



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

January 2013

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.

In This Issue

President's Message
January Gardening To-Do List
Membership Meeting Minutes- December 2012
Membership Meeting Minutes- January 2013
Yard Sale Items
School Garden Adventure
Home & Garden Show
Potluck Alert!
BCGA Event Calendar

President's Message

Greetings everyone and Happy New Year. Over the last few weeks I mulled over ideas for my first "Note from the President." I finally decided to mix my passion for flowers with our research-based commitment to gardening. Each month of the year is represented by a flower. January's flower is the carnation, also known as grenadine, clove-pink, and gillyflower.

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Caryophyllales
Family: Caryophyllaceae
Genus: Dianthus
Species: D. Caryophyllus

*The name carnation is often applied to some of the other species of Dianthus.

Carnations exhibit swollen leaf joints, simple undivided leaves, a calyx with 5 lobes, no stipules, and flowers with 4 or 5 petals. The color range tends to be shades of white, pink, and red. Occasionally shades of yellow and purple are available. Until

1996 blue carnations did not exist. Carnations lack the naturally produced pigment delphinidin. Using genetic engineering, Florigene Flowers, produced the first blue-mauve carnation, by extracting specific genes from petunias and snapdragons and inserting them in to carnations.

Carnations are native to Eurasia. They have been cultivated for over 2,000 years. The carnation is revered for its ruffled petals, spicy clove-like scent, and long-lasting bloom period both in the garden and in bouquets. These delightful flowers are edible. The petals are surprisingly sweet and delicious. They are used in salads, atop cakes, and to spice beer, wine, and syrups. They can be candied and pickled. Carnation petals are one of the main ingredients in the French liqueur Chartreuse.

These incredible flowers have a long and interesting history. According to a Christian legend, carnations first appeared on Earth when the Virgin Mary shed copious tears when Jesus was forced to bear his own cross. Where Mary's tears touched the ground, pink carnations sprang forth. Pink carnations have come to symbolize a mother's love.

Carnations stand for love, fascination, and distinction. During the Victorian era, the strict rules of etiquette deemed it inappropriate to publicly express feelings of affection or love. Sending flowers was considered acceptable, so they were quickly used to convey messages; Light Red – admiration; Dark Red – deep feelings of love or affection; Pink – I'll never forget You; White – pure love and good luck; Striped – I wish I could be with You; Yellow – Disappointment.

In 1904 Ohio named the scarlet carnation their state flower, in part, to honor an Ohioan Governor who went on to become our 25th president: William McKinley. McKinley was known to regularly wear a scarlet carnation on his lapel.

In 1914, after many years of campaigning, Anna Jarvis succeeded in her quest for our country to officially observe Mother's Day. To honor her mother Anna chose the carnation, her mother's favorite flower. Anna specifically chose the white carnation to represent the purity of her mother's love.

I wish I could send each and every one of you a bountiful bouquet of light red carnations. I do so in my heart and mind.

Sincerely, Jan Wilfert 2013 BCGA President



January Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:
http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Month/zonese01.html



Zone 3

- Order seeds

- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom

Zone 4

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds indoors for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)

Zone 5

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

BCGA Membership Meeting, December 5, 2012

Present: Penny Barton, Howie Fennimore, Linda Gjording, Jenna Bertus, Jan Wilfert, Jon Bair, Zoe Bolton, Barb Pressler, Ann Warwick, Janae Dale, Butterfly Burke, Penny Goodman and Gail Swan

Meeting was called to order @ 9:05am by Vice President, Penny Barton
Nov minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: \$2400.71

School Gardens:

Janae reported gardens doing well; teacher Sara Evans is in charge @ the Charter school; she can take care of the projects during school hours; Janae & Jan Wilfert planted bulbs in a bed that Toni North had filled with new soil; another bed will be done in the spring-will be filled with new soil & then be ready for the students to help plant

Membership committee:

Report from Zoe: Chris McIntosh has started advertising process for the membership class information

& it was also sent to the home hort e-mail list; we need a minimum of 5 students & a maximum of 8 due to room size; the U of I 2011 Master Gardener Manual is available to any one wishing to purchase it for \$50 plus shipping; since this is available to the public, we will be using it as well as the U W manual for our classes; classes to start on Jan 17 & end on March 7; classes will be on Tues & Thurs from 9-12:30 in the conference room @ the office Unfortunately, Dr Tripepi is unavailable to teach a class on "Plant Problem Diagnosis" for us in March; we hope to have him teach a class in May on this subject for all members

Home Hort:

No new at this time

Pot Lucks:

Penny's party was terrific, even though too wet for a bonfire; lots of good food & good company! Several others have volunteered to have a party in the near future; if you would like to host a pot luck, contact Ann Warwick

Officers & Board for 2013

New officers for 2013: Jan Wilfert, President; Zoe Bolton, Vice President; Bob Blair, treasurer; Gail Swan, Secretary
Board Members: Jon Bair, Penny Barton, Jenna Bertus, Howie Fennimore, Linda Gjording, Becky Reynolds & Mike Williams

Christmas Party:

Christmas party will be held on Sat, Dec 8th @ Coldwater Creek again this year; we are having meat & potatoes catered from the Pack River Store; bring appetizers, salads or desert to finish the menu; spouses are welcome; bring a "white elephant" gift & join in the fun

Patricia Murphy

The announcement was made that we were awarded a wonderful tribute by "Trish" Murphy, a Master Gardener who graduated in 2008 and passed away last year. BCGA is the recipient of \$34,848 from her estate. This was made to us so that we may continue to provide community service and education in alliance with our mission. There are no restrictions on how the funds are to be used. Jan Wilfert will check with a CPA who deals with non-profit organizations so that the funds can be taken care of wisely.

We will be having a discussion regarding a memorial that we can plant in some appropriate

location for Trish. Penny Barton will talk with Rhonda Livingston at the fair grounds to see if we can do a memorial there for her.

Garage sale:

Don't forget to save items for the 2013 garage sale; Bob Blair has kindly offered his barn on Bronx Rd to store items in

USDA classes:

Janae has a link to "streaming video" classes from the USDA; videos are 1 hour long; we may be able to view them in the conference room @ the office; more info to come

Farmers Market:

We still need a chair for the farmers market if we are to have a presence there; please contact Jan Wilfert if interested in chairing this committee

Web Site

A chair is needed for the web site maintenance; please contact Jan Wilfert if interested in maintaining the web site

Meeting adj @ 10:10

BCGA Membership Meeting; **January 2, 2012**

2013 Board: Jan Wilfert, Zoe Bolton, Gail Swan, Bob Blair, Jon Bair, Penny Barton, Jenna Bertus, Howard Fennimore, Linda Gjording, Becky Reynolds, Mike Williams

Call to Order: 9:10am

In Attendance: Jan Wilfert, Ann Warwick, Butterfly Burke, Penny Barton, Jon Bair, Howie Fennimore, Jon Porter, Linda Gjording, Jenna Bertus, Janae Dale, Zoe Bolton, Mikey Haven

Treasurer's Report - \$2,185.31

Minutes approved as written.

Presentation: Penny Barton presented a gift to Mikey Haven in appreciation of Mikey's work as the BCGA 2012 President. Jan Wilfert presented Mikey with flowers as a gift from the incoming president to the outgoing president. All expressed their appreciation to Mikey for her wonderful efforts in 2012.

Projects:

Membership Course: Currently there are three individuals signed up for the 2013 course. A minimum of five is needed to hold the class. A "meet

and greet” is scheduled for 1/10. The minimum class size must be met by that time. Penny will send an email to the local garden clubs soliciting participation. Gail Swan will disseminate a second request to the HH email distribution list. A motion was made and approved to pay for an ad in the Bee. Chris McIntosh was contacted to place the ad asap.

Potlucks: The first potluck for 2013 is scheduled for 1/19 at the home of Jenna Bertus. It will begin at noon with a snow shoe stroll for those interested and then follow with the potluck lunch. Directions to Jenna’s will be emailed to the membership. Another potluck is tentatively planned at the home of Janae Dale to be scheduled for some time in February.

Garden Gate: Articles for the Garden Gate should be sent to Laurie Brown within four – five days following the monthly meeting.

Continuing Education: A chair for this committee needs to be identified. Discussion occurred around the frequency, season and subject content. Penny notified the group that if there is interest in a native orchid class there is a local expert who could present such a class. Jon Porter volunteered to teach a micro-greens class.

As an added note, Jon will be teaching a class on micro-greens at the Sandpoint library on 1/26 at 10am. It is open to the public and all members interested are encouraged to attend.

Membership volunteer hours: It was discussed and agreed that members who facilitate a Membership Course class can optionally apply that activity to either their annual volunteer hour requirement or their annual education requirement.

Home and Garden Show: Ann Warwick will contact the contractors association to inquire on an application for the Home and Garden Show which is typically held in mid-April. Suggested mini-classes for that event include: Micro-greens (Jon P), Tool cleaning/sharpening (Jan Wilfert), Container Plants, Tomatoes, Worm composting, Pruning, Flower gardening.

Home Hort: A meeting will occur in January to plan the spring HH classes. There will be fewer classes per series in 2013 to relieve the work load on the committee.

Spring Fund Raiser – Plant/Starts sale: A spring fund raiser at which the association will sell starts and plants will be held in front of Sears on Friday May 3rd. A message to the association – if you plant starts please plant extra this year to be sold at the sale. The association will also have an infor-

mation/education booth at the sale to field general questions from the public. It was discussed and agreed that the association is not intending to show a preference to a given business establishment by holding this event at Sears and would gladly provide applicable services to additional gardening businesses in the community when and if such services are defined and assuming the resources are available.

Farmers Market: The group discussed the importance of providing a public service to the community by having an information/education booth twice monthly at the Sandpoint Farmers market. The market starts in early May and continues through October. A chairperson is needed! Jan will send a notice out to interested parties seeking a chair for this important event.

Healing Garden: Jan will contact Barb Pressler and Gail Locke to confirm their interest in leading the group to provide assistance at the Healing Garden.

Membership: There are still a handful of members who have not renewed for 2013. If their renewal is not received in the next 10 days they will be removed from the directory and the email distribution list.

Trisha Murphy’s Gift Update: Jan has performed some research. A committee meeting will be called in the next month to review and provide recommendations to the board.

Outgoing President Board position: The group discussed that benefit in the past president retaining a board position in the year after their tenure. While it was agreed the past president is an important contributor to the board the ability to incorporate that as policy requires a review and amendment to the by-laws. The discussion was tabled until the next periodic review of the by-laws.

Cash box: The group discussed and agreed on an amount of \$25 to be retained in petty cash in the cash box.

Meeting adjourned: 11:12am

YARD SALE ITEMS

Did you get something new for Christmas that replaces something old? Is the old one still usable?

Or did you get something not usable by you at all, but could be someone else’s treasure? Did you do any cleaning during the holidays where you may have uncovered some good stuff that you no longer want? It’s not too early to be boxing up items for the yard sale, even though it isn’t until August.

Clean out your closets and your gardening supplies and box up those slightly used unwanted treasures. You can clear them out now by taking them to Bob Blair's place for storage until the sale! Just give him a call to let him know you are coming by.

School Garden Adventure

Jan Wilfert

On a cold blustery day, the week before Thanksgiving, I joined Janae Dale and three students in planting bulbs and scattering seeds at the charter school campus. Raeanna Blockhan, Liam McCoy, and Drew Meier, students in Sarah Evans classroom, were eager to garden, despite the weather. These engaged and engaging young gardeners listened, followed directions, made wise planting choices, and help make my first school garden experience wonderful. Next spring I plan to go back to the school with Janae and hope some of you will consider joining us in this important and fun BCGA program.



L to R: Sarah Evans, Drew Meier, Janae Dale, Liam McCoy, Jan Wilfert, Raeanna Blockhan

HOME & GARDEN SHOW

The annual Panhandle Building Contractors Association Home and Garden Show will take place on the second weekend of April. BCGA always participates in this event, as it is a great opportunity to meet the public and do a bit of educating on garden topics. We also have fun visiting with other members in the booth. Ellie Lizotte and Ann Warwick will chair this event. Quite a few members signed up to help out, and we certainly appreciate that.

Here's what we need:

16 people to be in the booth, 10 for Saturday and 6 for Sunday. We'll be sending out a schedule. We like to have two people per two hour session.

We need several members to give short talks on gardening. Ten or fifteen minutes is sufficient, with some time to answer questions. Jan Wilfert has volunteered to discuss "Sharpening Tools", and Jon Porter will speak about "Growing Micro-Greens." We like to have three to four talks per day, so if you would like to participate in this part of the Home and Garden Show, just contact either Ellie (hopeellie@aol.com) or Ann (w.redguy@frontier.com) to get on the schedule.

We'll also need folks to set up the booth on Friday evening and help take it down after the show closes on Sunday. More details next month.

Thank you all for signing up.



Potluck Alert to BCGA Members!

Jenna Bertus and her husband Dave have graciously invited the membership to a potluck/snowshoe get together at their home on January 19, beginning at noon, with visiting and snowshoeing followed by the potluck.

BCGA will provide plates, napkins, flatware and the like. Each attendee brings a potluck item and a beverage of choice, along with snowshoes and ski poles to help with the experience. Anyone who has extra equipment is welcome to bring it along to loan to those who don't have it.

Jenna and Dave live at 5622 Sagle Road. From Sandpoint, go south on Hwy 95 to Sagle, Turn left onto Sagle Road, across the highway from the gas

station. Go about six miles on Sagle Road. Turn right onto the driveway entrance at 5622 Sagle Road. Stay right. We will have a sign or two up for guidance. Jenna suggests that you come in an all wheel or four wheel drive vehicle.

Let's have some fun in the wintertime. Camaraderie is part of who we are.

Cheers! Ann Warwick

Event Calendar - 2012			
Event	Date	Chair(s)	Notes
Membership Meeting	Wed 1/2	Jan Wilfert	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am
Potluck	Sat 1/19	Ann Warwick, Becky Reynolds	To be held at the home of Jenna Bertus; noon; includes snowshoeing followed by lunch
Membership Meeting	Wed 2/6	Jan Wilfert	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am
Membership Meeting	Wed 3/6	Jan Wilfert	BCGA Offices at 804 Airport Way, Sandpoint; 265-2070; 9am

2012 Event Chairs and Contact Info			
Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Contact
Membership Meetings	Ongoing	Jan Wilfert	610-4829 or 66haven@gmail.com
Continuing Education Program	Ongoing		
Membership Committee	Ongoing	Zoe Bolton	264-1210 or zbolton@gmail.com
Home Horticulture Series	Spring & Fall	Don Childress, Janae Dale and Gail Swan	Don - 255-7928 or dwc1rsc@televar.com ; Janae - 265-2205 or dalejanae@gmail.com , or Gail H 263-0180 C 290-4126 or gswan8274@hotmail.com
Home and Garden Show	April	Ellie Lizotte and Ann Warwick	Ellie - 264-5462 or hopeellie@aol.com ; Ann - H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or w.redguy@frontier.com
School Gardens	Spring/Summer	Janae Dale	265-2205 or dalejanae@gmail.com
Farmers Market	Spring/Summer		
Mickinnick Trailhead - meet the 1 st and 3 rd Wed of each month at 9am at the trailhead	Spring/Summer	Jan Griffiths	jan@looptravel.com , 290-1973
Healing Garden	Spring/Summer	Valle Novak	
Potlucks	Summer	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Becky - rplace@directv.net or 264-3214; Ann - H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or w.redguy@frontier.com
Garden Tour	July	Penny Barton	H 265-9733; C 610-1493 or one-cent@gotsky.com
Bonner County Fair	Aug	Lynn Pietz and Jon Bair	lynnpietz@hotmail.com or 265-3563