

The Garden Gate



July 2004

BCMGA is Getting Wired

In August, your delivery of the Garden Gate will come to you by e-mail (excepting, of course, those of you who do not have this service). The reasons are twofold: we are keeping up with the way the world has turned and, in addition, this will save us much needed funds. Copy and postage costs for each member's GG is almost double the annual dues. If there are any changes in your e-mail address from the membership book and those corrected in the June GG, please send them to Pat Moss at geopat@bossig.com. Your participation is important to the group and we don't want you to miss any of the activities and newsy articles. And you can always find the GG at <http://www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/>. Susan Daffron has done a 'most excellent' job to ensure this website is worth your visit.



Just I imagine

You and a companion walking down one gorgeous garden path after another. Each garden more beautiful than the last. You don't need a ticket to London; this can be yours when you purchase a ticket to The Master Gardeners First Annual Garden Tour. You will have the pleasure of visiting SIX wonderful gardens for the low price of \$15. This event takes place July 18th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

An ideal gift idea for those special people in your life that love gardens.



Garden Tour

By the time you read this, our first Garden Tour is the upcoming Sunday, July 18, 2004. Here is a list of the gardens on our tour with our individual Garden site coordinators:

1. Barbara Pressler - Barbara Moore (263-7236)
2. Beth Evans - Rita Janisse (263-7758)
3. Gretchen Hellar - Bill Lamson (263-3799)
4. Loie DeLaVergne - Don Childress (255-7928)
5. Penny Barton - Penny Barton (265-9733)
6. Sharon Rench - Jan Rumore (255-1827)

Some of our coordinators have changed the staffing requirements and we will need additional volunteers to staff some of the garden sites. If you have volunteered and we have not called you back, please give us another call. We would love to have more of you enjoy this exciting event.

We also have opportunities for you to enjoy a breath of fresh air at one of the local businesses and assist the coordinators in ticket sales before our event. Again, please give one of the above coordinators a call.

Ticket Sales Opportunities

(Name)	(Garden Site)
Barbara Moore	Priest River Gardens
Rita Janisse	Assisting Beth Evans
Bill Lamson	Arcadia
Don Childress	Northland Nursery (Post Falls)
Penny Barton	Idaho Stone
Jan Rumore	Westwood (Rathdrum)

Tickets are available at the Extension center, the above businesses and at the site.

I want to thank all the enthusiastic people who are involved and look forward to seeing you at one of the lovely gardens. Michelle



Salutations

Greetings Gardeners! We are half way through 2004, and it seems as though we're in a heated sprint. Whoa! Time to sit back and reflect a bit.

Last month's MG Conference was a perfect opportunity to watch other MG programs in action and listen to their approaches to the MG mission. I've had a few weeks to reflect on what I saw and heard from these other N. Idaho programs, and I'd like your input on our own past, present and future programs, activities and goals.

Our mission statement reads, "The BCMGA will work in the community by providing educational programs, training and programs, and applicable community service in the area of home and community horticulture....." There's a lot of wiggle room here, and certainly each of us has our own take as to what constitutes "applicable community service" or "training and programs".

So let's all give this some thought. And then let's talk about it. Because at the end of 2004 it would be nice to say, "mission accomplished!" **Jan Rumore**

Kudos

I want to thank those people who came to help beautify the extension office with their plants and labor. Barb Moore, Bill Lamson, Jan Rumore, Mary Bruhjell and her children Eric and Kaitlynn who came as little garden helpers. Ann Keiser brought us a delightful mix of flowers that completed our project wonderfully

Fairy Garden People



If you are one of those who just love to weed, I need YOU!

I am Penny Barton and my garden is on the Garden Tour July 18th. Because of a too busy schedule and weather to make you crazy I am behind and really could use some help to make my gardens look as good as possible for the tour. Any amount of time that you could donate would be so appreciated. Please contact me at 265-9733

Pesticides and Organic Production Presentation

Ronda Hinryck, the Pesticide Program Coordinator for the University of Idaho, will be traveling to northern Idaho in early August to deliver presentations on Pesticides and Organic Production – Their Impact on the Food Supply in the three northern counties (see flyer included in this newsletter). This presentation was designed as advanced training for Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers. If you are interested in attending you will need to call the extension office to pre-register.



Sustainable Small Acreage Farming and Ranching Class

We will be offering this class again this fall in Sandpoint. It is offered simultaneously in Moscow and Sandpoint through the wonders of technology. Lectures are shared via a teleconferencing link, but class discussions and activities are conducted locally. This class offers an introduction to planning a small-scale agricultural enterprise. It emphasizes good land stewardship as well as resource and economic sustainability. During the course students will develop a small farm plan which can be based on a real or hypothetical situation. It is a semester long course which goes from Aug. 24 to Dec. 14 and will be held on Tuesdays from 3:00 – 5:30. The class is available for optional academic credit or CEU's.

2004 Inland Northwest Master Gardener Conference

After a great deal of planning and effort by a great many people, we were able to present our first area Master Gardener conference. The whole conference was a tremendous success, with around 100 people attending. We had some great presentations, workshops and tours, and feedback from those attending was very positive. Also, there were some great items in the silent auction (thanks Jan). This event provided excellent exposure for the MG program since 20 participants were not MG's.

One of the benefits of an area conference is the sharing of ideas and experiences between the different counties. To this end, we included a Search for Excellence and requested counties prepare a short presentation highlighting their county activities. My thanks to Don Childress and Jan Rumore for putting on a very impressive show. Benewah Co. received the Search

for Excellence Award, but judges were hard pressed to pick a clear winner. All had accomplished so much.

Since one of our goals of having the conference was to increase interest and participation in the MG program, we asked on the evaluation form whether attending the conference increased people's interest in either becoming a MG or continuing as an MG. Of the MG's responding, 100% indicated that they were more interested in continuing as an MG as a result of attending the conference. Of the non-MG's, 75% now were interested in becoming an MG.

Conference organizers were enthused by the results and are interested in organizing another conference in 2006. My everlasting gratitude goes out to all who helped make this a resounding success.

Master Gardener Training in 2005

I would like to get everyone's response to a suggestion I have about Master Gardener training and what you would like to see offered next year. As my time becomes more constrained with activities, I have to pay careful attention to which projects I take on, and try to put my time into those that are most useful. Over the past few years, I have put a lot of effort into training new MG's. Now we have more people in this program than there has been for some time. There also is considerable interest in having more in-depth classes for trained MG's. I don't feel it is possible to do both in the same year and would like to see what you think the priority should be for the coming year - training for new MG's or training for experienced MG's. At present, most counties only offer MG training every other year. We do not have to follow this example unless it makes sense for us.

If I offered an in depth course next year, I would like to do one on plant problem diagnosis and management. I would like to offer it as a 10-week course, meeting once/week. Depending on people's schedules, it could be either during the day or evening.

Please call (263-8511) or email (rwilson@uidaho.edu) to let me know your thoughts on this. I would like to answer -

1. Should we do an advanced training for our current MG's or beginning training for new MG's?
2. If an advanced course is offered, what time of day is best - morning, afternoon or evening?

Thanks, Bob