

The Garden Gate January 2005

Current Events at a Glance:

January 21: Winter Carnival Parade - 6:00 pm - please join us

February 1: BCMGA Board meeting, 9 am Extension Office -all welcome

A Tribute

President Barbara Moore

The lovely old apple tree had seen many summers and winters. Many children grew up safeguarded by its presence. Because it seemed as if it had always been there, most people did not really pay it much attention. Except in springtime when a delicate mass of pink and white blossoms smothered its branches. Its breathtaking beauty could not be ignored or forgotten.

Yet time has a way of passing and the building guarded by the tree slowly began to decay. A new Church in a different location took its place. The tree was alone. Still the tree grew and flowered, a reminder that some things remain constant.

But even in constancy there are changes. So the tree was moved that it might stand proudly by the new Church. The move was traumatic and many thought that the courageous old tree had suffered too much in its uprooting.

However, constancy will not die but takes deeper root. At first, the tiny pink leaf buds could barely be seen by the eye alone. Some people were skeptical as only a few branches seemed to have buds. But slowly, as all life begins, the tree leafed out all over. And then it blossomed to become a symbol of hope for all those who had waited and watched on cold and dreary winter days.

Our lives are like that tree. We grow older and appear to have complete control of our lives. God is there in the background but we often fail to acknowledge His presence within us. When something happens that makes our lives less than smooth, we question why we ache and suffer. Setbacks and heartaches will happen. They are part of life. When they occur we might stagger and we may even fall to the ground. All appears lost. We forget that life without hurt and pain, as well as joy and happiness, is really no life at all.

At times like these, that beautiful old apple tree can give us hope. Life is there for us to stretch for its branches. Not with a fainthearted feeble reaching, but a strong two-handed grip. We need to hang on to those branches for the life which comes from the main stem. Our very lives depend on it.

When we acknowledge God in this manner, our roots truly take hold. For when we embrace this great God, we stand a little taller and that small tiny bud of faith within us begins to leaf out. Taking care of ourselves tenderly and lovingly, we too will blossom in glory.



Winter Carnival Parade Friday January 21 6pm

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Please join us for the fun and festivities of the Winter Carnival Parade. Let's show the community we can play in the snow as well as the dirt. Our entry won 3rd prize last year and with your help we can do it (or higher) again. We will decorate the float a couple of days before the parade at Field Cobb's warm and spirited abode - bring your ideas and talent. Call Pat Moss @ 255-2667 for date and directions. The parade will be on Friday, January 21. Meet us in the Merwyn's parking lot just before 6:00 pm. Put on your hat, mittens and a smile; bring a basket as we will hand out wildflower seed to spectators. See you there.

Friends of the Mickinnick Trail update

Ann Wimberley, Chair

This will be the closest hiking trail to Sandpoint and will open in the Summer of 2005. It offers panoramic views of the city, Lake Pend Oreille, the Selle Valley and the Cabinet Mountains from various altitudes. The trailhead is located on Woodland Drive, which is a left turn off Schweitzer Mountain Road one half mile past the railroad track. They have requested help from the Native Plant Society and the **Master Gardeners in planting the trailhead area with native plants**. Attached to newsletter is the Mickinnick Trail Vascular Plant List!

Work will begin this spring. Jan Griffitts and Nicky Pleass did a presentation on the Trail at the January 4 board meeting.. Contact Ann Wimberley to volunteer 264-5379, afwim@yahoo.com)

Monthly BIOGRAPHY

Vice President Bill Lamson

Gardening (and dogs) are the two things that have kept me grounded through the turbulence of my life. My interest started as a child and by the time I was in high school, I had become the family gardener, landscaper, and groundskeeper. I am fascinated by gourds, which I planted along the entire length of the fence separating our property from that of the disgruntled neighbor, who spent hours hacking back the vines on his side of the fence.

Thinking that I could combine my love for gardening with my intellectual curiosity, I entered the Ph.D. program in Agricultural Biochemistry at the University of Idaho after receiving my MS in chemistry from EWU. It was a bad marriage. There is nothing intellectually or aesthetically satisfying about growing mold in a flask, harvesting it, and analyzing it for alkaloids. I was preparing to transfer to the chemistry department when "a series of unfortunate events" ended my studies. I was told I had MS. I am now convinced that the symptoms were due to insecticide exposure, but, at the time, I was too physically and emotionally impaired to continue my research. I went back to the grocery business that had supported my education, taking early retirement, after thirty-one years with the company, when my employer (Rosauers) closed the Coeur d'Alene store.

Currently, I am an Idaho Native Plant Society member, Sandpoint Farmers Market board member, and am in my fourth year as an officer or board member of BCMG. I still have not reconciled my left brain with my right brain. Am I a Master Gardener because I want to share the transcendental joy that I receive from it, or because I am curious about what makes the world tick?

2005 Master Gardener Volunteer Projects

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Mail/email the volunteer form at the end of this newsletter to Bob Wilson rwilson@uidaho.edu
Chair/Co-Chair needed for each eventcontact any of the board members and let them know you are interested! Be sure your yearly \$10 dues are up to date....

Calendar Activities and contact person for 2005 as of January 7

- **January 21** - Winter Carnival Parade - Don Childress & Jan Rumore
- **March 12 & 13** - Bonner Mall Home and Garden Show - chair needed
- Downtown Sandpoint Beautification - Jan Rumore
- April - Plant Clinic sign-up - chair needed
- **May 7** Bake Sale at Farmers Market - Bill Lamson & Pat Moss
- **June 4** Bake Sale at Farmers Market - Bill Lamson & Pat Moss
- Plant Clinic at Farmers Market - chair needed
- June - Garden plot raffle - chair needed
- **July 4th** Parade - chair needed
- Garden Tour - Barb Moore (requests co-chair)
- Sept. - Nov. - Home Horticulture series - Don Childress & Valle Novak
- Aug. - County Fair Booth- Penny Barton & Pat Moss
- **October 7** Harvest Party, seed and plant exchange - chair needed
- LPHS - classes/greenhouse - Barb Moore & Jan Rumore
- Ongoing membership/phone tree committee - Gail Swan
- **December 9** Christmas Party - chair needed
- Additional projects and partnerships:
 - New MG Training - Bob Wilson
 - NEW Priest River Alt HS - Chair: Barb Moore
 - Community Cancer Services Bldg Landscape - Marsha Williams
 - Hab Humanity - Chair: Jenae Dale
 - Healing Garden - Colleen MacGregor
 - INPS Arboretum - Bill Lamson
 - Wildlife Discovery Center - Chair: Ann Wimberley
 - NEW Mickinick Trail - Chair: Ann Wimberley

Officers for 2005 and contact #'s

- President - Barb Moore 263-7236 togetmom@hotmail.com
- Vice President - Bill Lamson 263-3799 lamson@sandpoint.net
- Secretary - Brenda Fletcher 265-7944 packriverorganics@norlight.org
- Treasurer - Penny Barton 265-9733 one-cent@marykay.com
- Board Member - Janae Dale 265-2205 jjdale@coldreams.com
- Board Member - Sue Lopez 263-1949 seniorl@coldreams.com
- Board Member - Pat Moss 255-2667 geopat@bossig.com
- Board Member - Jan Rumore 255-1827 rumore@sandpoint.net
- Board Member - Gail Swan 265-0181 gswan8274@direcway.com

Bonner County Extension Office

4205 N. Boyer Avenue
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Contact Information

Phone: 208-263-8511

Fax: 208-263-6191

rwilson@uidaho.edu Bob Wilson
Master Gardener Program Coordinator

FINAL NOTES:

STORAGE SHED! We have the OK to have a storage shed at the Extension Office grounds! Soooo, anyone have a basic shed you'd like to donate? By having our own storage area we can be more organized and prepared for our different activities. Any ideas on the subject??

This is your newsletter...so....any information/additions for next month please let me know or any of the board members!!

Brenda Fletcher, Secretary

PS Happy New Year! See you the 21st at the parade...