

The Garden Gate



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Jun 2010

Happy New Year!

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

President's Note

Dear Master Gardeners,

I remember as a child wanting to go outside for recess yet we were prevented from doing so because of the rain. We would chant:

Rain, Rain Go Away – Come again some other day!

That chant has come back to me strong over the past few weeks. As an adult and a gardener I know that rain is good for us, but so is the sun...especially for those warm weather vegetables. So let's all think sun!



Our Spring **Home Horticulture Classes** ended in May. Capping off the season was a hands-on class

led by Nicole French from Petal Talk on Flower Arranging. The spring series was well attended and provided interesting new knowledge to those attending. *I wanted to send a special thank-you to our chairs for their hard work in overseeing this semi-annual event; Don Childress, Janae Dale and Gail Swan.*

If you have ideas and suggestions for class topics for the Fall Series please contact any one of the chairs. Your input is very important to them.

The Learning Garden - Spring Kickoff Work Party was held May 21st and unfortunately had a low turnout. There is much work yet to be done and we cannot expect a small few to carry the weight of this large effort. The Learning Garden is one of our signature programs to help educate the community by building and maintaining a demonstration site for gardening. It will once again be featured on the Sandpoint Garden Tour on June 27th, 2010.

In an effort to catch-up and finish-up there is a second work party scheduled for Friday, June 11th. I ask that if you can spare the time to assist in the effort, even if only for a limited time, please do so.

We had an excellent presentation in May from **Linda Chalker-Scott**, author of *The Informed Gardener* and *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again*. We look forward to inviting her back next year.

Unfortunately there was an error in the address regarding the location of the event as well as poor signage once you arrived. My sincere apologies to all of you who attempted to attend but couldn't locate the event. This is clearly a lesson learned for the organization. We will make every attempt to prevent like errors in the future.

Finally Tina Raiha, our talented editor, was unexpectedly unable to prepare this month's newsletter so I limped through in her absence. Be kind and be patient...she will return next month.

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

Zoe M. Bolton, President
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Agent's Corner

Keep Your Eyes Open!

At the recent BCMGA meeting we discussed the spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzuki*) that is common in California, Washington and Oregon. The fly is a vinegar fly and the adult is 2-3 mm and

smaller than the Western Cherry Fruit Fly. It infests crops by using an ovipositor to lay eggs in ripening fruit. The pest has been detected on the west coast, and theoretically could also thrive in the climate of north Idaho, but has not yet been detected. It is a potentially serious pest that damages a wide range of tree and small fruits as they are ripening on the plant.

Note that the fly adult is very small and may not be present among damaged fruit. The fly is small as an adult and may be elusive. Damage on the fruit may be small but numerous. This pest should not be mistaken for the cherry fruit fly that is almost twice as big with different markings.



I suggest our strategy be to take steps for positive identification if the pest is suspected, and avoid false identification. Therefore, if you suspect fruit has been damaged by this pest, please forward the sample to me and I will take steps to have it positively identified. At some point if positive IDs are made through the University, we may need to take more steps.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/bonner/content/panhandleareasmallfarms>

The Plant Clinic is going well. We have lots of volunteers this year who want to recertify, so we have decided to add a second CMG to the roster from June through August. Be sure to sign up soon for your hours if you want to recertify. With this prolonged wet weather, there will be lots of diseases to identify, and it should prove very interesting.

Mike



Plant Clinic Update

Certified Master Gardeners received an email dated May 12, 2010 announcing a second CMG opening in the Plant Clinic for Tuesdays and Thursdays for the months of June, July, August, and September. Please call Patti at 208.263.8511 to sign up. Recertifying Master Gardeners must complete 9 hours in the Plant Clinic.

Willie Millard and Kim Peterson have each offered the donation of a photo copy machine to the Plant clinic. Bob Blair will determine which machine is compatible with the Plant Clinic computer. A supply of ink for the donated machine will then be purchased. Whichever machine operates the best of the three machines, will be put to use in the Plant Clinic. The other machines will be stored at the extension office as back up machines. Thanks to Willie, Kim and Bob for such generosity.

Gail Swan has donated a digital camera to the Plant Clinic; and continued to “nurse” the current photo-copy machine. Thanks Gail!

Penny Barton and Gail Swan will be decorating a Plant Clinic wall with shelves and BCMG award plaques. Upon completion, how about a photo for the scrapbook?

Thank you to Ann Warwick, Jon Porter and Kathleen Huntley for advertising the Plant Clinic in their well written descriptions of the University of Idaho Master Gardener Program.

Martha Fortunati, Plant Clinic Coordinator

Sandpoint Garden Tour June 27th 10am – 4pm

Penny Barton, chair of the Garden Tour committee, has finalized this year’s locations and the lineup looks great!



Tickets are available on June 14th at the Extension Office or you can buy them at any one of the gardens the day of the event. Tickets are \$10.00 each. There will be five area gardens and our own Learning Garden to make six gardens to visit.

Volunteers are still needed for the event. Anyone who works a 3 hour shift is given a free ticket to visit the gardens within the other 3 hours available.

This year we will be auctioning off a Compost Bin at the Garden Tour built by Howard Fennimore. Don’t miss this opportunity to win one of his coveted bins.

Please contact Penny at 265-9733 for information and to volunteer.

Garden themes and locations follow:

*“The Secret Garden Within”
Helen Manson
265 Gold Creek Road, Sandpoint*

Surrounding this world of “wonder within” is a tall colorful rock wall in the making. A pleasurable stroll around the yard yields raised vegetable beds, a two year old asparagus bed, loops of large rock supported beds filled with trees, shrubs and flowers. Grasses of all kinds abound in a shady nook in generously large pots. Follow the planted pathway to

the center stage of this garden “The Pavilion”, that welcomes friends to sit, relax and enjoy outdoor dining as they snuggle up to the fire on chilly evenings. The water feature adds coolness, sound and movement to the garden and the just right environment for multi-textured shade plants.

“My Sanctuary Garden”

Trisha Murphy

705 North Monroe Street, Sandpoint

Master Gardener Trisha finds sanctuary in her well planned shapely gardens. Follow the gentle curves in the front gardens to discover a striking Camperdown Elm otherwise hidden from view, taking in the fragrance of the many roses along the way. The front porch is a crayon box of colors that delights passers by. The richly planted area around the pond and waterfall gives a backdrop to keep the sound of water within the garden. Behind a fence, soon to be crawling with wisteria and hops is the raised vegetable garden. A clever spoke design of raised beds surrounds a center oval brick bed for potatoes, adding to the bounty of vegetables grown here. A newly added rectangular bed completes this garden within a garden.

“A Designer’s Garden”

Tom Bry & Joseph Palisano

236 Brisboys Road, Sagle

This four year old garden shows a maturity, far beyond it’s time. Many unusual plants are tucked in amongst old tried and true friends. Gently curving beds filled to the brim with color, texture and fragrance surround this home in every direction. Cool shady nooks filled with hostas, ligularias and ferns await your discovery. Chartreuse hops crawl over a shed and out over wires, while fruit & specimen trees fill in large spaces. Vegetable gardens give an edging to this “riot of color” flower garden.

“Learning Garden”

University of Idaho Extension Office

4205 North Boyer, Sandpoint

The purpose of the Master Gardeners Learning Garden is to educate the public about growing vegetable gardens in Bonner County. Raised beds, keyhole plantings, three sisters planting, covered and uncovered beds are featured for your study. The irrigation system throughout this garden is easily duplicated. The vegetables grown here are donated to the food bank for the Plant a Row Program. Come learn with us.

“The Pack Inns New Beginning”

Marguerite & Tom Antonson

97 Red Cedar Lane, Sandpoint

The previous owners left a well stocked perennial nursery from which to begin the landscaping of this garden. Flowerbeds wrap around the house beginning with the sun loving flowers then moving into the shy shade worshipers. The fenced garden is home to perennials, vegetables and berries. Part of this garden is dedicated to perma-culture. Islands of trees hold more treasures to be sought out and an outdoor fire-pit surrounded by what the land offered for seating completes this picturesque setting.

“Serenity”

Mark and Penny Fredrickson

370 Oden Bay Drive, Sandpoint

Your ears are bathed in the sound of a waterfall as you explore the garden depths and your eyes cannot take in the bounty of color popping from large pots, scattered over decks, patios and hanging from trees. Follow the textured stones around a corner and a multi layered stone fountain continues your sound journey through this garden on Lake Pend Oreille. Beautiful stones are the base for the outdoor living area complete with fire-pit fully engulfed with large bouquets of potted flowers lending a touch of elegance.



MG GARDEN VISIT POTLUCKS FOR JUNE



June 12 is the first Master Gardener potluck garden visit—to Jan Wilfert’s lovely garden, complete with a path to walk through the forest and many other interesting features. This event will be earlier than some that we had last summer, and will begin at 1 pm. Because of parking limitations, we will meet at the extension office at about 12:30 and carpool to her home.

Bring a potluck dish, your own beverages, and a chair for each person you bring with you. The MG’s will supply plates, cups, and plastic utensils. Wear sturdy shoes to hike the trail. You may need some mosquito repellent for maximum outdoor comfort. Tis the season for insects.

To get to Jan’s garden from the extension office, proceed south down Boyer to East Mountain View Rd, turn left, and go 3/10 mile to Sand Creek Lane. Turn left and go another 3/10 mile to 2531 Sand Creek Lane. There is room to park about six cars. If you choose not to carpool, please park at the intersection of East Mountain View and Sand Creek Lane. There is a barn there, and room for a number of cars.

June 30, we will visit Penny Barton’s expansive garden. This event will begin at 4 pm. Again, bring a potluck dish, your own favorite beverage, and shoes for the considerable hiking you will do to cover her large and amazing garden.

We’ll meet to carpool at the extension office at about 3:30. To get to Penny’s home, go north on Hwy. 95 to mile marker 490, look for a street sign on

the left saying West Elmira Road. If you reach the Elmira Store, you’ve passed it. Turn left, and go west until you see a bank of many mailboxes. Follow the road as it curves to the right and proceed north. Keep following this road. It will wind a bit, then take a sharp left. Keep going until you see the entrance to her driveway at 1762 West Elmira Road. You will be 1.76 miles from Hwy 95. There is parking for about eight cars by the house and a couple more by the pump house, which you will see on the left just before you reach the house.

At each of these events, be prepared to be wowed by the gardening skills of each of these MGs, and to have a great social time with other MGs. It’s an opportunity to just have fun and visit with each other.



Dirty Little Secrets

A compost of gardening hints and tips



A Hole in One. If you should get a pinhole leak in your garden hose insert a pointed, round wooden toothpick into the hole just penetrating the hose wall. Cut off the extra toothpick even with the outside of the hose or as close as you can get. Wrap the entire area with several layers of duct tape (the universal fix-it product). Water flowing through the hose will cause the toothpick to swell and fill the

hole. Apply more layers of duct tape if there is still leakage.

(From: "Farmer's Almanac Garden Guide")

Cheap Trick. To make an inexpensive trellis or arbor use concrete reinforcing wire. It can be found at most lumberyards and comes in 42"x84" panels. Wire the two panels together at the shorter ends to form a 42"x 168" trellis or however long you want it to be. Secure one of the short ends into a bed or the ground and then bend the panel to form an arch and secure the other end where you want it. Now you have a great tunnel shaped trellis for growing climbing things on. This works great with cucumbers, beans, peas, tomatoes or any vegetable or flower that loves to climb.

(From: "Trowel and Error" by Sharon Lovejoy. Also used by Diane Green at Greentree Naturals)

Children of the Corn. To make sure you get an even corn crop and are planting viable seeds you can pre-sprout your corn seeds before you plant them. An old cookie sheet or tray works very well for this. Put down several layers of paper towels on the sheet and then wet them with a sprayer or under the faucet with warm water. Drain off the excess water and then place the corn seeds in a single layer on the paper towels. Cover the seeds with several more layers of paper towels and wet these as well, carefully pouring off the excess water. Pat the top layer of towels down before tipping the sheet to help hold the seeds in place and prevent them from rolling to one end. Place the sheet and seeds in a warm place in the house. Rinse daily with warm water making sure you drain off the excess. The corn should start to sprout in at least 5 days if not before. Wait a couple of days before planting to allow most of the corn to sprout, then plant the sprouted seeds to ensure an even and successful crop. (From: Becky Reynolds)

Information recycled by Becky Reynolds. If anyone has a hint or tip they would like to share in the Garden Gate please contact me at: 264-3214 or rplace@directv.net



Other Things to Know....

4th of July – 3rd of July Parade! AKA – Super Duper Pooper Scooper Event

Nope that is not a typo. The Sandpoint 4th of July Parade is on Saturday July 3rd this year. As in past years the Master Gardeners will march in the parade, wearing (if desired) your very favorite gardening hat and other appropriate attire and carrying whatever gardening tool you think will attract the attention of the crowd. We will also, as in the past, follow the horses so that we can collect the rich manure. By doing so we clean the streets and have access to a fresh supply. Watching the Master Gardening scoop up poop is always a favorite of the crowd.

The meeting place is behind the Army Surplus store shortly before 9:30am. From there we will get instructions as to where we fall in line for the parade.

A word about Trisha Murphy.....

One of Trisha's greatest joys in life has been being a Master Gardener. She was especially interested and devoted to the Plant Clinic when her health allowed. Trisha will no longer be able to diagnose for the Plant Clinic as she is losing her battle with liver disease and has less than a year to live. And live is what she hopes to do. Trisha has created lovely flower and vegetable gardens for herself and she would love to share her gardens and her stories with MGs. She is inviting all MGs to stop by daily from 1pm to 6pm, to enjoy from the comfort of her porches the views of her gardens. She would also really enjoy a stroll around with you if you wished a closer inspection. Trisha is located at 705 North Monroe and her phone number is 265-2072. Afternoons are the best times for visits and phone calls, and do feel free to pull any rouge weeds you notice.

Penny Barton

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Garden Shed

It has been reported that the garden shed has not been kept in a nice, neat order. Please put things back in their proper place.

Also, we have purchased garden tools to use in the Learning Garden and for maintenance of the Extension Office flower beds. Those tools were taken and not returned. If you know where they are please return them to the Garden Shed.



Healthy Foods: Herbs Are Easy

By Janis Clark

Herbs are the most basic plants growing on the earth. For thousands of years, they have been respected and traditionally gathered mostly by women who were both gardeners and gatherers, giving real meaning to the concept, sustainable living. Herbs are easier to grow than vegetables, have medicinal as well as edible qualities, take up less room outdoors, and can be grown in containers. They are a wise choice for beginning gardeners because they are best started from plants, rather than seed.

Genovese basil is almost a universal herb, used in all cultures and probably my personal favorite, not just because my Grandma Lena's family is from Genoa. The flavor of fresh basil on a sliced tomato is awesome. Basil is easily started from seed. Parsley on the other hand, is best grown from plants (now they tell me), due to the length of time to germination. U of I Extension Master Gardener, Lois Wythe, told a group of her students, "Parsley can go to the devil and back seven times before it germinates."

Most herbs are perennial and will grow in the garden for years. Basil is an annual, which means it needs to be replanted from year to year, and parsley is biennial, every other year. Unlike vegetable plants, it is not important to rotate herbs. They only need to be moved if they are not doing well; perhaps another location will suit them better.

When buying herb plants, be sure there has been no chemical treatment, especially if using them for cooking. If you are wondering which herbs to select, ask yourself the question, "What do I like to cook with?" Even with a limited amount of space, you can create a 4X4 garden with twelve herb plants. You don't want to plant more than you can take care of. Try a theme garden, such as an Italian garden.

There are seventy-three different kinds of thyme, but lemon thyme is preferred by chefs, I'm told. I use only a few herbs in my cooking, but am learning to use more. Oregano, basil, and parsley are the stalwarts of my Italian kitchen. Recently, sage has done very well. Cilantro (coriander when it goes to seed) is a major success among the herbs in my Mexican Garden, reseeding by itself year after year.

Arugula is an easily grown annual herb that is among the first plants in my garden to produce food. Arugula will grow anywhere, probably between the cracks in the sidewalk (if I had sidewalk). Combined with parsley, arugula transforms into the first pesto of the season. Greek oregano, which is considered the true oregano, is a perennial hardy enough to withstand our Zone 4-5 winters and makes another fine pesto at about the same time. Grow Greek oregano in a pot on a sunny porch for its wonderful aroma. The bees will love you for it.

Arugula Pesto/Oregano Pesto

½ cup arugula leaves or fresh Greek oregano (or more)

2 cups flat-leaf Italian parsley

1/2 cup (more or less), good quality olive oil

1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pine nuts

Garlic cloves, as many or as little as you like

Salt and pepper to taste

- Wash and pat dry arugula or oregano, and parsley
- Place in blender with garlic, nuts and half the olive oil
- Pulse, then drizzle remaining olive oil
- Remove to bowl, stir in cheese
- Pesto will keep up to two weeks in the refrigerator or can be frozen in ice-cube trays

**BCMGA - Event Calendar
2010 Working Copy**



Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Notes
Advanced MG Program – Plant ID Series	April 2, 16, 30, May 7, 14, June 4 and 18	Janae Dale	Speaker = Jennifer Costich-Thompson Ext Office 9am Registr. Closed
Membership Meeting	6/2	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Spring for the Garden Faire	6/5	Community Event	Healing Garden
Learning Garden - Work Day	6/11	Mikey Haven	Extension Office
Sandpoint Farmers Market	6/12	Janae Dale	Information Booth
BCMGA Home Visit	6/12	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Jan Wilfort
Sandpoint Garden Tour	6/27	Penny Barton	
BCMGA Home Visit	6/30	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Penny Barton
4 th of July Parade	7/3		Meet behind the Army Surplus store at 9:30am
Membership Meeting	7/7	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Sandpoint Farmers Market	7/10	Janae Dale	Information Booth
BCMGA Home Visit	7/14	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Val Ripley, Lynn Pietz
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, Becky Reynolds
Hope Farmers Market	8/20		BCMGA Theme; 2-5:30pm
BCMGA Home Visit	8/21	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Kit Cooley - 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