

The Garden Gate



edited by Kit Cooley (the_editrix@yahoo.com)

March 2009

Something for everyone! Get involved!

Our next big event (besides the Spring Home Horticulture Series beginning March 18) is the Home and Garden Show, April 18 & 19. Please contact Brenda Fletcher, the chair of this event, for information or to volunteer. Demonstrations will be held both days at the Bonner County Fairgrounds, and a list of topics will be posted on our website soon, at www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners. As the weather warms, there will be more to do, so stay tuned!

A reminder for those MGs who are auditing the current MG training classes: please be prompt and arrive at 8:30 a.m.

President's Note



Dear Snowbound Master Gardeners,

The reception on Friday was a great success! Those of you who were there know what a wonderful time it was.

Several people commented on the positive energy in the room. And many former members signed up to recertify! Thank you, **Valle Novak** and **Penny Barton**, for all the work you did putting this together. The food, as always, was excellent.

The March meeting was another long one, but we did get lots of business covered. The meetings are always interesting and the board appreciates your input. I encourage all of you to attend. If you have any items you would like to put on the agenda, please call me, 265-2205, or email me, jjdale@live.com.

The Master Gardener training classes are moving along with great enthusiasm on the part of the students. The luncheon on the first day was grand! Thank you so much to all of you who brought food items.

We have several committee chairs who deserve some recognition. **Mikey Haven**, **Gail Swan**, and **Don Childress**, have put together a detailed plan for updating our Learn-

ing Garden, including an irrigation system. No more hours spent watering! **Zoe Bolton**, working with **Susan Daffron**, has spent lots of time updating and adding to our website. If you haven't looked at it lately, check it out. **Bob Blair's** Historian committee, including **Zoe Bolton** and **Ann Warwick**, has organized our photos and information from past years into two very attractive scrapbooks. They are looking for help identifying members in some photos. **Ann Warwick**, Vice President, has reorganized our "Master Gardener Bible," which includes our mission statement, bylaws, procedures and guidelines, and committee reports. It's on top of the filing cabinets in the Plant Clinic. Take a look.

It's a good time of the year to check out some of the videos in our clinic. **Martha Fortunati** prepared the attached list for you.

I can see the ground under my trees! I have faith that the snow will eventually be gone and I will dig in the dirt again.

Happy garden planning,

Janae

Agent's Corner



Recertification and Other News

Master Gardener Recertification

To recertify, MG Associates need to agree to contribute 9 hours to the plant clinic and another 9 hours in other projects in 2009. We are committed to working with CMGs to maintain their status. Recertification needs to be completed one year in three to avoid having to take the basic training course again. These hours must have been completed by September 30, 2009.

Exemption for 2009 only: all past Master Gardeners who have let their certification lapse for more than three years may recertify without taking the basic training class. CMGs are offered admission to the advanced MG training classes and a limited number of basic MG training classes.

The plant clinic is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from May through September. An additional plant clinic has been added and will be held every Friday from 9 am to noon for those with scheduling conflicts. Please call Patti or come in to the Extension office to schedule your plant clinic time.

To make the commitment to recertify as a Master Gardener in Bonner County in 2009, fill out the Recertification Agreement you will be receiving in the mail or call our office to receive a copy, 263-8511. You can also get a form on the web at <http://extension.ag.uidaho.edu/bonner/>. Click on UI Bonner County Master Gardeners.

Associate Master Gardener status (Inactive)

If you do not wish to commit to the volunteer service, you may 'stay in touch' as an Associate Master Gardener. Associate Master Gardeners may still attend Master Gardener social events but may not dispense advice on behalf of the University of Idaho or attend basic or advanced Master Gardener classes. You may maintain Associate Master Gardener status without recertifying for up to three years. After that time, you will need to take the entire basic training again.

Other News...

On February 19, our new class of 16 MG trainees began their journey. So far, they have completed classes in Plant Identification, Botany, Entomology and Soils. On tap for this month are Plant Diagnostics, Weed Identification, Plant Diseases and other topics.

Please note that the topics on April 7 and 16 have been switched, and that Dan Barney will teach the Tree Fruits class.

Zoe Bolton has been busy updating the Bonner County Master Gardener website:

<http://sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/> where you can find plant clinic forms, volunteer forms and articles by MGs and other information. At the UI Bonner County Extension website (<http://extension.ag.uidaho.edu/bonner/>) we have developed a horticulture calendar which lists activities and events of interest.

The Bonner County Home and Garden Show is coming up on April 18 and 19. UI Bonner County MGs will have a booth and will be doing presentations for the public. If you are interested in participating in this project, contact Brenda Fletcher.

Thanks to all of you for your continued involvement!

Mike



"Happy gardeners gathering"

Important Dates

◆ See below for the full Spring Home Horticulture class schedule, which begins in March.

April 6, Monday, 9 a.m., Membership meeting, Extension Office

April 18-19, Home and Garden Show, Fair Building (Chair: Brenda Fletcher)

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

Master Gardener Home Horticulture Series

Classes cost \$10 and space is limited. Please register and pay for classes by calling or visiting the Extension office.

March 18 “Start Your Garden Indoors With Seed”

Presented by Jennifer Costich-Thompson, Master Gardener

Class to include soil preparation, seed starts, hardening off starts, transplanting, and any necessary season extenders.

March 25 “Composting 101”

Presented by Mike Bauer, Extension Educator

Class to include compost bin construction, materials to compost, maintenance of compost, use of the end product in your garden.

April 1 “Growing Idaho Potatoes in Idaho”

Presented by Pat Van Volkinburg, The Potato Lady

Learn about the varieties of potatoes to grow, soil preparation, planting, tending through the summer and harvesting.

April 15 “Ask the Experts”

Presented by Valle Novak, Mike Bauer, Laurie Brown, Loie DeLa Vergne, Jennifer Costich-Thompson, Pat Van Volkinburg, and Diane Green

Stump the Panel! Bring your toughest gardening questions to be solved by these local “Gardening Gurus.”

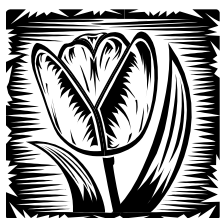
April 29 “Pruning –Beneficial and Decorative”

Presented by Rich Del Carlo, Certified Arborist

Learn about pruning fruit trees, landscape trees and shrubs, espalier, and proper care and sharpening of your pruning tools.

May 6 “Potagers”

Presented by Valle Novak, Master Gardener Emeritus “Pot-ah-zhay”, traditionally a French “soup” Garden; a small plot with a few special herbs and veggies for use in quick, fresh dishes, from soup to omelets to salad and beyond. Valle will show you how to create your own in a tiny plot, a pot or a group of pots; she’ll even plant one during the class.



Announcements

◆ Friday Plant Clinic Plan

The Plant Clinic will be open one extra day per week for 3 hours for research purposes only for recertifying Master Gardeners who cannot participate in the Plant Clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The extra day will be every Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 noon, May through September, in the Plant Clinic with the Plant Clinic Coordinator in attendance. As was decided during the 2008 evaluation meeting, all plant clinic activities will take place at the Extension office. This plan is to be reviewed at the end of the season, in October, at the program evaluation meeting.

◆ **Home Depot Garden Club** Information on gardening, lawn care, landscaping and outdoor living can be found at www.homedepotgardenclub.com. MG Holly Moore works at Home Depot and can help you with questions about joining on line.

◆ **Learning Garden Update** Big plans are afoot to expand and improve the Extension Learning Garden. For more information, or to volunteer on this project, contact Mikey Haven, Gail Swan, or Don Childress.

◆ **MasterGardener** magazine is produced in cooperation with the Washington State University Master Gardener Program. It is a lovely and informative publication. Subscriptions are \$20 per year. Contact MasterGardener magazine, 105 South 18th Street, Suite 217, Yakima, WA 98901, or online at www.MasterGardenerOnline.com.

◆ **Lost and Found** A grey and white plastic tarp inside a matching sack with handle was found in the Plant Clinic after the August 2008 Fair. Please claim this if it is yours.

◆ **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 1st of the month for that month’s issue.



Prepare your mind before you dig

The following is a list of videos in the Plant Clinic library that may be borrowed by Master Gardeners. Please sign out videos with Patti Speelmon at the front desk of the Extension office.

Master Gardener Video Library

Updated 3/6/08

1. How to Grow & Nurture Seedlings (2)
2. How to Design & Build a Vegetable Garden (1)
3. How to Grow Warm Weather Vegetables (2)
4. How to Grow Cool Weather Vegetables (2)
5. How to Grow Plants in Sun Places (2)
6. How to Grow Healthy Houseplants (2)
7. How to Grow Roses (2)
8. How to Design a Flower Garden (1)
9. How to Grow Flowers (1)
10. Pruning Shrubs & Small Trees (1)
11. Cost Estimates/Plant Problems (1)
12. Landscape Maintenance (1)
13. Landscape Mgmt; Soil Fertility/Weed Control (1)
14. Landscape Mgmt in Interior West; Irrigation 1&2
15. Syringa: Idaho Reflections (2)
16. How to Grow & Cook Fresh Herbs (2)
17. How to Grow Plants in a Green House (1)
18. How to Care for Your Lawn (2)
19. Seasons of Sandpoint (1)
20. Backyard Composting (2)
21. What You Should Know About Carpenter Ants
22. It Takes a Tree (2)
23. Forest Water Quality (1)
24. I Want to Selective Log (2)
25. Forestland Taxes (2)
26. Fire Safe—Inside & Out (1)
27. Farmer's Horticultural (1)
28. Basic Botany
29. Small Commercial Garden
30. Opportunities in Mushrooms
31. Pruning for Tree Health and Production
32. Tree Planting & Diagnoses
33. Botanical Plant Identification
34. Nothing But Herbs
35. Idaho Weed Control Program
36. Pesticide Safety
37. Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition II
38. Blueberry Farm
39. Ruth Stout's Garden

The CDs in the Plant Clinic library may not be borrowed; however, the following list of CDs is available for use in the Plant Clinic on the computer there.

Plant Clinic Diagnostic CDs

- A. Garden Problem Solver
- B. Grasshoppers
- C. Nutrient Deficiencies & Toxicities of Plants
- D. Diseases of Vegetables
- E. Home & Garden
- F. Trees, Shrubs & Groundcovers
- G. Perennials & Annuals
- H. Insect Pests for Field Crops
- I. Home & Garden Insect Control Products
- J. Berries & Grapes for the Home Garden
- K. Aphids, Yellow Jackets & Spider Mites
- L. 2006 Horticulture Technology
- M. U of I Extension Forestry Information Series
- N. Watering & Water Issues
- O. Horticulture (multi-files)

Garden Hints

Leave that snow alone!

We are all anxious to start working in the garden, to see what is under the snow, especially to check out the perennials and shrubs. Resist the urge to knock the snow off those plants! Let it melt off on its own. The branches are particularly brittle and easily broken. The roots of perennials could be lifted from the soil. Be patient and wait for the snow to be gone before you check things out. When the snow is gone there will still be time to look them over, carefully trimming back the grasses and perennials, and pruning the broken branches from the shrubs. Oh, and leave the roses alone until Mother's Day. Then do the necessary pruning. (Janae)

"Swap Meet"

Time to go through the seed packets and tidy up the houseplants! If you have anything to give away or swap (of a garden nature only, please), this is the place to list it. Swaps need to be in to Kit by the first of the month to be listed in that month's *The Garden Gate*.

*May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow,
and may trouble avoid you wherever you go..*

~Irish Blessing

