

The Garden Gate

March, 2006



Facilitator Needed for Entomology Class!!

We are still looking for a facilitator for the Master Gardener Entomology class on March 21. If you can help out with this, please call Patti at 263-8511.

Master Gardener Classes from UI

There are two classes for Master Gardeners scheduled to be broadcast via interactive video. These are being offered as a pilot program to evaluate the suitability of delivering classes statewide from extension specialists.

- Tuesday, March 14, 5-7 PM: Insect pest management by Dr. Ed Bechinski
- Tuesday, March 21, 5-7 PM: Plant diseases by Dr. Krishna Mohan

Both classes will be held at the extension office. You may attend either or both. This is a good opportunity to get your education credits and brush up on these subjects. There is no fee, but please call Patti (263-8511) to register.

Plant a Row for the Hungry by Ann Warwick

The Bonner County Master Gardeners have adopted a new project for 2006, "Plant a Row for the Hungry", or PAR. Sponsored nationally by the Garden Writers Association, the goal of this program is to encourage communities to give excess produce from individual gardens and orchards to local food banks throughout the nation. Our role, on the local scene, is to increase awareness of the need for fresh produce at the Bonner County Food Center, and to motivate individuals to donate their extra garden produce.

The Bonner County Food Center, located at 921 North Fifth, needs fresh produce in season, has a walk-in cooler for storage, and can distribute as much as the community can donate. Our challenge is to get the word out to local gardeners, to encourage them to donate excess foods and to plant just a little extra for those in need. The cost to the

community is small, and the dividends can be huge. This is definitely a “feel good” program for everyone involved.

The Garden Writers Association provides free brochures for us to distribute to the community. The only expense to the MG’s is to create a flyer describing the local program and listing delivery dates and times, the address of the Bonner County Food Center (and perhaps the Priest River Food Bank). Donations are tax-deductible at \$1.50 per pound of produce. PAR provides receipts for the food banks to complete to keep track of how much produce has been donated. This enables us to set goals and to know just how much the local community has contributed.

The garden columnist for the Spokesman Review, Pat Munts, has been very successful in getting Spokane involved in this program, and has kindly provided mentorship to get things going here. With rents and gasoline prices rising, those with low incomes in our community are visiting the Food Center more often than ever. Let’s make sure the cooler stays full of good wholesome produce this year for those in need.

For more information contact Ann Warwick 263-2844.

Mickinnick/Waterlife Discovery Center Update: Ann Wimberley

The Master Gardeners and the Native Plant Society will again work jointly on two projects this year. The first is the Mickinnick Trailhead, located on Woodland Drive. This was planted in the summer of 2005 and has a drip irrigation system and cedar bark mulch. However, weeds continue to do well here. The Landscape Committee of the Native Plant Society will meet at the trailhead to weed on the first Wednesday of each month from 9 until noon, beginning in April. Jan Griffiths, a member of this year’s class, plans to work on the third Wednesday of each month. Please plan to join either group for whatever period of time you can spare. Bring gloves, tools, a drink and a snack.

The second project is the Waterlife Discovery Center, located at the site of the old fish hatchery on Lakeshore Drive. This was originally planted by the Native Plant Society and the Master Gardeners in the fall of 2004. The Landscape Committee will re-evaluate this site in the spring. Plans are first to weed and then to do a major replanting, using native plants purchased with money from Idaho Fish and Game. Drip emitters to each plant will then be placed and the area will be mulched. A weeding schedule will then be established for this site.

Both of these projects have been approved by the MG board to count as community service hours. For more information on either project or to identify yourself as someone to be contacted if we schedule extra work parties, please contact Ann Wimberley at afwim@yahoo.com or (home) 264-5379 or (local cell) 597-0477.

Hanging Baskets:

Master Gardeners will again be helping the Downtown Sandpoint Business Association by planting and hanging the beautiful flower baskets that grace the streets of Sandpoint in the summer. The DSBA has purchased new baskets this year and has donated the 100 used ones to Master Gardeners. We are planting 50 to sell at the plant sale. The other 50 are available to purchase for personal use for \$15.

The week of March 20 (exact date and time to be determined) there will be a “planting party” to plant the wave petunia plugs in the hanging baskets for the DSBA. Please call Jan Rumore 255-1827 if you can help or would like to purchase a basket.

2006 Master Gardener Upcoming Events* and their coordinators:

February 14-April 27: New Master Gardener Class-Bob Wilson
March 11 & 12: Home and Garden Show- Bonner Mall-Jan Rumore, Penny Barton
Mid March: Plant Hanging Baskets for DSBA-Jan Rumore
April: Plant Clinic sign ups- Debbie Crain
End of May: Hang the Baskets for DSBA-Jan Rumore
June 3: Plant Sale?
July 4: 4th of July Parade- Sue Lopez
August 23-26: Bonner County Fair-Sue Lopez
Sept.10: Garden Harvest Tour? Barb Moore

*subject to change

April Board Meeting

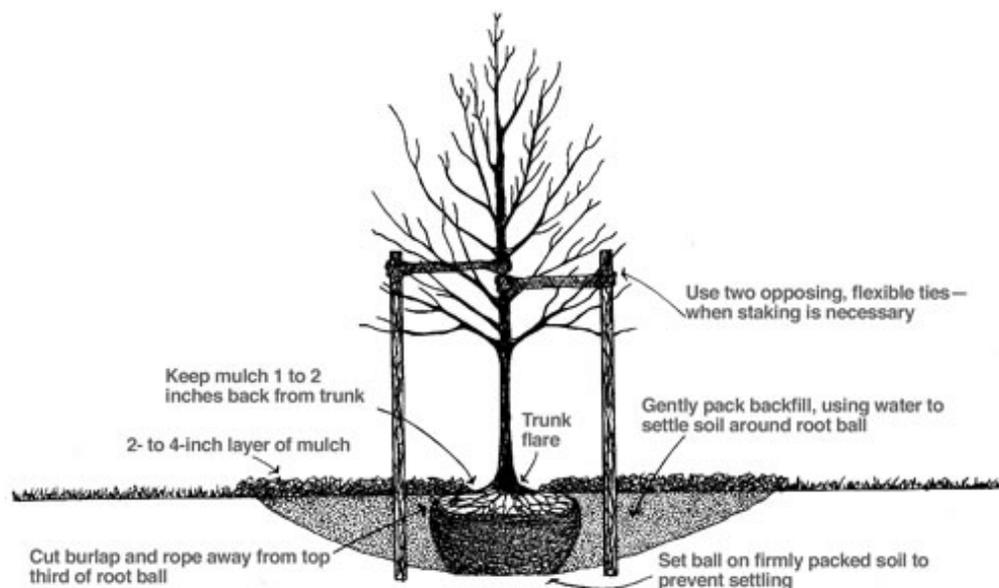
You are welcome to come to the April Board Meeting on Wednesday April 5 at 9:00 am at the Extension Office. We are entering the busy season with many upcoming events and can use your help!

Staking Trees

*Bob Wilson, Extension Educator/Horticulture
University of Idaho*

Although it is a common practice to secure a newly planted tree with stakes, most trees in fact do not need them. More importantly, recent research indicates that improper staking can actually injure trees and make them more prone to failure. Rigid staking prevents the tree from flexing in the wind and developing a stronger trunk. Stakes left on too long can injure the tree where ropes or (worse) wire rub and dig into the trunk.

Good candidates for staking would be any bare-root trees, trees planted in exposed windy areas, and tall trees with poor taper. Conifers, with their full foliage, will be pushed more by wind than a dormant deciduous tree. A field grown tree with a heavy ball of soil, usually sold as a balled and burlapped (B&B) tree, usually is pretty secure at planting and may not need stakes at all.



If you do need to stake a tree, it is important to keep the ties loose enough that the tree can move in the wind but not break. The more a trunk flexes when young, the stronger it will grow. Two or three stakes should be placed 3-4 feet from the trunk. A broad material such as ArborTie® should be used on the tree that will hold the trunk without injuring the bark. It is imperative that stakes be left on **no more than one year**. Although some trees need extra help at planting, they should be weaned off of stake support as soon as possible.