

The Garden Gate



edited by Kit Cooley (the_editrix@yahoo.com)

June 2009

Garden Tour date set

The Garden Tour will be Sunday, July 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$10. **Penny Barton** has lined up some great gardens for us to visit (see below) and she needs volunteers to be at each location on the tour. Those who volunteer for a 3-hour shift, will receive a free ticket for the tour, which includes our own Learning Garden. **Mikey Haven** and the Learning Garden volunteers have been doing a wonderful job in getting the garden ready to go. We have been fortunate to have donations of a new outdoor electrical outlet and money for an irrigation system. Good job, Mikey! The Plant Clinic is going strong; see updates and schedule below. FYI: the "Swap Meet" section of the newsletter has been discontinued, due to lack of interest.

Please contribute to The Garden Gate. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome.

President's Note



Dear Master Gardeners,

Ah, summer! Warm weather with gardens (and weeds) growing!

After discussions at a couple of meetings, we have gained a better understanding of the goals and responsibilities of the UI Master Gardener Program, the UI Extension Educator, and the Bonner County Master Gardeners Association. It comes as no surprise that they overlap and have a great deal in common. Working together we can continue to make the Master Gardener Program in Bonner County the best in the state!

By the time you read this, Penny Barton will have had the first MG Garden Visit and Potluck at her home. These visits are a great time to see the gardens of some of our members, get some new gardening ideas, and have a wonderful social time with other members. There will be a visit to Judith Pagliasotti's garden on July 30 on Black-tail Mountain, and Zoe Bolton is opening her garden for a

visit in August. Don't miss these opportunities to share gardens, ideas, and good food.

Our local Fourth of July parade is coming up, and you are needed to march with other Master Gardeners, pushing a wheelbarrow or carrying garden tools for "compost" cleanup after the horses have gone through. Everyone cheers as we go by! We meet behind the Army Surplus store about 9:30. Join in for a community celebration.

It's time again for our outstanding Garden Tour on Sunday, July 5. There are several exceptional gardens included this year, and I know you will enjoy seeing each and every one. What a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon. The fee is only \$10 per person. If you have company over the holiday weekend, bring them, too. Mark it on your calendar! Your help is needed to have hosts at each garden. Contact Penny with the shift you would like to work, either from 9:00 to 1:00 or from 1:00 to 4:00. You get a free ticket to the tour when you help.

Happy gardening,

Janae

Agent's Corner



What is the Role of the Bonner County Master Gardener Association?

Recently, there has been some discussion regarding the relationship between the University of Idaho Master Gardener Program and the Bonner County Master Gardener Association. They are *together* in one mission: to deliver home horticulture information to people of Bonner County.

The Master Gardener Program is administered by the University of Idaho. The role of the Bonner County Master Gardener Association (BCMGA) is to support that mission in a symbiotic relationship. Based on this relationship, which is common in Master Gardener programs in Idaho and the nation, the BCMGA needs to determine their role. I encourage extensive involvement by MGs through their association toward the development of educational programs that enhance the Bonner County Master Gardener Program.

BCMGA has the opportunity to determine how to best support the mission of the Bonner County Master Gardener Program. BCMGA does not make programmatic decisions regarding the MG Program. Consider the Master Gardener Program the diploma and the Master Gardener Association the alumni association, which provides valuable support to develop activities of the MG Program beyond the plant clinic. It is my hope BCMGA can reaffirm its role in support of the program through successful educational projects. There is a long list of possible exciting projects, some of which are already a part of BCMGA: gardening classes, garden tours, demonstration gardens, informative newsletters and information booths.

I am dedicated to delivering home horticulture information through a strong Master Gardener program for Bonner County residents. I would ask for your help and renewed commitment in allowing us to move forward.

Does leaf mulch control dandelions?

Kowalewski et. al. observed increased spring green-up of turfgrass and a reduction in dandelion populations in response to oak and maple leaf mulch applications. Leaf mulch application provided up to 80% dandelion control after the first annual application in 2004, and up to 53% control after the second application in 2005 (HortTechnology, April/June 2009).

A Note About Lichen

Many folks are concerned about lichen in their plantings, and want to know how to control it. According to the 2009 PNW Plant Disease Control Handbook, lichens are a combination of fungus and algae, contain chlorophyll and make their own food, so they are not harmful to plants. Too many lichen can be unsightly, so here are a couple of control measures:

- 1) Open up the plant canopy to allow for better circulation and light penetration; improve the vigor of affected plants; and
- 2) Apply copper sprays as part of the dormant spray program in the spring.

Note: Applying copper during the growing season will injure plants.

Recertification Requirement

There has been some question as to the actual hours required to recertify as a Master Gardener. According to the Recertification Form, the requirement is a total of at least 18 hours of volunteer service (9 hours in the Plant Clinic and 9 hours in other projects), plus 3 hours of training.

Plant Clinic Announcement

There is one slot for a CMG and two slots for an MG Trainee on Tuesday Sept. 1. Sign up for these today, as those who need their hours will need to sign up for Friday mornings after these slots are taken. Don't delay! Call today! 263-8511.

Mike



Important Dates

July 4, Saturday, Fourth of July Parade.

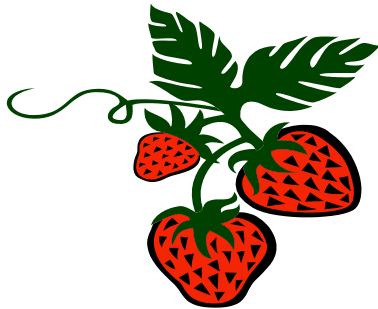
July 5, Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Garden Tour

July 7, Tuesday, 9 a.m., BCMGA meeting

July 30, MG Garden visit (Judith Pagliasotti is our hostess)

September 24-26, WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference, Pullman, <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/mgfws/>.

Please contact any Board Member or Officer if you wish to participate in or organize any activity.




Announcements


Visiting MG Gardens

Judith Pagliasotti is inviting all Master Gardeners to her garden on July 30. **Zoe Bolton** will host a gathering at her garden in August (date TBD). We still need a volunteer to host in September. Let any Board member know if you would like to volunteer.

Home Horticulture Classes for Fall

Suggestions are needed for topics to present in the Fall. Please contact Gail Swan or Don Childress with your ideas.

 **Yard Sale:** Our annual sale is coming up in August, the Friday of Fair week. Please gather your plants and gently used items to donate to the sale. If you wish to volunteer, or for information, please call Janae at 265-2205.

 **Submissions** to *The Garden Gate* are welcome. Photos (digital preferred), garden hints, and suggestions for articles that you would like to read are especially needed. Please send them to Kit Cooley by the first of the month for that month's issue.

Garden Tour 2009

Penny Barton, chair of the Garden Tour committee, has put together another great lineup of gardens for us to visit this year: **John & Madeline McClelland**, 140 Star Fire Way (Sagle); **Charles & Joyce Spiller**, 10624 Pine Street, Sandpoint; **Rick & Hali Karr**, 200 Ravenwood Lane, Sandpoint; **Russ & Diane Gartrell**, 334 Ravenwood Drive, Sandpoint; **Kenny Blood & Bonnie Mcghee**, 224 Park Lane, Sandpoint; **Don & Sue Helander**, 2105 Winchester Way, Sandpoint; and our own Learning Garden at the Extension Office.

Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you volunteer for a three-hour shift, you will receive a free ticket to the Tour. Duties include greeting the public, selling tickets and making sure everyone coming to the garden they are hosting has a ticket.

Please come out and support the BCMGA and see some beautiful gardens. Just \$10 for tickets, and children attend free. Programs and tickets will be available soon. Please contact Penny, 265-9733, for information and to volunteer.



Plant Clinic

Plant Clinic season 2009 runs May 5 through October 1.

Update

The trainees and CMGs working in the Plant Clinic are enjoying the educational and public service opportunities, and the camaraderie. A calculator has been purchased and is available for use in the Plant Clinic. CMGs are reminded that Friday morning research sessions are still available to assist with researching the Plant Clinic pending files. Tuesday, September 1, is available for one CMG and two Trainees. Please call the office at 263-8511 to sign up.

Thank you,

Martha Fortunati, Plant Clinic Coordinator

Plant Clinic Schedule, June & July 2009

June 9, Tuesday

AM
CMG: Mikey Haven
Trainee: Elissa Wadds
Trainee: Marlisa Keyes
PM
CMG: Mikey Haven
Trainee: Richard Bower
Trainee: Barbara Wilson

June 16, Tuesday

AM
CMG: Chris McIntosh/Bonnie Cavanaugh
Trainee: Elissa Wadds
Trainee: Leona Fox
PM
CMG: Bob Blair
Trainee: Richard Bower
Trainee: Jay Baker

June 23, Tuesday

AM
CMG: Ken Lunde
Trainee: Natalie Larson
Trainee: Elissa Wadds
PM
CMG: Ken Lunde
Trainee: Richard Bower
Trainee: Natalie Larson

June 11, Thursday

AM
CMG: Joyce Pence
Trainee: Barbara Wilson
Trainee: Natalie Larson
PM
CMG: Joyce Pence
Trainee: Becky Reynolds
Trainee: Briana Staglund

June 18, Thursday

AM
CMG: Zoe Bolton
Trainee: Leona Fox
Trainee: Barbara Wilson
PM
CMG: Zoe Bolton
Trainee: Barbara Wilson
Trainee: Natalie Larson

June 25, Thursday

AM
CMG: Martha Troughton
Trainee: Elissa Wadds
Trainee: Tina Raina
PM
CMG: Kit Cooley
Trainee: Becky Reynolds
Trainee: Tina Raina

June 30, Tuesday

AM
CMG: Ann Warwick
Trainee: Pamela Rose Crawford
Trainee: Julie Woods
PM
CMG: Janae Dale
Trainee: Julie Woods
Trainee: Valerie Ripley

July 7, Tuesday

AM
CMG: Jennifer Costich-Thompson
Trainee: Joyce Lang
Trainee: Tina Raina
PM
CMG: Jennifer Costich-Thompson
Trainee: Becky Reynolds
Trainee: Jay Baker

July 2, Thursday

AM
CMG: Jan Griffiths
Trainee: Leona Fox
Trainee: Tina Raina
PM
CMG: Janae Dale
Trainee: Marlisa Keyes
Trainee: Tina Raina

July 9, Thursday

AM
CMG: Ann Warwick
Trainee: Pamela Rose Crawford
Trainee: Julie Woods
PM
CMG: Kit Cooley
Trainee: Tom Callahan
Trainee: Julie Woods

Garden Hints

Using Bark Mulch

McFarland Cascade is located at 977 Baldy Mountain Road (263-2141). Shredded cedar bark is free for the hauling away. Park a pick up next to the huge bark pile, and someone will come by and load you up. Contrary to popular belief, cedar bark is safe to use around plants, shrubs, and trees. It helps to hold moisture, and keeps the weeds down. The bark stays where you put it without rolling around, and there are no splinters. (Thanks, Penny, for the tip!)



*The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.*