



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

February 2012

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

Greetings all, as you can see by the following news letter, it has been a busy few weeks. The committees have really done a wonderful job of putting together some great stuff. Please be ready to help with the projects you have signed up for, we will need "All Hands On Deck".

"A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows"

--
Mikey

February Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:
http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Month/zonefeb01.html



Zone 3

- Order seeds
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom
- Sow seeds for tender perennials

Zone 4

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds indoors for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Sow seeds for cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors

Zone 5

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Sow seeds for cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors

Home and Garden Show Coming!

The Panhandle Building Contractors Association Home and Garden Show is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15. BCGA will have a booth at the show, and members will deliver short presentations on topics related to gardening. BCGA members will be present in the booth during show hours.

Twenty five members signed up for the H & G show committee, which is wonderful! Ellie Lizotte hopeellie@aol.com or Ann Warwick w.redguy@frontier.com will be contacting you to see how you would like to participate. But even if you are not signed up for this event, you are welcome to help out. It is a fun event, an opportunity to spend some time with other members, and to meet the public and talk about gardening.

Here's what we need: April 13, after 5pm, some people to help set up the booth. We can't start until the other exhibitors have finished, as we are in front of the back doors.

April 14-15. Would you like to do a short presentation on a topic related to gardening? We usually plan for about a 10 minute demonstration, then some time to answer questions. We have several commitments, but need more. We do about four on Saturday, and three on Sunday.

April 14: Two people to be in the booth from 9:30am to 5:30 pm. Four two hour segments, with two people is eight people.

April 15: Hours from 10am to 4pm. We need six people for two hour stints in the booth.

April 15, after 4—take booth down.

If there is any task you'd like to do, just let Ellie or Ann know. Thank you.

Yard Sale Reminder

Oh, I know it's only February, but if you are doing any cleaning and reorganizing, DON'T THROW OUT THE GOOD JUNK! The BCGA giant Plant and Yard Sale is in August, but you can certainly start saving things for it now. Create a special spot somewhere in the house (under the bed?) or ga-

rage or storage shed just for those throw away treasures, and add to it as you come across cast-offs. Running our own office with rent and insurance is expensive, so we need all the help we can get from the big sale. Keep an eye out for items from friends and neighbors, too.

Janae

Home Horticulture Classes Announced

The HH committee has released the spring program!

Huge thanks go to Don Childress, Janae Dale and Gail Swan for continuing to chair this very important program. Their work and planning gives the association an opportunity to be responsive to the requests of the community. The program is attached to this new letter. They would like two facilitators per class so please notify one of the chairpersons if you are interested in facilitating a class.

Links

Quillisascut Farm School - Janae's sister

I have often spoken of my sister and brother-in-law and their "farm school" near Kettle Falls, WA. A few of you have even purchased their beautiful cookbook. They have classes and retreats at their place during the year. Since some of you have expressed an interest in the school, I thought I would give you the website for their school, as well as for their cheese. It's fun just to check out all the things they do and the photos of their place.

<http://quillisascut.com/>

Gardening In Spokane

Yours truly has a gardening column at the Examiner in Spokane. Of course, even though the site is aimed at Spokane, the articles I post are mostly appropriate for Bonner County, too!

<http://www.examiner.com/gardening-in-spokane>

Membership Education Course

Facilitators needed!

The association is developing a Membership Education Course to offer to the public in the spring of 2012. The intent is to train new, interested individuals with the purpose of growing the size of the organization. We have a large number of projects requested from the community and we can use all the help we can get. Furthermore, as you know, we have an energetic, compassionate group of members and outside individuals have expressed a desire to join the organization (and in the fun). This gives them the ability to do so.

We have obtained a DVD of the WSU Master Gardener program with their approval for us to use it to provide education to the public and to our members. It will be used as the basis for our program. It contains a manual, slide presentations, exercises and videos of relevant subjects. It is an excellent working tool for new members and old members alike.

The Membership Committee has met and defined the outline for the program as follows:

Tentative Course Curriculum/ Date - Subject	
03/20	Botany and Plant ID
03/22	Soils, Plant Nutrition & Composting
03/27	Entomology
03/29	Plant Problem Diagnosis
04/03	Pest Management
04/06	Weed Management
04/10	Woody Landscape Plants
04/12	Pruning
04/17	Flower Gardening/Sustainable Gardening
04/19	Home Orchards
04/24	Small Fruits
04/26	Vegetables
05/01	Season-Extenders
05/03	Course Review

Most of the classes will consist of recorded lectures with in class exercises. There will be prerequisite reading assignments prior to class. In order to complete the course, students will be limited to only two absences unless alternate arrangements have been preapproved.

An optional field trip to local nurseries will be arranged for a day TBD the week of May 7th

Schedule: Tuesdays/Thursdays; 9am – 12:30pm
Location: 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint, ID 83864
Fee: \$150 – Due the week of March 5th and is non-refundable

Class size is limited. There will be casual “meet and greet” sessions scheduled the week of the March 5th in order to set expectations and acceptance of the application.

Now this is where you come in – we need facilitators for each of the classes, preferable two per class! Please contact Zoe Bolton at 264-1210 or zbolton@gmail.com to express your interest in facilitating a class. Once we have the facilitators identified, we will hold a meeting of facilitators to review the class materials and set expectations.

We will be holding the classes at our offices in the conference room and unfortunately the room is not large enough to allow current members to attend. However, if you sign up to facilitate a class, you will be able to attend. So take a close look at the curriculum and sign up for the class(es) that interest you most.

There are some interesting advanced exercises included on the DVD so if you are interested we could look to hold some continuing education classes, using the instruction on the DVD, to expand member knowledge. Let Zoe Bolton know if the topics above are of interest for a continuing education class. Topics not included in the class but available on the DVD also include Lawns, Houseplants and Greenhouses.

By the way, feel free to share this information to individuals you may know that would be interested in taking the course. An application is under development and should be ready to distribute the week of February 13th.



BCGA MEMBERSHIP MEETING—

Feb. 1, 2012

Present: Penny Barton, Ann Warwick, Howie Fennimore, Kim Peterson, Ellie Lizotte, Mikey Haven, Bob Blair, Butterfly Burke, Becky Reynolds, Jan Wilfert, Valerie Ripley, Zoe Bolton, Penny Goodman, Janae Dale & Gail Swan (Absent: Jon Bair, Jenna Bertus & Linda Gjording)

Meeting called to order @ 9AM by Pres Mikey Haven
Minutes from Jan were approved as written
Treasurers Report: \$2149.43

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Continuing Education for MG's: Zoe Bolton
Proposed classes for this year:
Basic Latin terms (confirmed) 2/ 2 @ Ponderay Event Center by Jon Bair;
Botany Of Desire (confirmed) 2/ 21, 1-3PM, conf room @ Bonner business center (sack lunch)
Basic Botany 2/24 or 2/27-Dr Tripepi
Pruning fruit trees 3/3-(depending on snow) Jon Bair
Herbaceous & Woody Plants 3/13 1-3Pm (poss @ Library) Toni North
Pruning Ornamentals 3/31 Gail Locke
Good bugs-Bad Bugs 4/10, 1-3PM Tom Eckberg
Roses 4/24 1-3PM Valle Novak
Chemicals 5/15 Brad Blummer
Plant Problem Diagnosis (Horticulture CSI) 5/24 Dr Linda Chalker-Scott—public will be invited to this class

Poss other classes:
Garden Design-Barb Pressler
Tomato field Trip
Pollinators
Viruses & Diseases
Dichotomous Keys
Succulents

Home Hort Spring Classes:

3/7 Starting Seeds & Other Propagation Laurie Brown
3/14 & 3/21 Basic Veggie Gardening 1 & 2 Kit Cooley
3/28 Pruning & Care of Tools Rich DelCarlo
4/4 Cutting Gardens Robin Roberts (**facilitators: Ann Warwick & Penny Barton**)
4/11 Landscaping With Native Plants Don Childress
4/18 Roses For N Idaho Valle Novak

4/25 Ergonomic Gardening Meredith Evensen-Lynch, OTRL (**facilitators: Jan Wilfert & Janae Dale**)
all classes will be held @ the Ponderay Event Center from 6-8PM
2 facilitators will be needed for each class; please contact Gail Swan, Janae Dale or Don Childress to sign up for those still needing facilitators

Membership Committee: Zoe Bolton

Recommendations to Board:

1. required volunteer time:

6 hours per year & 2 educational events per year

this was approved by the board to become effective Oct 2012 for next year; this info to be included

in renewal for 2013

2. Criteria for admission of new members include any of the following:

Applicant has completed a University based MG program

Applicant has a Horticultural degree

Applicant has attended a gardening course approved by BCGA

Applicant is approved by the board

Committee proposes to hold classes using the DVD purchased from WSU; those taking these classes would be eligible for membership

Classes will be held 2 days per week for 6-7 weeks

There will be a fee to cover all materials

Classes will be held in the conf room @ the Bonner business center & limited to 12 students per session

This was approved by the board, but all this information needs to be sent out to the entire membership for approval as it requires a change in the current ByLaws

School Gardens: Janae Dale

Laurie Brown, Janae Dale, Howie Fennimore & Kit Cooley are all involved in setting up classes @ the Charter School; among other topics they will be helping with building more raised beds

Old Business

PA System-the amplifier is backordered

Computer for office-Mikey still working on; may be free, but we will probably have to pay for some software

Directory-done by Zoe-please only take 1 copy; if you need more you can copy for yourself as our funds are limited

Memorials (for Lois Wythe, Fields Cobb & Trisha Murphy) delayed till spring
Eureka Institute involvement: on hold for now due to all other things we are involved in

New Business:

Mikey is working on a budget for 2012

Home & Garden Show 4/14 9:30-5:30 & 4/15 10-4

Ann Warwick & Ellie Lizotte chairpersons
Set up on 4/13 & tear down after 4 on 4/15
Need 2 people for booth for each 2 hour time slot
Janae will do a worm presentation
Becky will give presentation on raised beds
Possible presentation on tomatoes in containers
Need 4-5 more presentations; contact Ann or Ellie

Becky suggested inviting committee members of other organizations to come & talk at the membership meetings so we can be in touch with other things going on in the community & they can become more aware of us & what our mission is

Becky has all the free handouts from the U of I on a memory stick; we can copy & print to show people what is available & can offer links on the web so they can print these themselves

Farmers Market: Kim Peterson

Kim will contact manager of the market; how many times a year do we want to be present @ the market?

Anyone wanting to be involved contact Kim. She will be contacting everyone on the volunteer list

Insurance: we paid \$472 for liability for members & need to pay \$903 for liability for the board

Penny got a letter from Rhonda Livingston (Bonner County Fair)

Ag Week is May 8-12

Do we want to participate? We will get more detailed info regarding this

Meeting adjourned @ 11:20

*"A garden is a lovely thing
That must be spaded in the spring
Weeded when the summer's searing
Mulched in Fall when Winter's nearing.
Of all the seasons do you wonder
I like it best when it's snowed under?"*

Glen Lorang (writer)



I took this picture at the Healing Garden, and have no idea what plant this is. Does anyone know? And is it a well behaved plant? I want one!

lauriebrown54@gmail.com

"If my eye lights upon the carefully tended peony held up by a barrel hoop, the round group of an old dicentra, the fine upstanding single plant of iris, at once I experience the warmest feeling of friendliness for that householder, and wish to know and talk with them about their flowers. For at the bottom there is a bond which breaks down every other difference between us. We are „garden souls’."

Mrs. Francis King, *The Well Considered Garden*

Event Calendar - 2012			
Event	Date	Chair(s)	Notes
Membership Meeting	Wed 2/1	Mikey Haven	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am
Cont. Ed Class – Basic Latin	Thur 2/2	Zoe Bolton	Jon Bair; Ponderay Event Center, 401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E; 6 – 8 pm
Membership Committee Meeting	Mon 2/6	Zoe Bolton	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am
Cont Ed Class – The Botany of Desire	Tues 2/21	Zoe Bolton	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am – Video based on the book by Michael Pollen – Bring a sack lunch at noon! Video will start at 1pm and goes for 2 hours.
Cont Ed Class – Basic Botany	Tentative – 2/24 or 2/27	Zoe Bolton	Speaker = Dr. Bob Trepipi; Location and time to be announced
Cont Ed Class – Pruning – Fruit Trees	Sat 3/3	Zoe Bolton	Jon Bair; outdoor class; date may change predicated on weather conditions; noon – 3pm; location to be announced
Membership Meeting	Wed 3/7	Mikey Haven	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am
HH – Starting Plants with Seeds	Wed 3/7	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Laurie Brown; Ponderay Event Center, 401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E; 6 – 8 pm
HH – Vegetable Gardening I	Wed 3/14	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Kit Cooley; Ponderay Event Center, 401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E; 6 – 8 pm
HH – Vegetable Gardening II	Wed 3/21	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Kit Cooley; Ponderay Event Center, 401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E; 6 – 8 pm
HH – Pruning and Care of Tools	Wed 3/28	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Rich DelCarlo; Ponderay Event Center, 401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E; 6 – 8 pm
Cont. Ed – Pruning - Ornamentals	Sat 3/31	Zoe Bolton	Gail Locke; outdoor class; date may change predicated on weather conditions; noon – 3pm; location to be announced
Membership Meeting	Wed 4/4	Mikey Haven	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am
HH – Cutting Garden	Wed 4/4	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Robin Roberts; Ponderay Event Center, 401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E; 6 – 8 pm
Cont Ed – Good Bugs/Bad Bugs	Tues 4/10	Zoe Bolton	Tom Ekberg; 1pm – 3pm; location to be announced
HH – Landscaping	Wed	Don Childress,	Don Childress; Ponderay Event Cen-

with Native Plants	4/11	Janae Dale, Gail Swan	ter, 401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E; 6 – 8 pm
Home and Garden Show	4/13 – 4/15	Ellie Lizotte and Ann Warwick	Bonner County Fair Grounds
HH – Roses in N. Idaho	Wed 4/18	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Valle Novak; Ponderay Event Center, 401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E; 6 – 8 pm
Cont Ed – Care and Maintenance of Roses	Tue 4/24	Zoe Bolton	Valle Novak; 1pm – 3pm; location to be announced
HH – Ergonomic Gardening	Wed 4/25	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Meredith Evensen-Lynch; Ponderay Event Center, 401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E; 6 – 8 pm
Membership Meeting	Wed 5/2	Mikey Haven	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am
Membership Meeting	Wed 6/6	Mikey Haven	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am



A pleasant time was had by all at the January snowshoe party at Bob Blair's!

[Free Milkweed Seed](#)

<http://www.livemonarch.com/free-milkweed-seeds.htm>

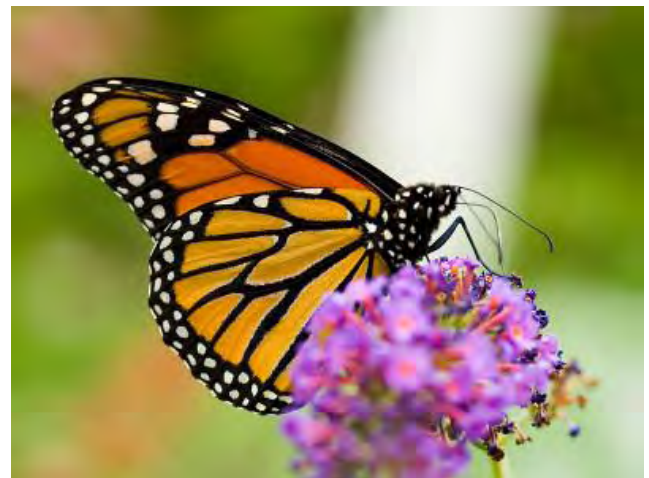
This site is concerned with the diminished number of Monarch butterflies. They sell milkweed plants, and will send you free milkweed seeds so that you can provide habitat for the little critters. While they would like it if you sent them some money as well as an SASE for the seeds (\$3 is the suggested donation), they will send the seeds even if you cannot

afford to send them anything- they just want to get milkweed plants out there so that where ever Monarchs end up, they'll find places to lay their eggs. They normally send *Asclepias currasavica*, which is not hardy here, but they also have *Asclepias speciosa*, which is hardy here. Be sure and specify which kind you want.

There are links on the page for information on raising milkweed plants, raising monarchs, how to fix a butterfly's wing, and more.

I have NOT sent for the seeds or had dealings with the people personally, so I cannot vouch for them. I do plan to send for some seeds.

I don't see many Monarchs here, but there are a few and I'd enjoy seeing more of them!



Monarch butterfly on lantana, by Richiebits via Wikimedia Commons.

2012 Spring Home Horticulture Workshop Series
Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

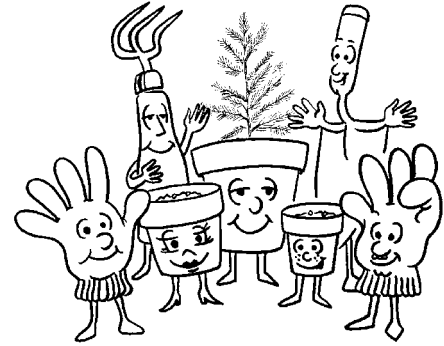
Email Address: _____

- March 7 "Starting Plants from Seeds"
Presented by Laurie Brown, MG
- 14 & 21 "Basic Vegetable Gardening 1 & 2"
Presented by Kit Cooley, MG
- 28 "Pruning & care of Tools"
Presented by Rich DelCarlo, Certified Arborist
- April 4 "Cutting Gardens"
Presented by Robin Roberts
- 11 "Landscaping with Native Plants"
Presented Don Childress, MG
- 18 "Roses for N Idaho"
Presented by Valle Novak, MG
- 25 "Ergonomic Gardening"
Presented Meredith Evenson-Lynch, OTR/L

All Classes \$10

Please make checks payable & return to:
Bonner County Gardeners Association
804 Airport Way
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
Or pay on-line @ www.bcgardeners.org

2012 Spring Home Horticulture Workshop Series



Presented and Coordinated by
Bonner County Gardeners Association

Classes will be held from 6pm – 8pm
at the Ponderay Event Center
401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E, Ponderay,
Idaho

Email inquiries to bcgardeners@gmail.com
Or call 208-265-2070

Dates and Topics

March 7 "Starting Plants with Seeds"
Presented by Laurie Brown, MG
This class will cover basics of starting plants from seed: testing seeds for viability, when to start, planting equipment, transplanting & dampening off; plus treatments for difficult seeds such as trees & perennials

March 14 & 21 "Basic Vegetable Gardening 1 & 2"
Presented by Kit Cooley, MG
This comprehensive class, in two sessions, will cover basic issues of growing vegetables in N Idaho. Included will be: soil preparation, planting, watering, weeding, mulching, feeding, insect management, & harvesting. This class will be beneficial to both the novice & the veteran gardener.



Bonner County Gardeners Association

March 28 "Pruning & Care of Tools"
Presented by Rich DelCarlo, Certified Arborist

Learn about pruning fruit & landscape trees and shrubs & proper care and sharpening of your pruning tools

April 4 "Cutting Gardens"
Presented by Robin Roberts

Robin has been farming and operating a cut flower business seasonally since 1994. See how it is possible to grow, cut & sell fresh flowers from your garden & do it affordably by starting & growing from seed.

April 11 "Landscaping with Native Plants"
Presented by Don Childress, MG

Using Native Plants that are adapted to our N Idaho environment helps to conserve water, reduce fertilizer use, promote a healthy population of beneficial insects and are beautiful. In this class you will learn which natives work best in the landscape for each specific area and soil type, where to obtain plants and how to care for them.

Don is an active member of the Kinnikniinck Native Plant society and has landscaped his rural home site with native plants.

April 18 "Roses for N Idaho"
Presented by Valle Novak, MG Emeritus

Valle began her rose odyssey over 25 years ago as a tester for Jackson-Perkins Roses, learning what works best in our often harsh climate. The creator of the "Hospice Rose Garden" she will discuss the joys & agonies of rose gardening.

April 25 "Ergonomic Gardening"
Presented by Meredith Evensen-Lynch,

OTR/L
An Occupational Therapist at Bonner General Hospital, Meredith has many helpful hints on how to lessen the physical impact of gardening on our bodies. She will demonstrate tools and techniques for making gardening easier.

Fees cover the cost of venue, publications, materials, and the support of non-profit activities of the Bonner County Gardeners Association.

Classes are \$10

All classes will be held from 6 pm – 8 pm at the Ponderay Event Center 401 Bonner Mall Way, Suite E, Ponderay, Idaho

ALL CLASSES WILL START PROMPLY @ 6pm; CHECK-IN STARTS @ 5:30; PLEASE BE ON TIME

Please check the classes you wish to attend and send with check to Bonner County Gardeners Association
804 Airport Way
Sandpoint, Id., 83864
You may also bring your registration form & check to this address

Or

You can pay on-line with a credit card via "Pay-Pal"

at www.bcgardeners.org