

<http://sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/>

The Garden Gate

June 10, 2005



Bonner County Master Gardeners 2005 Tour - June 26

The second annual Master Gardener Garden Tour is scheduled for Sunday, June 26, from 10 am to 5 pm. This year we've expanded, in several ways--geographically, we've included gardens outside Sandpoint, and we've increased the number of open gardens to seven. To allow tour participants travel time, e.g., to Priest River, we've also expanded the "open hours". We have a wonderful variety of types of gardens, including vegetables, perennials, cutting gardens, and garden rooms. Tickets (\$10 each) are available at the Extension office, Monarch Mountain Coffee, and at each garden on June 26th.

It will be great, but the committee needs help! We need five more docents willing to contribute four hours, morning or afternoon, to anchor a garden. The shifts are 10-2 or 1-5, to allow the host gardener time for lunch. Please call Rae Charlton, 255-7666 if you can help. Docents will preview all the gardens on Saturday, June 18.

MG's unable to attend the June 26 event can join the preview group on the 18th—

but you must reserve ahead, and buy a ticket. Please call Barb Moore or Rae Charlton if you wish to do this. Please help spread the word about this delightful tour! Thanks. Rae

Garden Tour Sites:

1. "Neighbors" - 206 / 212 Cedar Street, Priest River
2. "His -n- Hers" - 99 Laclede Shore Drive, Laclede
3. "Enchantment" - 208 Joshua Court, Sandpoint
4. "Anita's Memories" - 920 N. Forest, Sandpoint
5. "Flowers from the Heart" - 1444 Gooby Road, Sandpoint
6. "Pressed for Time" - 768 Samuels Road, Sandpoint
7. "Phoenix" - 1762 W. Elmira Road, Elmira

July 4 Parade is ON

Please plan on participating for the annual July 4 Parade. The Master Gardeners will have a presence again this year! Contact Sue Lopez if you have questions at 263-1949.

Plant Clinic

Debbie Crain

Summer is my favorite time of year! Flowers are in full bloom and my veggie garden is showing signs of life. Everywhere you look you see green. And the plant clinic is off to a roaring start! Many thanks for all the sign-ups and support. Those who have worked in the clinic have helped many Bonner County gardeners with their problems.

A few reminders for those who will be working their shifts:

-Please be sure to fill out everything you know on the paperwork. This includes your name, and any research you have done to date. Try to think in terms of the person behind you trying to figure out what has been accomplished so far. If the problem sheets are fully filled out then they do not have to start at square one.

-Please make your instructions for our dear Patti as crystal clear as possible. She does amazing work, but is not a mind-reader and needs to know exactly what to copy and send to whom.

-Please be considerate of the great office staff. DO NOT LEAVE SAMPLES OUTSIDE. When you have completed a problem, please discard all samples in the trash. Cut them up if necessary. It's not nice to leave a mess for others to clean up.

-Please use the log book. This is where the reference number for the plant problem is

established and at a glance we can review what problems have come in and the status of the problem.

Master Gardeners are providing an important service to our community through the plant clinic. Thank you for your time and effort. Happy growing!

Plant Clinic Schedule June-July

<u>June 21</u> Ann Wimberly Debbie Crain	<u>June 23</u> Mary B. Jan R.
<u>June 28</u> Jennifer Jan R.	<u>June 30</u> Bill L. Parise
<u>July 5</u> Parise OPEN	<u>July 7</u> Barb Moore Parise
<u>July 12</u> Parise Michelle	<u>July 14</u> Jan R. Janae
<u>July 21</u> Barb Michelle	<u>July 23</u> Jan Janae
<u>July 26</u> Michelle OPEN	<u>July 28</u> Janae Sue L.

Call Patti to schedule your time: 263-8511

Mickinnick Trail planted

Directions: To get to the trailhead, turn left off Schweitzer Road about 1/2 mile past the railroad tracks onto Woodland Drive. The trailhead is on the right about 1/2 to 1 mile down Woodland Drive. Contact Ann Wimberley afwim@yahoo.com or 264-5379 for more information.

Master Gardeners' Plant Sale May

21 On the grounds of the Lake Pend Oreille High School went very well earning \$239. The Board voted to donate 15% to the LPOHS for contributing their site. Thank you to all who participated and to Judith Pagliasotti the event chair.



Storage Building

So far we have collected \$200 towards the \$350 needed to complete our storage building. Only \$150 to Go! If you are interested make your check to BCMG's, in care of

Patti, earmarked for the Storage Shed.

Home Horticulture Classes

June 15 - "Landscaping with Shrubs and Perennials" presented by Kirk Johnson
Facilitator: Janae Dale

June 29 - "Using Herbs in the Landscape" presented by Lois Wythe
Facilitator: Sue Lopez

2005 International Master Gardener Conference July 24-27

For registration and class information
www.mastergardener2005.usask.ca



Rae Charlton at the Plant Clinic June 9

It is fun to think about where and when one's passion for gardening began...I grew up in Seattle, in a settled residential neighborhood. Our house sat on a double lot, which had been part of a large orchard--we were blessed with the BEST apples (20 oz. Pippins), prunes, peaches, pears, and, best of all, a long row of raspberries! During World War II (I'm dating myself!) our next-door neighbors had a Victory Garden, and we shared in the wonderful produce from their garden. I'm sure there were lovely flowers in our yard, but I mostly remember the awful slugs.

After going away for college, I eventually returned to become a Children's Librarian with Seattle Public Library. At some point, I read a wonderful book by Ann Lovejoy, (*The Year in Bloom*, perhaps?) which really turned me on to gardening--all the more impressive when you realize that the book was solid print, no pictures. Such great descriptions! And Seattle has a mild climate, long growing season, and many intriguing nurseries. I was hooked, and spent many happy years creating a small

but choice shade garden, on our 50 by 100 foot lot.

When I retired in 2002, we moved to the Sandpoint area. We'd visited many times, because my sister lives here, and loved the area. The lure of a much larger garden was strong, and my husband really wanted to live in the country. We wound up in what he called "South Sagle", on 17 mostly treed acres, but with a lovely garden space to expand.

The first shock was the treachery of the capricious deer ("rodents on stilts", as the New York Times styled them). We loved watching them, but what a heartache to see what damage they did to beloved plants. Slowly but surely I'm choosing deer resistant plants and getting a bit smarter...

During my working years I'd always planned for the day when I could become a Master Gardener. It was worth the wait, and I look forward to years of "continuing education" in my favorite subject.



Asian Multi-Colored Lady Beetle

Bob Wilson, Educator/Horticulture

Most people cringe when it is suggested that yellow jackets and wasps are beneficial insects. But it is true. They are predators and feed on many other insects including caterpillars, which feed on our trees and vegetables. At the same time, they can impart a nasty sting when threatened and can cause serious distress and even harm to the hapless victim. So when I suggest there is a lady beetle (aka. ladybug), which we have all been brought up to understand is a beneficial insect, that is now considered a pest, I can understand your skepticism. Nature is nothing if not messy and defies our every attempts to compartmentalize it as either good or bad. In fact some insects can do both good and bad things.

The Asian multi-colored lady beetle is one such insect. As its name implies, it is from Asia and is not native to our country. It is one of many insects that have been introduced to control our pest insects for it is a voracious eater of aphids. However, they have been almost too successful. In the midwest, where they abound, they fly in large numbers and will land on exposed skin and bite. Their jaws are strong and capable of drawing blood. In addition, they have a penchant for coming into homes looking for shelter, and have been know to appear in the thousands. They do not sting or carry disease but can create a foul-smelling odor and can stain carpets and furniture.

At first glance, the Asian multi-colored lady beetle looks like a typical ladybug. It is very round and often orange with black spots. However, it does have several color forms, hence the “multi-colored” name. Some have no spots, some have tiny spots, some have very large spots. The color is often orange but there are rosy-pink forms also. In all, there have been at least 15 color forms identified. The chief distinguishing feature is the pronotum – the plate between the head and the wings. It has a white background with black markings that spell either “M” or “W”, depending on which direction you are viewing the insect (Fig. 1).

They were introduced by the USDA in 1979-80 in Louisiana and Mississippi. Since then, they



Fig. 1: Asian multicolored lady beetle showing black “W” on pronotum

have spread throughout most of the US and are present in northern Idaho.

If you are having problems with them getting into your house, the first line of defense is a tight perimeter.

These are not tiny insects and will not go through a screen. Seal off any openings that allow them in, including weather-stripping doors and windows, repair any damaged screens, and caulk openings where water or gas lines enter the house. Also check entrances to your attic and make sure soffet vents are screened. Asian lady beetles can gain entry into your house through the attic. For those few that get through anyway, vacuum them up and dispose of the bag. To avoid damaging your vacuum, attach a knee-high nylon hose to your sweeper attachment with a rubber band.

A homemade light trap developed by Ohio State University has been developed using a light bulb and common hardware supplies. Assembly instructions and a diagram can be found at OSU IPM website: <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~ipm/lady/blt1.htm>.

Perimeter treatments of your house can be applied in the fall to prevent entry of the Asian lady beetle. Products containing cyfluthrin, lambda cyhalothrin, cypermethrin or deltamethrin applied around the eaves, doors and windows, siding, and other possible entry points will keep most out of your house. Apply these treatments in late Sept. to October. Once indoors, there are not any products that are effective and safe. Aerosol bug bombs have not been effective.

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