

The Garden Gate



June 2003

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE *see articles for details

June 18: Landscaping of Perennials – Home Hort Series 6:00pm: Loie DeLa Verge's
(go West on Cedar off Division and 3 blocks on Willow Lane to 436)

June 20: Biological Control of Spotted Knapweed Workshop: Dr. Mark
Schwarzlaender (9 am – 3pm) - East Bonner Public Library

June 25: Bonner County Farm Tour – check in at 8:30 am

July 16 - August 13: Insect and Disease Diagnostics: Bob Wilson (Wednesdays 1:45- 4)

August 6-9: Master Gardener Mini-College, Corvallis, Oregon

Fall semester: Sustainable Small Acreage Farming and Ranching Course



THE PRESIDENT'S BLOOMERS

In my past columns I've given you tips and pointers on various aspects of gardening. This month's column will be a bit different. I'm going to do a "show and tell" but without the "show." After all, our newsletter is not yet set up to as an interactive multimedia extravaganza.

As most of you know, my professional time is spent at Bonner General Hospital. Well, thanks to so much that I've learned through the Master Gardeners' programs, I've been able to apply the knowledge and skills to the Hospital's landscape, trees and plants. Since I became a Master Gardener, I've been working after my "official" work hours and on weekends on a number of projects to spruce up and beautify the Hospital's grounds plus the Creekside Medical Center.

I started the landscape changeover by replacing the marigolds – the Hospital's only flowers – with over 50 complimentary colored perennials and bulbs. The purpose was to provide continuous colorful flowers throughout the growing seasons. Naturally, I weeded, top-dressed with compost and fertilized the flower beds, roses, shrubs and trees as well.

Another ongoing project has been the transplanting and pruning of all shrubs and roses. The new locations and pruning seem to have given these plants a boost – they're

actually bursting forth now instead of just hanging on. As they say about real estate (and it applies to gardening), it's location, location, location.

And, of course, there are trees on the Hospital grounds. Did they ever need a healthy dose of pruning. Everybody knows Rich, the pruning instructor. Well, he's given most trees their "haircut" and only a few are left to be trimmed. Next year I'll be doing the "barber" job.

In addition to the in-ground plants, I've added flowers to planters I made (out of hypertufa - the same material I use in the classes I've been teaching for the Master Gardenr program). The planters are under the Hospital directional signs.

And finally, here are a couple of Hospital-related items: I compile a monthly gardening newsletter for the Wellness Program; answer an average of 10 to 20 questions about gardening from employees and staff; and, I'm involved in the Hospice "Healing Garden."

I hope you'll take a look when you're in the vicinity of the Hospital and give me your feedback and especially your suggestions for any additional improvements. Thank you

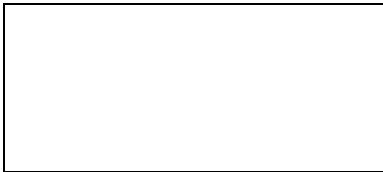
Michelle

Michelle Reichelt



Volunteers Needed

After several year of maintaining the rock garden at the Native Plant Society's Arboretum, Valle Novak finds it necessary to retire because of a bum knee and a back that no longer permits her to do this beloved activity. She is looking for volunteers to staff Wednesday mornings from 9 to noon. The Arboretum is open from May through September. Perhaps 4 gals (or guys) could consider sharing the responsibility each taking a shift per month. This would allow flexibility and lessen the commitment of a weekly shift. Please call Valle at 265-4688 if you can be of assistance in anyway.



A Hearty "Thank You!" to Those who Supported the Plant Sale Effort

What could have been more appropriate in North Idaho than a spring deluge to mark the beginning of our Spring Plant Sale? At least it didn't snow. And it didn't slow our sale *that* much. We consider the day successful and wish to thank everyone who made a donation, braved the weather to purchase plants, or those who just stopped by to say hello. You all are fantastic and it's because of you that the sale succeeded!! Please insert three Hip Hip Hurras for yourselves here.

If you did stop by the sale, you will probably recall the great arrangements of balloons at our tent entrance. They were placed there at 6:30 a.m. and I can assure you that was no easy task, considering the wind at that time in the morning. Unfortunately, we needed more protection from the rain and wind and a lot of the display was lost in the cover of gray tarp. But, we wish to thank Mike Brown, owner of Balloon FX and Beth Evan's son, for the great display that he made and assembled for us. Thanks, Mike! Thank You Mike Janisse for providing the canopy without which our feet may have experienced root rot.

Once more, we thank all of you who gave of yourselves for the benefit of the Bonner County Master Gardeners! You people are the best!

Co-Chairs: *Rita Janisse and Beth Evans*



Editors Note: The BCMGA would like to extend a *thunderous* applause to Beth and Rita for all the work they did to make the Plant Sale a success. Beginning in the dark days of winter, they began the process of securing donations and nurturing little seeds so when the snow was off Old Baldy plants were ready for the community to adopt. Through outreach and a myriad of logistics –you did us proud. Thank you for a job well done!

HortNotes

By Bob Wilson

Extension Educator/Horticulture

Biological Control of Spotted Knapweed Workshop – June 20

In our continuing effort to promote alternatives to herbicide use for noxious weed control, the University of Idaho, the Nez Perce Biological Control Center, the Selkirk Cooperative Weed Management Area, the Inland Empire Cooperative Weed Management Area, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are sponsoring an all-day workshop on the Biological Control of Spotted Knapweed. It will be held at the East Bonner Public Library (Cedar & Division) from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Dr. Mark Schwarzlaender, a specialist in the biological control of weeds from the University of Idaho, is doing the presentation. We will spend the morning in class, and the afternoon will be out in the field doing a new insect release. Lunch is included, and the workshop is free; however, you **MUST PRE-REGISTER BY JUNE 14**, since seating is limited and we need to have an accurate count for lunches. Call Patti at 263-8511 to register.

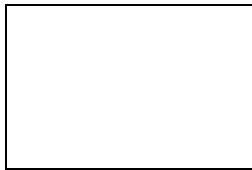
Master Gardener Mini-College - Aug. 6-9

An advanced Master Gardener Training is scheduled for August 6-9 in Corvallis, Oregon. I have not seen a schedule for all the activities yet, but there should be a considerable variety of topics, some technical and in depth, and others of a more general nature. When the schedule is finalized, it will be posted at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/mini.htm>. I will be co-teaching the entomology workshop on Saturday.

As there is some expense in attending an event like this, the U of I is offering 20 scholarships for Idaho Master Gardeners. This will cover all but about \$40 of expenses. My apologies to the class of 2003 but, to qualify for this, one must have completed all requirements for certification which includes the volunteer hours. I have included a scholarship application in this newsletter. If you want to apply, PLEASE HAVE THIS APPLICATION COMPLETED AND IN MY HANDS BY JULY 1. Successful applicants will be notified by July 15. There will be one other expectation of those who attend on scholarship. The U of I would like to establish an annual conference for Idaho Master Gardeners. This conference would rotate annually around the four extension districts in Idaho. Canyon County (District 2) has volunteered to host the first Idaho Master Gardener Conference in 2004. We would like to see the scholarship participants from within the district organize a conference here in District 1 (10 northern counties). Master Gardeners may attend the mini-college in Corvallis at their own expense without any further obligation.

This is a great opportunity if you can make the time for it. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 263-8511.



Insect and Disease Diagnostics Course - July 16-August 13

Bob Wilson:

I will be offering a four-session course later this summer which will delve deeper into the mysteries of entomology, plant pathology, and environmental plant problems; and how you tell one from the other. There will be an emphasis on garden and landscape plants. This course is being held in the summer when, unlike the beginning Master Gardener training, there is an abundance of live material to look at. I hope that, for students, I can make some sense out of the great multitudes of things that can go wrong with plants.

The class will be held on Wed. afternoons, but will skip Aug. 6, from 1:45 - 4:00 at the Extension Office classroom. The cost for the course is \$15 and a hand lens is required. If you don't have one, I purchased some that are available for an additional \$13. Class size is limited to 16. Call Patti at 263-8511 to register.

Sustainable Small Acreage Farming and Ranching Course - Fall Semester

The University of Idaho is offering a course for landowners who would like to make realistic choices about how to manage their land. The focus will be on small-scale agricultural enterprises with an emphasis on sustainable land stewardship practices. Presenters will include both University faculty and successful small acreage farmers. This is a university level course, but can be taken as a non-credit class. It is being offered on Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 8:30 PM from Aug. 28 - Dec. 11 at the Bonner County Extension Office. I have not heard an exact cost on this but it will be about \$145. No pre-payment is necessary. Call the Extension Office at 263-8511 to register. Seating is limited to 20 and is on a first come, first served basis.



2003 Bonner County Farm Tour - June 25

This year's farm tour will be heading north from Sandpoint. The tour always tries to represent the diversity of agricultural and forestry operations that we have in Bonner County. Four stops are planned. First we will visit the Jenkins & Son Tree Farm. Dave Jenkins will lead us on a tour of his operation which includes Christmas trees, as well as conifers and deciduous nursery trees. This will be followed by a visit to the Western Pleasure Guest Ranch, where we also will have lunch. Then on to Snowmass Alpacas, one of the more unusual livestock operations in the county. We will finish the tour at Rowe's Nest Organics, a certified organic garlic grower. The cost is \$15 if pre-registered by June 18. After that the cost goes up to \$20. Call the Bonner County Extension Office at 263-8511 to register. Check in starts at 8:30 and busses leave promptly at 9:00 AM on June 25.

RuralNorthwest Listing: The Bonner County Master Gardeners now are listed on RuralNorthwest.com.

BCMGA June Board Meeting Highlights:

Treasurer's report: Bill reported a current balance of \$1,274. Henceforth, a summary of income and expenditures will be reported in the Garden Gate quarterly.

Old Business:

- A heartfelt THANK YOU was given to Beth and Rita for all the work they did on the Spring Plant Sale. Despite the rainy day they managed to bring in \$264.
- Valle reported the Plant Sale was held in the fall in years past and did well. Discussion will continue as to this change.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion began on how to better involve Association members in activities. The goal is to have a viable organization for all – ideas will be brought up at subsequent Board meetings.
- Don reported the possibility of 6 plots for the community garden being available by Lake PendO'reille High School. Students may be available to help with the labor and donations of lumber and topsoil for raised beds will be sought.
- Michelle is in the planning stages for the Garden/Landscape Tour fundraiser. Possible tours in July include: Don Childress, Penny Barton and Loie DeLa Vergne.
- Community volunteer Hours were approved for the 1.) Hospital Hospice Garden and 2.) the Priest River Chamber of Commerce plantings on Hiway 2.
- Valle requested volunteers for the Native Plant Society Arboretum rock garden on Wednesday mornings. She sadly said her knees will just not allow her to kneel to do the necessary work. A possibility is to share Wednesday mornings with others to lessen the commitment of every week.
- Bill has procured 23 shrubs for landscaping the Extension Office.

** next Board meeting: Monday, July 7 - Creekside

Book Review by Helen L. Campbell

Bonner County Master Gardener, Class of 2001

Gardening in the Inland Northwest by Tonie Jean Fitzgerald, WSU Cooperative Extension, December 2001, 172 pages.

Gardening in the Inland Northwest focuses on the region between the Cascade and Rocky Mountains, extending from Canada through Oregon - a region "characterized by cold, long-lasting winters and hot, relatively short, summers." The author has been with the WSU Spokane County Extension Faculty since 1985 and has worked with the Master Gardener Volunteer Program since 1979, so her knowledge springs from plenty of hard-earned local experience. Planting and growing information relate to conditions *right here* in Bonner County, and are presented in a straightforward, often wryly humorous manner. Here's a helpful tip from the book, which although a little late for this year, is worth remembering:

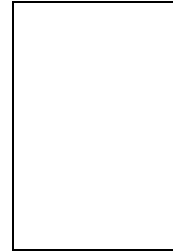
Timely Tips

Plant root crops - carrots, turnips, potatoes, radishes - **when lilacs are in bud.**
Plant cold hardy veggies - lettuce, peas, spinach - **when lilacs begin to leaf.**
Plant frost tender vegetables - tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash - **when lilacs are past full bloom**

A copy of *Gardening in the Inland Northwest* would be a valuable addition to even the most experienced gardener's library, but for a beginning gardener or someone new to North Idaho, it's a must-have. If you wish to purchase a copy, you have only two options.

(You won't find it, or even be able to order it, through Vanderford's, Border's, B & N, etc.) You can order it directly from the WSU Bulletin office 1-800-723-1763 or online <http://caheinfo.wsu.edu> (\$12.00 + 6.00 postage) or from Auntie's book store in Spokane (509)-838-0206 or 1-888-80 BOOKS (\$14.95 + 3.50 postage). You save 45 cents by ordering from WSU but I telephoned my order to Auntie's one morning and received the book, by mail, the following day. I felt the service was well worth an extra quarter and two dimes.

Wild Greens



Greetings Master Gardeners,

With such fine weather, it is nearly impossible to remember that we had snow at our house merely a few weeks ago. What a change! I do believe that this summer is going to be truly glorious.

*There is a lot of activity in our garden. Seedlings started indoors during our wet and wonderful spring are flourishing in their proper place; basil with tomatoes, epazote along side bush beans, celery next to potatoes. I am a great believer in companion planting, taking my cues from the much dog-eared book *Carrots Love Tomatoes* by Louise Riotte and several Rodale tomes addressing the same. It is such a challenge to place 'this next to that' and still rotate garden plantings for the good of both crop and soil. Another intriguing concept is direct seeding when certain native and ornamental plants are leafed out or in bloom. For example, plant bush beans, cucumber and squash when the lilacs are in full blossom and plant soybeans when the leaves on the oak are the size of mouse ears... (a deer mouse or a house mouse?). It may sound like a lot of 'hoey' to some of you, however, I do trust that experienced gardeners of the past discovered tried and true reasons for their decisions. Every article which comes along referring to folk wisdom in the garden finds its way into my garden journal. Keeping accurate records regarding the results, as years go by, will help me to determine the usefulness of these pearls of wisdom. And, new discoveries are being made everyday to add to my collection. For instance, just reported in the July (!) issue of *The Avant Gardener* is the newly discovered fact that watering container plants in the afternoon, rather than as is traditionally done in the early morning, produced up to 70% increase in growth. Now, that's a tip I can certainly use...perhaps you can, too.*

Earlier this spring, I reported to you that I was planning to keep my peppers, eggplants and tomatoes on the heating mats they were started on. Well, it didn't work out that way. Due to the necessity of leaving home for several days, I turned off the mats and never turned them on again. My reasoning was that they would dry out too quickly while I was away if they were on heat mats. But, taking a page from Master Gardener Pat Van Volkinburg, I have decided to keep the peppers, eggplants and toms under plastic for the

season. Everything I have read attests to the fact that they flourish in warm soil although they do not like nighttime temperatures above 70 F. I have covered their bed with Remay (to avoid sunburn) and plastic, leaving both ends open for ventilation. Stay tuned for the results.*

One of the sweetest and most unexpected delights in our spring garden has been the presence of a winter wren pair who have taken up residence in a birdhouse there. The duo sing their hearts out from dawn to dusk (or is it only the male trilling its melodious song?). No matter, we are thrilled to hear the long-winded rhapsody of these normally secretive little birds. Also, a pair of black capped chickadees are nesting in a box nearby. Last winter, we built the boxes and secured them to the garden fence in hopes that swallows would decide to nest there...and keep the mosquito population in check. The swallows did a few 'fly by's' but didn't stay to raise a family. Nonetheless, we couldn't be happier with the bird neighborhood which is thriving in our midst.

As the sun journeys lower and lower in the afternoon sky, I am thinking of meandering down to the salad patch to pick a variety of greens for our evening meal. We are so blessed with a bounty of tender growing things, warm weather, pure spring water and birdsong.

I wish you all pleasant growing garden days and cool, fragrant nights.

J'nene Wade~Master Gardener

Plant Clinic Schedule:

June 10

AM Janae Dale
Jennifer Costich-Thompson
Marsha Williams
PM Jennifer C-T
Marge Carlson
Tina Williams

June 12

AM Barb Moore
Alice Booth
Nanette Brothers
PM Barb M.
Alice B.
Rita Janisse

June 17

AM Susan Daffron
Judith Pagliasotte
Nikki Donaldson
PM Denise Bangle
Judith P.
Kako Nadamoto

June 19

AM Barb Moore
Alice Booth
Parise Whitely
PM Barb M.
Alice B.
Gary Parker

June 24

AM Bill Lamson
Parise Whitely
PM Gary Peitsch
Pam Haussler
Kako Nadamoto

June 26

AM Joyce Pence
Pam Haussier
Judith Pagliasotti
PM Gary Pietsch
Gary Parker
Judith P.

July 1
AM Valle Novak
Parise Whitely
Marge Carlson
PM Valle Novak
Adrienne Nelson

July 3
AM Rita Janisse
Nikki Donaldson

PM Rita Janisse

July 8
AM Michelle Reichelt
Ann Murphy

July 10
AM Jan R.
Adrienne Lilly
PM Susan Daffron
Jan R.
Gary Parker

July 15
AM Michelle Reichelt
Adrienne Lilly
PM Kako Nadamoto

July 17
AM Valle Novak
Adrienne Lilly
PM Valle N.
Susan Daffron

July 22
AM Marge Carlson
Michelle Reichelt
PM Marge C.

July 24
AM Barb Moore
Alice Booth
PM Barb M.
Alice B.

July 29
AM Valle Novak
Judith Pagliasotti
PM Pam Haussler
Valle N.
Judith P.

July 31
AM Jennifer C-T
Pam Haussler
PM Jennifer C-T
Susan Daffron

*** Janae Dale (265-2205) and Adrienne Lilly (265-0693) are available to fill in if any cannot make their scheduled times. If you cannot make the shift you MUST call and get your own replacement. DO NOT ask Patti or Bob to do it.