

The Garden Gate

June, 2007



Edited by Gail Swan (gswan8274@hotmail.com)

The next Membership Meeting will be held July 10th @ 9am at the extension office. All Master Gardeners are welcome & encouraged to attend all meetings. Input from everyone is greatly needed & appreciated by the Membership Board. Also, please feel free to contact any of the officers and/or board members if you wish to share an idea & are unable to attend the meetings. Phone #'s & e-mail addresses are available in the membership roster.

Board Officers for 2007:

President: Penny Barton
Vice Pres: Joyce Lane
Sec: Gail Swan
Treas: Janae Dale

Board Members:

Ann Warwick Shirley Barksdale
Ann Keiser Linda Kirchmann
Chris McIntosh

Home Horticulture Classes

The committee is working on the fall series; if you have an interest in a particular subject please contact Don Childress (committee chair) @ dwc1rsc@televar.com or call the extension office @ 263-8511. Any input will be greatly appreciated.

Advanced Master Gardener Classes:

We have only a few weeks left of this very informative & interesting class. So much to learn-so little time! Our final week will be spent enjoying 2 field trips so we can put our newly learned knowledge to the test. Thanks so much to Bob Wilson for his ongoing Master Gardener education.

Notes:

The Plant Clinic started May 1st; there are calendars available now @ the extension office for signing up for your hours. 9 hours are required of each active MG member. The hours this year are from 9-12 although you may stay & finish projects you are working on after 12 if you wish. Those hours can be counted toward your total. There will generally be two MG's scheduled to be in the clinic each Tuesday & Thursday. Hours can also be scheduled on Saturdays @ the Farmers Market. Check with Bob @ the office for this arrangement.



There are changes in the plant clinic client form; all client info is now on the front of the form with all the MG info on the back. This allows the front of the form to be copied and sent to the client if need be.

Also, jot down any subject that the plant clinic needs more info on; we have money to purchase new books for the clinic and many need replacing or updating. If you know of a specific book and/or website-write it down.

Remember to water the planting areas & gardens

Following are the calendars for June & July.
Please sign up for your hours & fill the spaces.

June 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Bonnie Jim S.	6	7 Pat M. Jane R.	8	9
10	11 Shirley Pat M.	12 FARM TALE	13	14 Jane Shirley	15	16
17	18	19 Bonnie Chris MF	20	21 Jane R. Janae	22	23
	24	25 Blanche FLETCHER	26	27	28	29
						30

July 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Martha Jim S.	4	5 Martha Janae	6	7
8	9	10		11	12 Bonnie Chris MF	13
						14
15	16	17 Linda Rae	18	19 Barb M. Ann W.	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Penny Linda	27	28
29	30	31 Gail Martha				

UI BCMG Website:

We need our own domain name-any suggestions? We will have 3 domain names, to include .org, .net, & .com so that no one else can use the name. Bob says it looks easy to set up & Susan Daffron will maintain it once it's done. Chris McIntosh will be our contact with Susan, so if you want something on the website, contact Chris. Chris & Penny will discuss what to put on the website initially.

Bonner County Fair Booth:

The theme this year is "All American". We have people who have volunteered to be on the committee, but we still need a chairperson. Step right up for this fun filled experience!!! Call Bob, Penny, or any board member to let them know you want the job.

Plant Sale/Garage Sale:

This project did so well last year-Janae Dale & Pat Moss have volunteered to co-chair again this year. Save all your unwanted items and any extra plants you may have for this sale. We will have a "drop-off" place as time draws near for the sale.

Native Plant Society:

June 23 Native Plant Society presentation on aquatic plants

Aquatic Plants - Mysteries from the Deep

Eurasian Water Milfoil and the threat it poses to our lake have been at the center of community debate and discussion. But how many people can easily tell apart Northern Watermilfoil, a native plant, from Eurasian Watermilfoil, an invasive threat? Ever wonder about the difference between Coontail and Pondweed? Have you heard about the looming menace of Hydrilla?

For answers to all these questions and more about the mysteries that lie below the surface of our area lakes, come meet Thomas Woolf, Aquatic Plants Program Manager, Idaho Department of Agriculture. Tom holds advanced degrees in environmental science with a specialty in aquatic plant physiology and ecology. Tom is currently supervising the lake surveys being conducted by ISDA to establish baseline biological information as well as the extent of the current milfoil infestation.

Tom will provide a brief presentation on the native and invasive aquatic plants which have been found and the habitats they occupy. Tom will talk about the importance of native aquatic plant habitat, their role in the lake's ecosystem and the threats that are posed by invasive plants such as Eurasian Watermilfoil. We will learn about identifying plant characteristics and will examine first hand samples of what plants grow below the surface. We will learn more about the potential future threats that loom on the horizon.

This presentation will be held on Sat June 23rd, from 1:00pm to 2:30pm at the Sandpoint Community Hall. It is free and open to the public.

Co-sponsored by the Kinnikinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society and the City of Sandpoint. For more information, contact Phil Hough (208) 255-2780.

The Learning Garden/Extension office Landscaping:

Come one-come all-lend a hand @ the extension office to make our "Learning Garden" the best show of the Garden Tour. Lots of help is needed for weeding, planting and watering. Of the 9 hours required of each of us for our community service, 2 hours are to be dedicated to the landscaping @ the extension office. So put in your hours at any time that is convenient for you. Ann K. does not need to be there, but if you feel you would like some direction, feel free to call her to see what she would like done. Ann can be reached @ 255-5965 or 610-4224.

41st Annual Farm Tour:

This year's tour is on June 13th with 5 farms including greenhouses, cattle, chickens & miniatures. You can sign up the day of the event if you have not already pre-registered. Registration begins @ 8:30am at the extension office; buses will leave promptly @ 9am.

GARDEN GATE INTERVIEW WITH ANN WIMBERLEY

Ann Wimberley, class of '04, had wanted to take the Master Gardener course before she moved here from Alabama, but could not because of scheduling conflicts with her work. When she retired and moved to Sandpoint, the vastly different climate and some free time stimulated her to take the class.

When asked what or who her greatest inspiration as a gardener is, Ann says, "My next door neighbor, who has gardened here for over 30 years."

Her greatest achievement here has been over wintering her trumpet plant (*Datura*) in her sunroom and having it bloom multiple times on her deck throughout the summer and fall. Her greatest challenge is time, she says, "but this year it may be keeping my 8 month old border collie out of my beds."

Ann is a busy and involved person. She is current editor of the newsletter for the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. This year, she helped start a local affiliate of NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness. She loves to spend time with her three adult children and a four year old granddaughter, as well as read, hike, snowshoe, show North Idaho to Southern friends, cook, travel and read. She and her husband live in Hope.

BONNIE CAVANAUGH, MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 2006

By Chris McIntosh

Bonnie was born and raised in NJ (THE GARDEN STATE) and that probably gave her an early start in forming an interest in gardening and nature. She says, "My mother taught me respect for living things and how to care for certain plants she enjoyed. She grew violets and I have always had some in my home. After I married, we moved frequently, and in NC I had a large vegetable garden, in Houston installed a cacti garden (and within the week found out we were being transferred), had a large vegetable garden in Pittsburgh, and when we moved to Oklahoma, I found I could no longer tolerate the heat, but did plant some annuals and roses for the first time. When I moved to Idaho (by choice) in '96, I started working on landscaping around the house and put in a vegetable garden. The summer of '97 I took the forestry short course to learn about the trees and how to care for our forested land. A couple of years later I read about the MG course, but I was working full time. Finally last year I was only working part time, and could make the commitment to take the course. Over the years here I have planted a variety of perennials, shrubs, berries, etc. Many of my neighbors think I know more than I do and have asked me questions, and that was another reason to take the MG course, to learn more of what grows well here, how to deal with the short growing season, work with pests, and to know where to find the answers."

The resources she finds most helpful are the *Western Garden* book, *Garden Gate* magazine, *Johnny's Seeds* catalog, and the *Field Guide to Diseases and Insect Pests of Idaho and Montana Forests*. The seed catalog provides more information on planting than most other catalogs. Like most of us, her biggest challenge to gardening was learning what would grow and do well here. More recently, it's been pests, such as pocket gophers and ground squirrels. Most areas in her garden are fairly well protected from deer. She writes, "We live at 3000' elevation on the Southern slope of Little Blacktail Mountain, and after I moved here, I was told rhododendrons and roses would not survive, and they have been my success story. I have only lost one rhododendron (pocket gopher) and a couple of roses from the cold, but more from pocket gophers."

When asked about her "must-see" TV programs, Bonnie says she watches *CSI*, *CSI Miami*, *24*, *NCIS*, *Stargate* and *Stargate Atlantis*, *The Deadliest Catch*, *Lost*, and *the Dog Whisperer*. Both Bonnie and her husband have been enjoying the series *The Tudors*.

Bonnie's other interests are playing the hammered dulcimer, learning to play the bowed psaltery, knitting (in the winter only), watching wildlife and snow-shoeing. She would like more time to go canoeing. Bonnie is also the editor of her church's monthly newsletter, and she reads the water meters for Little Blacktail Ranch Water District. Bonnie just added a rescued border collie dog "Moxie" to the household. Her summer is bound to be fun and busy!

Garden Tour Gardens:

"Phoenix"

Penny Barton
1762 West Elmira Road
Sandpoint, ID

From logged to luscious this is possibly Sandpoint's largest privately maintained garden.

Flowers sprawl down hillsides, creep over rockeries and spill down the driveway. A kaleidoscope of color for all seasons from the hundreds of Asiatic & Oriental lilies, thousands of iris, 75 varieties of daylilies, 30 ornamental trees and countless number and variety of perennials. Come visit us again for the first time.

"Deliberately Wild"

Barb Pressler
2920 Ontario
Sandpoint, ID

Creative use of cement stepping-stones welcomes you into this 70% native plant delectably free garden. Featuring a mud pond for both frogs and grandkids and another pond for site, sound and relaxation located in a shady nook. There is a surprise around every corner that keeps you searching for ideas to take home with you.

"Three Cats in the Yard....Life Used To Be So Hard"

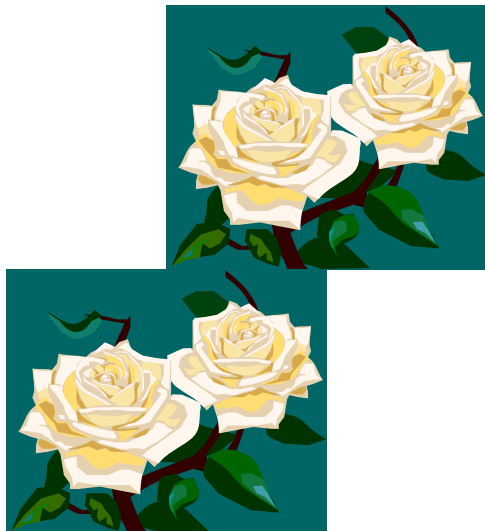
Nancy Hess
502 South Marion
Sandpoint, ID

This four year old landscaping looks deceptively older and more set in it's way than its youth depicts. For 20 years while the children were growing up this yard was lawn with the exception of one flowerbed. What started as a new lawn and a few beds has grown into a yard that is loved and cherished by its owner. Beautiful beds of bulbs, trees, perennials and annuals now cover the entire yard interspaced with colorful rock walkways.

"The Learning Garden"

Bonner County Master Gardener's
4205 North Boyer Ave.
Sandpoint, ID

Saved from becoming a parking lot, this little piece of ground located on the East side of the Extension Office is now an open classroom for learning. This garden showcases different planting mediums, from the spuds grown in tires, cucumbers and squash grown in straw, a strawberry tower, herb planted barrels, raised beds to the upside down growing tomatoes. Come sit on a stone bench and listen to the water flowing into our pond while gazing at a garden of which the bounty is donated to our local Food Bank.



Cottage Garden
Loie De La Vergne
436 Willow Lane
Sandpoint, ID

Lawn has a way of quickly disappearing into islands of flowers when new plants catch Loie's eye. This small city garden is filled with plants closely nestled together so as many plants as possible can fit into these colorful beds. Two islands adorned with perennials, arbors and climbing vines fill the spaces between small strips of grass adjoining the bounty of beds of flowers and raised beds of vegetables surrounding the perimeter of this 13 year-old expanding garden.

"This & That and So Much More"
Rose Chaney
431 Lake View Blvd.
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Cultivars intermixed with native plants, some of which were rescued from construction sites and others that found their own way here to live peacefully amongst the plantings at this ever changing, 40 year old garden. From a circular paved courtyard rich with shade plants to a full sun garden and everything in between this work in progress is a delight to all the senses.

"Just Around the Corner"
Bev Kee
502 Euclid
Sandpoint, ID

Stroll through the back yard while being serenaded by the sound of water spilling over rocks. Marvel at the brickwork and rock edged beds as you try to peer around every corner to see what is hiding just beyond your vision. The texture and symmetry of the plantings make you look,

both up down and straight ahead as to not miss anything. A garden always evolving to make way for what was not known was even missing until it was found.

The Garden Tour is scheduled for Sunday, July 1st. Tickets & directions are available @ the extension office. They will also be available @ every garden on the day of the tour.

Just a Reminder:

We will be having a meeting @ the Library in the "Rude Girls Room" on Monday, June 18th @ 9:30 AM. This meeting is with Bob Wilson's supervisor to voice our dismay over Bob's pending termination. We would truly like to show our support for Bob & for all he has done, not only for the Master Gardeners, but for the entire community of several counties. His departure would have a tremendous impact on all of us so we really want to turn this decision around.

A NOTE FROM PRESIDENT PENNY BARTON

Greetings Master Gardeners

Summer is here and our Garden Tour will quickly be upon us. We had a tour in 2004 and 2005 with about 100-110 people visiting. I'm asking you to make this one very successful with your individual support. We are hoping for 150-200 people enjoying the tour.

There are seven fabulous gardens featured including our own Learning Garden. The price is \$10.00 per person and children under 12 are free. It's a great way to entertain out of town company. Take your spouse, take a neighbor or a friend and make a day of it.

I wanted to thank everyone in advance who will be working a three hour shift at one of the gardens. It's a rewarding experience and one I know you will enjoy and each of you will receive a free ticket for the tour.

Just a little note to remind everyone that Ann Keiser is doing her very best to make sure the Extension Office and Learning Garden look beautiful for the tour. She has donated several flats of flowers to distribute around the flowerbeds but is in need of help planting them. There is always of course weeding to be done. If you have an hour or so you could donate, please give Ann a call at 255-5965 or 610-4224 or just drop by and do what you have time for.

Please be sure to attend the meeting for Bob on the 18th. He deserves and needs all the support we can give him.

Thank you so very much
President Penny Barton

