reynolds and Ann Warwick are heading up a committee to schedule MG home visits throughout the spring and summer. This is not about having the “perfect” garden but is an opportunity to socialize and discuss mutual gardening plans. So don’t be shy...contact Becky or Ann and sign up for a visit to your home.

The Edible Schoolyard – A Garden Club is forming at the Northside School opening up an opportunity for children attending that school to learn how to plant and maintain a garden. They will need assistance and guidance from experienced gardeners. Gail Burkett brought a request to the February Membership Meeting asking that it be added to the approved volunteer programs so that Master Gardeners could receive volunteer credit for assisting with this endeavor. It was approved unanimously. This is a thrilling opportunity to advance the interest in gardening at a young age. Who knows, we may be meeting our future Certified Master Gardeners over the next handful of months.

Plant Clinic – Martha Fortunati has been busy updating the administrative policy and processes for the 2010 Plant Clinic season which starts the end of April. More on that in next month’s Garden Gate.

Yes...January was a busy month of planning and setting the pace for a full year to come.

Thanks to all and as always if you have ideas, questions, concerns or comments – please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Zoe M. Bolton, President
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264-1210

A little helper visiting my Magnus echinacea



These helpers work on dismantling my garden in the fall



Agent's Corner



Spring is Getting Closer!

This mild winter of ours has had the feeling of spring in the air this past week. I am hoping it gets a little colder so our favorite plants aren't fooled too early.

Thanks to all of you who have stepped up this year while we are short-handed here in the Extension office. Patti is now our only administrative support for several programs, and your help is most appreciated.

In the February meeting of the Bonner County Master Gardener Association, we had a discussion on the recent and coming changes within the University of Idaho Extension. As you are probably aware, we have been dealing with budget cuts amounting to 22% in the current and coming year's budgets. The fact that 90% of Extension's budget is personnel costs spells future layoffs.

Last week, all program areas were asked to justify their programs. My understanding is that no program will be protected from the possibility of elimination. Extension administration will look at all programs to determine which ones are cut. Programs that have the most educational impact will be spared.

I mention this not to instill fear, but to ask for your continued commitment to educational outreach to the residents of Bonner County. This includes continuing with your current activities and innovative new programs, but also recording your activities so that I can report those impacts to those who fund our programs.

I will keep you updated as decisions are made. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mike

Advanced Master Gardener classes for 2010 include a Plant Identification class, being taught by Jennifer Costich-Thompson, a special "pick-me-up" Problem Solving and Plant Clinic Review presented by Mike Bauer and Martha Fortunati, and a presentation by guest speaker, Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, author of *The Informed Gardener* and *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again*.

Plant Identification will be a series of six or seven classes covering various families of plants, with Jennifer to guide the students through a much more intense program than what can be offered in the first year training. The dates of the classes are: April 2, April 16, April 30, May 7, May 14, June 4, and possibly June 18, from 9 am to noon. The class is limited in size, and is already full, but Jennifer has suggested she may do it again next year, if there is enough interest.

The Problem Solving and Plant Clinic Review is just the thing for everyone who works in the plant clinic to get brushed up on techniques and procedures. After taking this class you will look forward to your Plant Clinic time with confidence, better able to meet the needs of our clients. A date has not been set yet.

In May, Dr. Linda Chalker Scott will be here for an evening presentation at the auditorium in the Panhandle State Bank building. **She will speak on horticulture myths and using research to answer gardening questions.** We are very fortunate to have her coming here.

Other possible classes are being considered for later in the year.



Recommended Gardening Catalogs from Judith Pagliasotti

If you are looking for garden supplies, here are two sites recommended for your perusal:

John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds at
www.kitchengardenseeds.com

Peaceful Valley Farm and Garden Supply at
www.groworganic.com

Master Gardeners Support Edible Schoolyard

With a large group in attendance, enthusiasm was very high at the February Master Gardener Membership Meeting when Gail Burkett asked the Board if volunteer hours could be sanctioned for the Edible Schoolyard project at Northside School in the Selle Valley north of Sandpoint. The vote was unanimous for supporting community service hours at the school garden.

Northside is an elementary school at the Colburn-Culver and Rapid Lightening Road intersection where 180 students attend K-6th grade. This Edible Schoolyard after-school project will support a Garden Club open to 25 students who want to learn to grow food and will meet every single Monday, year round, except major holidays. Gail, along with parents and teacher volunteers, now ask the Master Gardeners to please consider what they love most about growing food and step up for an occasional

Invitations for students to join the school garden club went home to the parents on February 8th and the first garden planning meeting is Monday February 22.

The volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board at the Extension classroom or volunteers may contact Gail Burkett by email, please sign-up and step up to teach a little something:
grousecreekgardens@gmail.com

Items the committee determined we need for our start-up Edible Schoolyard at Northside School, kid size age 5-12, is listed here: Thank you, thank you!

- Wheel barrow
- Planting flats
- Watering cans
- 100' hose for container watering
- Regular size Buckets
- Small Gloves
- Black Plastic (Weed & Heat)
- Shovels, large and small
- Very well composted manure
- Vegetable seeds
- We will probably have to buy soil amendments like azomite, organic nutrients, and deer deterrent Liquid Fence brand.

Home Horticulture Classes

Here is the line up for these classes. Be on the look out for an email that will include sign up information, and class descriptions. The classes will also be advertised in the newspaper. Class start time is 6pm.

Zoe

3/24: Judith Pagliasotti- Succession Planting-
Planting Vegetables All Season Long

3/31: Kit Cooley- Basics Of Vegetable Gardening

4/7: Delsie Marienau-Berries to Grow in N Idaho

4/14: Matt Friedmann- Basics of Water Features
& Pathways

4/21: John Hastings-Lawn Alternatives

4/28: Valle Novak-Cold Hardy Roses

5/26: Nicole French-Hands on Spring Flower
Arranging



A satisfying sight black gold from last year's manure and manure soon to be more black gold!

**BCMGA - Event Calendar
2010 Working Copy**



Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Notes
Membership Meeting	3/3	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Home Hort Classes	Mar-May	Don Childress, Gail Swan, Janae Dale	Ext Office 6pm
City Baskets	March	Penny Barton, Jan Rumore, Gail Swan	
Advanced MG Program – Plant Clinic Orientation & Diagnostics	March	Mike Bauer/Martha Fortunati	Extension Office
Advanced MG Program – Plant ID Series	April 2, 16, 30, May 7, 14, June 4 and 18	Janae Dale	Speaker = Jennifer Costich-Thompson Ext Office 9am Limited class size
Membership Meeting	4/7	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Home and Garden Show	4/17-4/18	Brenda Fletcher	BC Fairgrounds
Nursery Tour-Class of 2010	4/20		
Plant Clinic Opens	4/22	Martha Fortunati	Extension Office End date = TBD
Healing Garden – Spring Kickoff	Spring	Valle Novak	
Mickinnick Trail – Spring Kickoff	Spring	Jan Griffitts	
Native Plant Arboretum – Spring Kickoff	Spring		
Learning Garden – Spring Kickoff	Spring	Mikey Haven, Gail Swan	Extension Office
Membership Meeting	5/5	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Advanced MG Program – Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, author of “The Informed Gardener”	5/18**	Janae Dale	Panhandle State Bank, downtown Sandpoint 6-8pm
Membership Meeting	6/2	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
BCMGA Home Visit	June	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	
Membership Meeting	7/7	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
4 th of July Parade	July 4th		
Sandpoint Garden Tour	Summer	Penny Barton	
BCMGA Home Visit	July	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	
Membership Meeting	8/4	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
BCMGA Home Visit	August	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Kit Cooley - Host
Bonner County Fair	Summer	Gail Locke	BC Fairgrounds
Yard Sale	Summer	Janae Dale	
Membership Meeting	9/1	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
BCMGA Home Visit	September	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	
Home Hort Classes	Fall	Don Childress, Gail Swan, Janae Dale	Extension Office
Membership Meeting	10/6	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Graduation/Recognition Reception	October		
Membership Meeting	11/3	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Membership Meeting	12/1	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Holiday Reception	December		

- *Actual date(s) to be inserted
- ** Note date change