

The Garden Gate



July 2010

Please contribute to The Garden Gate. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome. For questions or comments please email zbolton@gmail.com or call 208.264.1210.

President's Note

Dear Master Gardeners,

Thanks for all you do!!!

July was a busy month for volunteer efforts and I want to use this month's column to thank all of you who assisted with those events.



Plant Clinic

The Plant Clinic is in full swing and it looks to be another busy summer of providing gardening assistance to the general public. This is one of the key programs we support so thanks to everyone for doing your part. A BIG thanks to **Martha Fortunati** for all the effort she puts into keeping us in-line and on task. There is an article later in this newsletter on "area's for improvement" ...please read it carefully.

Learning Garden

A work party was held on June 11th with a handful of participants who worked diligently to kick the 2010 season off with the goal of once again delivering on a productive season. Much thanks to our co-chairs; **Mikey Haven and Gail Swan**. Your efforts in conjunction with the volunteers who show up to help go a long way towards meeting our goal of providing an educational garden for the community.



MG's at the Sandpoint Farmers Market

The BCMGA added a new educational and informational event this year. We have a monthly presence at the Sandpoint Farmer's Market where we answer straight forward gardening questions and we inform the public about the U of I Master Gardener Program. **Janae Dale** introduced the concept and took on the task of heading up this new event. Our attendance has been well received and we will review our continued participation for next year at the next Membership Meeting.

2010 Garden Tour



We had a beautiful day to visit six wonderful locations (including the Learning Garden). The hosts at each location were both very knowledgeable and extremely gracious. We had lots of MG volunteers to help prepare for and work at each of the homes for which I am very thankful. At the top of my list to give thanks is to **Penny Barton** for once again putting together a first class show!

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Zoe M. Bolton, President
zbolton@gmail.com
264-1210



Agent's Corner

As Summer Finally Begins, it Seems Halfway Over

As we head into mid-summer, it feels like we actually had two springs in a row. Some recent hot weather has helped me realize it is actually July already, with many of our gardens still a couple of weeks behind. With the wet weather, I expect plant diseases have been pretty active and that damage will start to show up on plants as the hot weather

continues. Expect to see quite a few examples of leaf and shoot blight (*Venturia populina*) and Marssonina leaf spot (black spot) on aspen and poplar along with many more. Many of these diseases will cease their activity with warmer, drier weather.

The Master Gardener Learning Garden is looking great thanks to the effort coordinated by Mikey Haven and Gail Swan. New mulch was added and the irrigation is up and running. The Garden Tour was also a great success, with 110 people attending the gardens in and around the Sandpoint area.

As many of you know, the Sandpoint Research and Extension Center has closed as of June 30. Dr. Dan Barney is scheduled to relocate to Moscow without an Extension appointment. This means we will lose his expertise in the Master Gardener Program. This is a huge loss for this area and for Extension Programs in north Idaho. As discussion on the future of the center proceeds, I will keep you updated.

As many of you already know, we have launched a new redesigned website for UI Bonner County Extension located at www.uidaho.edu/extension/bonner. Go through the Horticulture and Small Farms portal to view the Bonner County Gardening (public page) and the Master Gardener Volunteer page. If you have any suggestions on how the page could be more useful, please give me a call.

Mike





Plant Clinic

Important Reminders and Recent Updates! (A.k.a. "Area's for Improvement")

At the July Membership Meeting the following items were discussed under the direction of Martha Fortunati, Plant Clinic Coordinator:

- We have an obligation to provide timely responses to our clients. As such we should not work on new problems presented the day you are working in the plant clinic as long as there are other problems pending. Please make sure you are working from the pending file, oldest problems first. If you have attempted to contact the client with no success make sure you document that in the file including the date, time, method of contact and response from client. The goal is to close the oldest files first.
 - When a client presents a problem make sure to fill out fully the appropriate form(s). Adequate documentation goes a long way in assisting the next volunteer in working the problem. If forms are not filled out completely that could contribute to a delay in a timely response to the client. If a new problem is presented during your shift, take the time to fill out the form appropriately but then place it behind all other pending requests as discussed above. Explain to the client that you are working on previously presented problems but that someone will be back to them regarding their problem on a timely basis. Our goal is to close all problems within 2-3 business days.
- If taking the information from the client seems to be disruptive to the efforts being performed at that time in the Plant Clinic, the CMG should take the client to the Extension Office empty office or to the Extension Office classroom (if either are available) or ask the client to step out the back door where you can focus on the interview process. This allows those working in the Plant Clinic to continue the problem solving process on pending problems.
 - If you are working the afternoon shift and you are placing the reminder call to the volunteer as to their next scheduled day to work the plant clinic please also inform them of the number of pending problems so that they are aware of the current workload prior to the start of their shift.
 - Remember that we have an obligation to present alternate solutions including both organic and chemical solutions. Please refer to the PNW handbooks which include alternate solutions and present all solutions to the client.
 - The PH Meter is a tool that Mike Bauer has made available for us to use to measure client's soil PH levels when asked. It is very simple to use and the instructions are on the outside of the container it is stored in. Do not leave the problem for the next shift.
 - The noise level in the plant clinic can become excessive and disruptive to other individuals working in the building. Please be mindful of the noise and keep it to a minimum.
 - MG's are not to submit problems from their own gardens to the Plant Clinic but are encouraged to use the Plant Clinic (on non-Plant Clinic days) to self diagnose. This is an opportunity to strengthen problem solving skills.

Our goal is to have an efficient, productive, pleasant and enjoyable experience in providing a service to the greater community of Bonner County and

beyond as needed. As a group of volunteers you do an excellent job of meeting that goal. There is also always room for improvement and these are just a few reminders to help us with that. Thanks for all you do!



Editor Needed! Help!

Tina Raiha has some conflicts which prevent her from continuing in the Master Gardener program. She has been a wonderful contributor to the organization and we will miss her comments, suggestions and great ideas!

That means that we are seeking someone to fill the role of editor for the remainder of the year. It requires minimum writing as most MGs will send you print ready subject/articles. It only takes a few hours a month to layout the articles submitted.

If you know how to use Word or any other publishing tool you are qualified! Make my day...become my new best friend! Call or email and let me know you are interested.

Contact Zoe at zbolton@gmail.com or 208.264.1210.



MG GARDEN VISIT POTLUCKS FOR JULY



The July garden visit takes place on July 14 from 1 to 3 pm at Val Ripley's home. Participants should bring a potluck offering and their own beverage of choice. Plates and flatware will be provided, unless someone wants to spare the environment by bringing his or her own.

Directions to Val's home: turn onto Kootenai Bay Rd. from Highway 200. Go straight towards the lake for about 3 blocks to the T and take a right on Ponder Point Drive. Stay on Ponder Point Drive to # 511 which will be on the right. There are lots of California poppies along the road in front of their house. There will be signs along the way to help.

I hope to see a lot of you there. We all learn from each garden we visit, and have some fun visiting with other gardeners, as well.

Cheers!
Ann Warwick



Upcoming Class

Sign up now for the Advanced Master Gardener class on Garden Insects, Good and Bad, being taught by Pat Munts of Spokane, on Friday, September 24, from 1 to 3 pm. Call or email Janae at 265-2205, dalejanae@gmail.com. This class is open to both Master Gardeners and 2010 Class.



Needed for the Fair...

The Fair Booth Committee is looking for strings of CHILI PEPPER LIGHTS. If you have some, and are willing to loan them for the booth, please call or email Gail Locke, gardenersdaughter@yahoo.com. We will need them the last week of August, during the fair.



Yard and Plant Sale

The Master Gardener Yard and Plant Sale on August 27 will only be as good as the items we have for sale. Keep an eye open around the house, the garage, the barn, the shed and the garden for those unwanted treasures and set them aside for the sale. Plants are a real favorite, so pot up those pesky seedlings coming up around the flower bed, as well as those divisions when you separate out those perennials. If you need pots, please call me.

Janae - 265-2205



Plant Identification Class

The Plant Identification Class offered as an Advanced Master Gardener Class was completed with a field trip to Mineral Point and Lost Lake on Friday, July 9. The trip was an outstanding learning experience and a perfect "last day" for a really great class.

Despite the frustration with all the scientific terminology, we definitely learned a great deal in the class, and have improved in our ability to identify plants. Jennifer Costich-Thompson is a remarkable and knowledgeable teacher and we all thank her for her patience!

Jennifer has said she will consider teaching the class again next year for those of you who didn't take the class this time.



Advanced Master Gardener Program

The board has indicated an interest in having an Advanced Master Gardener Program. A committee is needed for planning and designing a proposal for a program. If you are interested in serving on a committee this fall and winter to work on a proposal, please call or email Janae, 265-2205, dalejanae@gmail.com.

**BCMGA - Event Calendar
2010 Working Copy**



| Event | Date* | Chair(s) | Notes |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| BCMGA Home Visit | 7/14 | Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick | Val Ripley – Host |
| Membership Meeting | 8/4 | Zoe Bolton | Ext Office 9am |
| Sandpoint Farmers Market | 8/14 | Janae Dale | Information Booth |
| BCMGA Home Visit | 8/14 | Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick | Ellie Lizotte – Host |
| Hope Farmers Market | 8/20 | | BCMGA Theme; 2-5:30pm |
| BCMGA Home Visit | 8/21 | Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick | Becky Reynolds – Host |
| Bonner County Fair | 8/24-8/28 | Gail Locke | BC Fairgrounds |
| Yard Sale | 8/27 | Janae Dale | |
| Membership Meeting | 9/1 | Zoe Bolton | Ext Office 9am |
| BCMGA Home Visit | 9/18 | Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick | Barbara Moore |
| Home Hort Classes | Fall | Don Childress, Gail Swan, Janae Dale | Extension Office |
| MG Class – Gardening Insects – Pat Munts | 9/24 | Janae Dale | Extension Office 1-3pm |
| Membership Meeting | 10/6 | Zoe Bolton | Ext Office 9am |
| Graduation/Recognition Reception | October | | |
| Membership Meeting | 11/3 | Zoe Bolton | Ext Office 9am |
| Membership Meeting | 12/1 | Zoe Bolton | Ext Office 9am |
| Holiday Reception | December | | |

- *Actual date(s) to be inserted
- ** Note date change