

The Garden Gate



Send comments to zbolton@gmail.com or call 264.1210

January 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,

According to Ward Elliot Hour, *"The color of springtime is in the flowers, the color of winter is in the imagination"*.

January is a great month to imagine how you would like your garden to grow. Thinking about location, color, textures and movement can lead us to daydreaming about execution in the spring and anticipated results in the summer and fall. Reread some of your favorite periodicals on landscape design, native plants of northern Idaho, or reminders on how to take care of the soil. Thumb through the myriad of catalogs looking for that special vegetable or unique flower you've missed in the past. Take your time and enjoy the process. Just imagine during this cold, wet winter month how beautiful and bountiful your garden will be in 2010!

The 2010 Board had our first Membership Meeting on January 6th. The Board is relatively new in terms of years with the organization so it is great to receive strong support from the veterans. I want to remind you that the Membership Meetings fall on the first Wednesday of the month at 9am at the Extension Office and are open to all Master Gardeners. I encourage your attendance and your input. Your guidance will ensure we are performing according to our mission of education, community service, fund raising and promotion.

The first meeting of the new year was lively with strong attendance and lots of discussion around a plethora of topics. A 2010 BCMGA Event Calendar has been created and is attached to the newsletter. It highlights the many activities that we as an organization have committed to for 2010. I want to send a special thanks to all of you that have renewed your chair positions for the upcoming year. The Event Calendar is a working document in that updates will be made to it monthly as dates are confirmed.

Planning is under way for the Spring Home Horticulture Classes. Any and all suggestions for class topics are welcome and should be submitted to Don Childress, Janae Dale or Gail Swan. Also please let them know if you are interested in being a facilitator.

The 2010 Master Gardener Training program is ramping up quickly so be sure to check out Mike's column in this newsletter to see the details.

As a general reminder, the certified master gardener volunteer requirements include 9 hours of plant clinic and 9 hours of additional volunteer time for a total of 18 hours. The hours are reported on a fiscal year beginning October 1, 2009 and ending September 30, 2010. A copy of the Volunteer Activity Record can be found at the following link <http://www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/clinic.htm> or you can swing by the Extension Office and pick one up.

If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy Planning!

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Flower bed as seen today...



...Imagine Spring!



Agent's Corner

A New Crop of MGs is Sprouting!

As the January 15 deadline for applications for Master Gardener training approaches, it feels like things are getting ramped up again. The BCMGA meeting on January 6 had a lot of fresh enthusiastic faces for the New Year. The seed catalogs that were circulating told me it is indeed January in the master Gardener Program!

Thanks to all who offered to help with interviewing the new MG trainees. I feel this is an important role for CMGs to have as mentors to those coming in to the program. Many of you remember how intense that first year was, and also how much satisfaction you got from your involvement. I encourage all CMGs to attend training sessions and introduce themselves and mingle with the new class to form a good bond with them as they go through their first year.

This year's training program will operate in much the same way as last year. Two changes include an extra session vegetable culture and one on cover crops and composting. We will make seats available to CMGs the same as last year; expect a letter in the mail as soon as I get speakers lined up.

There are a couple of opportunities for CMGs to facilitate classes for which I will be out of town that week:

April 13: Problem Solving – Fruits and Berries Location: Extension office
Needed: 2-3 CMG mentors to conduct this problem solving session, which involves small groups using resources to solve problems and then reporting back to the larger group. This task involves working with the groups to solve problems. Mentors will have the answer key. Mike will work with CMGs to go over materials beforehand.

April 15: Pruning Ornamentals Practicum Location: Extension office
Needed: 3-4 CMG mentors to take small groups through guided practice pruning ornamentals around the Extension office and Fairgrounds. Rich Del Carlo will be on hand to assist and teach a portion. Small groups will

rotate through the Plant Clinic one group at a time where Martha Fortunati will go over procedures.

Other notable dates for this year's Master Gardener program:

January 15: Deadline for MG applications
January 18-22: MG applicant interviews
January 28: Start of MG training
April 15: End of MG training
April 20: MG Nursery Tour
April 22: First day of Plant Clinic
April-May: Look for some fun and educational tours
All summer: Continuation of the popular potluck visits to outstanding MG gardens.

I am looking forward to an outstanding 2010. Meantime, stay warm, enjoy the company of your loved ones and we'll see you soon!

Mike



Seed Catalogs

Submitted by Janae Dale

It's that time of year when the mailbox fills with gardening catalogs and the brain fills with gardening visions. Planning and dreaming of planting and growing is a favorite January pastime. We all have our favorite catalogs to peruse and to use for ordering. If you don't have enough, or you don't know where to start, here are some suggestions:

Johnny's Selected Seeds (www.johnnyseeds.com) - Excellent detailed information on all their seeds, plus great gardening hints. Employee owned.

Pinetree Garden Seeds (www.superseeds.com) - Complete details for growing and some unusual seeds not found other places.

Bountiful Gardens (www.bountifulgardens.org) - All heirloom seeds suitable for seed saving. Detailed informa-

tion. Project of Ecology Action and they promote the Grow Biointensive method.

Territorial Seed Company (www.territorialseed.com) - Farmed in a similar climate (May 15 to Sept. 15) in Oregon's Willamette Valley, with excellent instructions and details for each product.

If I have left out your favorite, please send me the names and websites and I will include them in next month's Garden Gate.

It is very helpful to keep a record of which seeds you buy and from which place you buy them. Then during the growing season, make note of which ones you want to grow again, and which ones you might want to replace. In this month's Co-Op newsletter there is an excellent article by Diane Green about using your leftover and/or gathered seeds.

Janae



Gardening Television Programs

One more idea for gardening in the winter months is to catch up on gardening ideas and get advice from experts via televised gardening programs. A couple to check out include:

The Victory Garden on PBS
Gardening by the Yard on HGTV

Check the local television guide for days and times or go to their respective websites as follows:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/victorygarden/>

<http://www.hgtv.com/gardening-by-the-yard/show/index.html>



**BCMGA - Event Calendar
2010 Working Copy**



Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Notes
Membership Meeting	1/6	Zoe Bolton	
Orientation-Class of 2010	1/28	Mike Bauer	
Membership Meeting	2/3	Zoe Bolton	
Membership Meeting	3/3	Zoe Bolton	
Home Hort Classes	Mar-Apr	Don Childress, Gail Swan, Janae Dale	
City Baskets	March	Penny Barton, Jan Rumore, Gail Swan	
Membership Meeting	4/7	Zoe Bolton	
Advanced MG Program – Plant Clinic Orientation & Diagnostics	April	Mike Bauer/Martha Fortunati	
Home and Garden Show	April	Brenda Fletcher	
Nursery Tour-Class of 2010	4/20		
Plant Clinic Opens	4/22	Martha Fortunati	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	
Membership Meeting	5/5	Zoe Bolton	
Membership Meeting	6/2	Zoe Bolton	
Advanced MG Program – Plant ID Series	June	Janae Dale	Speaker = Jennifer Costich-Thompson
BCMG Home Visit	June	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	
Membership Meeting	7/7	Zoe Bolton	
4 th of July Parade	July 4th	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	
Sandpoint Garden Tour	Summer	Penny Barton	
BCMG Home Visit	July	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	
Membership Meeting	8/4	Zoe Bolton	
BCMG Home Visit	Aug	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Kit Cooley - Host
BC Fair	Summer	Gail Locke	
Yard Sale	Summer	Janae Dale	
Membership Meeting	9/1	Zoe Bolton	
BCMG Home Visit	Sept	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	
Home Hort Classes	Fall	Don Childress, Gail Swan, Janae Dale	
Membership Meeting	10/6	Zoe Bolton	
Graduation/Recognition Reception	Oct		
Membership Meeting	11/3	Zoe Bolton	
Membership Meeting	12/1	Zoe Bolton	
Holiday Reception	Dec		

*Actual date(s) to be inserted