

The Garden Gate



edited by Kit Cooley (the_editrix@yahoo.com)

January 2009

Happy New Year! The votes are in!

2009 Officers: President, Janae Dale; Vice President, Ann Warwick; Treasurer, Zoe Bolton; Secretary, Kit Cooley

2009 Board Members: JoAnn Alexander, Bob Blair, Brenda Fletcher, Mikey Haven, Liz Kunze, Willie Millard, Valle Novak

President's Note



Dear Master Gardeners,

All of you know what a super job Penny Barton has done as president for the last two years. What an act to follow! I'm going to need lots of help to pull this off.

I am truly pleased to be president of this organization. It's a wonderful group and we all have so much in common. I do enjoy socializing and working with other "dirty fingernail" types. Unfortunately right now we can only dream of digging in the dirt. And those seed and plant catalogs just keep on coming! Anybody need a few more?

The Christmas/Holiday dinner was finally held and was great fun for everyone who attended. The Community Hall is a great place for a party, with lots of room and a kitchen to use. We plan to use it again when we need a place for a group.

It looks like a very busy year for everyone. In addition to our work at the Plant Clinic, there will be a new Master Gardener training class starting in February, an Advanced Master Gardener class for those interested, and lots of other activities to keep us busy.

Please know that this is your organization; Master Gardeners, Associate Members, and soon, New Students, too. The officers and board may conduct the formal business, but it doesn't really work without help and input from everyone. Please come to the membership meetings and share your ideas. Heck, just come and watch. When you read your *Garden Gate*, look for activities where you want to help and get involved.

Please call me or email me anytime with questions, concerns, comments and ideas.

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

Agent's Corner



The Benefits of Master Gardener Recertification

If you haven't already, consider recertifying as a Bonner County Master Gardener this coming year.

Recertifying MGs will be able to attend a limited number of basic MG training classes *free of charge* in 2009. Look for a letter in the mail for more detailed information. The classes begin February 19.

Beginning in March, advanced MG classes will be available *free* to all MGs who have committed to recertification in 2009. These classes will be 2 hours in length and will be held monthly on the third Wednesday of the month through October. The schedule will be announced later this winter.

Associate Master Gardener Status

If you do not wish to commit to the volunteer service, you may “stay in touch” as an Associate Master Gardener. Associate Master Gardeners may still attend Master Gardener social events, but may not dispense advice on behalf of the University of Idaho or attend basic or advanced Master Gardener classes. ***You may maintain Associate Master Gardener status without recertifying for up to three years. After that time, you will need to take the entire basic training again.***

Exemption for 2009 only: all past Master Gardeners who have let their certification lapse for more than three years may recertify without taking the basic training class. There will be a reception for past Bonner County MGs on Friday, March 6, at the Extension office. Stay tuned for details.

Master Gardener Recertification

To make the commitment to recertify as a Master Gardener in Bonner County in 2009, fill out the Recertification Agreement you will be receiving in the mail, or call our office at 263-8511 to receive a copy.

Thanks for your continued support!

Mike



Important Dates

February 3, Membership meeting, Extension Office, 9 a.m.
All welcome!

February 19, New MG Training Class begins

March 2, Membership meeting, Extension Office, 9 a.m.
All welcome!

March 6, Past BCMG Reception, Extension Office, TBA

April 6, Membership meeting, Extension Office, 9 a.m. All welcome!

April 18-19, Home and Garden Show, Fair Building (We need a chair for this event!)

May 5, Membership meeting, Extension Office, 9 a.m. All welcome!

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



Announcements

🌟 **Reception** for all 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.

🌟 **Submissions** to *The Garden Gate* are welcome. Please send them to Kit Cooley by email or US mail by the 1st of the month for that month's issue.

🌟 If you are not receiving your copy of the Extension Office publication, *Briefings*, in the mail, please call Patti Speelmon at 263-8511.

In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.
~William Blake