

# The Garden Gate

Jan 9, 2007



Edited by Gail Swan ([gswan8274@hotmail.com](mailto:gswan8274@hotmail.com))

*Heartfelt thanks go out to all the 2006 board members who did such a great job keeping things going last year. It's wonderful to have people who really care about our organization and strive to keep it something to be proud of. Also, thanks to all the "non-board" members who chose to get involved. All the hard work is really appreciated!*

*Welcome to the new board for 2007:*

*President: Penny Barton*

*Vice Pres: Joyce Lane*

*Sec: Gail Swan*

*Treas: 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, it can be fully viewed on e-bay under item # 200068742007. There you will be able to see many more pictures, including one of the artist. Or you can contact Pat Moss @ 255-2667 if you don't have computer access.*



## Home Horticulture Classes

*This committee will be meeting this week to discuss potential classes for both the spring & fall workshop series. They will be reviewing evaluation forms from previous years and also contacting other Master Gardener organizations to get ideas for classes. If you have any ideas, suggestions or interests in a particular subject please contact Don Childress (committee chair) @ [dwc1rsc@televar.com](mailto:dwc1rsc@televar.com) or call the extension office @ 263-8511. Any input will be greatly appreciated.*

## Winter Parade

*The winter carnival parade is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 16. This is always lots of fun, starting with decorating the float. Dr. Fields Cobb has always graciously permitted us to use his barn to do the decorating and to keep the float there until time for the parade. Penny Barton has also contributed a lot of decorations for the float and has wonderful ideas for the application of her decorations. Volunteers are greatly appreciated - we can never have too many hands for the job. Anyone interested in participating please contact Don Childress, organizer @ [dwc1rsc@televar.com](mailto:dwc1rsc@televar.com).*

### 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. 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](mailto:bkpkr linda@aol.com)) & Jane Roach ([jane@roach.net](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 for how we can monitor progress for this year let Ann Warwick know ([w.redguy@verizon.net](mailto:w.redguy@verizon.net)) or call the extension office.

#### New Directory

Debbie Crain & Ann Warwick will be calling all members in the 2006 directory who have not as yet recertified for 2007. Hopefully everyone will do so!

#### Interviews

Chris McIntosh & Ann Warwick will be interviewing all members to help us get to know each other a little better. They will start with the active members & move on to the associate & emeritus members. Hopefully we can include a picture with the interview so that we can all put a face with the names in the directory.

### **Master Gardener Album**

*Ann Keiser has taken charge of our picture album; if you have any pictures or articles of interest please let Ann know or drop them off @ the office. It would be great to have better documented history for our organization.*

### **By-Law Changes**

*The By-Laws have not been updated for many years & are in need of revising. These are being worked on by Joyce Lane & Janae Dale. They will need to be voted on by the membership in the near future. This will be done by e-mail; snail mail for those who have no e-mail.*

### **Notes From Bob Wilson**

#### **Field Classes in the Rocky Mountains**

*Bob Wilson, Extension Educator*

Surprisingly, in one day, two intriguing catalogs came across my desk for field classes in the Idaho and Colorado Rocky Mountains. Offerings include plant ID, birding, history, geology and other natural resources.

In Idaho, the Sawtooth Science Institute, part of Idaho State University, offers classes that are designed for teacher continuing education. A couple that caught my eye are "Idaho Butterflies and Wildflowers" - a class which focuses on butterfly identification and the plants they rely on, and rely on them; and "High Country Plants" which takes the students on two days of hiking along high mountain trails. Most classes are \$50-70. There also is a recording fee of \$50 but that is only if you want credits for the class. You can peruse the classes online at <http://imnh.isu.edu/ssi>.

The other catalog came from the Rocky Mountain Nature Association in Colorado who partners with the Rocky Mountain National Park to offer classes for the whole family. It includes natural and cultural history, photography, art and nature writing; as well as outdoor skills and adventure. Youth classes cost \$20-25. Adult classes run from \$40-70. Many are 2-days. Complete class/course details are available at the association website <http://www.rmnp.org>. Click on Seminars.

If you are looking for an interesting way to complete your education requirements, this would do it. I would visit these places just for the scenery.

#### **A Winter Day in the Garden**

WSU Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners are offering an all-day conference at the scenic Clearwater Lodge on Davis Lake on Feb. 19, 2007. Featured speakers will be Cheryl Long, Editor-in-Chief, Mother Earth News; and Phyllis Stevens, Radio and TV gardening personality. The cost is \$55 and includes breakfast and lunch. A complete agenda is available at the Bonner County Extension Office. Call 509-447-2401 for more information.

#### **Sandpoint Community Forest Committee**

*Bob Wilson*

Sandpoint's trees need your help. The city currently has about 3300 trees in the public right-of-way and parks. To assist the city in the management of this urban forest, the city has appointed members of the general public to serve in an advisory capacity on the Sandpoint Community Forest

Committee. The committee currently has four members and is seeking to add three Sandpoint residents to bring the total to seven.

The city asks the committee to advise on care of the trees, recommendations on new plantings, review of commercial landscape plans, dispute resolution, and budget prioritization. Through all of this, we serve to give our public trees a vocal advocate that will ensure that our trees are protected and valued. Currently we are reviewing the city's landscape ordinance and preparing activities for Arbor Day.

If you are interested in joining our efforts, please give me a call at 263-8511 or email [rwilson@uidaho.edu](mailto:rwilson@uidaho.edu). At present, our openings are only for residents of the city of Sandpoint.

## Interviews

### **Shirley Barksdale, MG class of 2006 and 2007 Board Member**

*By Chris McIntosh*

Shirley was interested in becoming a Master Gardener after seeing the MG Booth at the Bonner Mall Home & Garden Show and after attending the Garden Tour. She says, "I just knew that this was my thing." When Shirley was a young mother, her husband managed a 1,500-acre ranch. The owner also ran a native plant nursery and grew a large vegetable and flower garden. Shirley said she taught her so much and "instilled in me the quest to do most of the same some day." What's been most challenging for Shirley in her own world of gardening? She says, "Everything! I'm fighting weeds (have 'em all), weather (shortest season in my neighborhood), bugs (have a major collection) and soil (needs help). This spring, I plan to redo the garden with raised beds, which hopefully, will allow me to be more successful and garden for the next twenty years or longer." Her greatest achievement *is* her garden, and like her life, is a work in progress. Ask her again in a year or two!

Shirley is also interested in travel, sewing, hiking (walking), cooking, crafts and her Basset Hound, Rambo. We've all seen him in her car; he goes almost everywhere with her! When asked what part of gardening is her specialty, she states, "Right now, it is my greenhouse. I am, by no means, an expert but I hope to be able to grow veggies year-round."

When asked about her "must-see" TV programs, she says that radio is more her thing, but is hooked on Survivor, The Amazing Race, Jeopardy and although she hates to admit it, Desperate Housewives.

### **Lois Wythe, Master Gardener Emeritus**

*By Ann Warwick*

Lois has done more than almost anyone else in Sandpoint to promote community gardening. She is the creator of the Farmers Market at Sandpoint, one of the first in Idaho. In about 1987, she gathered a group of folks who expressed an interest in forming a farmers market, with the idea of creating ways for locals with small acreages to market extra produce from their gardens. She was able to help convince a skeptical city parks director to allow the use of Farmin Park for a central market location. Almost twenty years later, the market is a thriving local feature.

The Kinnikinnick chapter of The Idaho Native Plant Society and the Native Plant Arboretum sprang, as well, from Lois Wythe's imagination and enthusiasm. She gathered a core group of about a dozen folks, and they are the creators of the arboretum in Memorial Park. Lois understands the potential of volunteers to create and maintain these two examples of community gardening.

At home, Lois has an extensive herb garden, The Peaceable Kingdom. She teaches classes about herbs and their uses, as well as classes on many other garden related topics. She has an open garden most Tuesdays in the warmer seasons, and has been visited by famous herbalists. Lois' favorite garden book is the Herb Companion, but she reads widely, and subscribes to a number of publications.

Lois is a native Idahoan, a rare breed these days. Her grand parents homesteaded in Idaho, farming with horses and wagons. From her roots, she gained a love of nature and growing things, a sense of the seasons, and the wisdom and patience it takes to be a gardening guru known throughout the region.