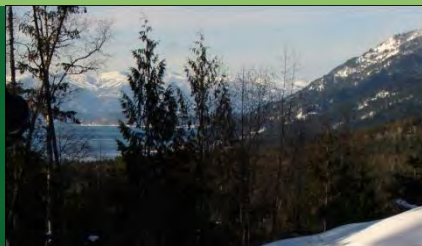


The Garden Gate



March 2011

Please contribute to The Garden Gate. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome. For questions or comments please email lauriebrown54@gmail.com When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.

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President's Note

Dear Master Gardeners,

Welcome March! Can spring be far behind? Well maybe in this part of the country it can be but I am going to have positive thoughts anyway.

Here's a little picture to get you in the mood for the upcoming spring:



I want to send thanks to all of you that have contributed to the communications between the U of I and the BCMGA. The voices and opinions of many, once consolidated, lead to a well rounded response. I have a conference call scheduled with Charlotte Eberlein at the very end of this month and hope to get our outstanding questions answered at that time.

In the meantime it is business as usual. The Home Horticulture series continues to be a great success with spectacular attendance. Big thanks to our chairs Don Childress, Janae Dale and Gail Swan and to the day-to-day management efforts of Jan Hansen. The Home and Garden Show planning is well under way under the direction of Ellie Lizotte and Ann Warwick. Continuing Education classes continue to be a success thanks to the efforts of individual coordinators. Big thanks to Jan Griffiths for coordinating and Jay Baker for presenting the class on Starting Your Garden Indoors with the use of soil blocks.

As always, if you have any questions, ideas or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Zoe M. Bolton, President
zbolton@gmail.com
264-1210

HOME AND GARDEN SHOW **UPDATE**

The annual Home and Garden Show is coming up on Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10. Ellie Lizotte is the chair this year. We have a great line up of speakers from the membership, and we've scheduled folks to attend the booth for most of the time. The topics and speakers are as follows:

Saturday:

10am, Growing Tomatoes, Mikey Haven and Gail Swan;
Noon, Raised Beds, Becky Reynolds;
1:30, Composting with Worms, Janae Dale;
2:30, Square Foot Gardening, Lynn Pietz

Sunday:

11am, Mushrooms, Lynn Wilson;
1pm, Recycling for the Garden, Ann Warwick;
2:30pm, Container Gardening, Regina Mundell.

We have a great lineup of interesting topics this year. Thanks to those who are giving their time and effort to make the H & G show a fun and interesting event.

The booth tenders for the event are:

Saturday:

9:30 to 11:30 am, Robin Beams and Lexie deFremery;
11:30 to 1:30, Kim Peterson and Elissa Wadds;
1:30 to 3:30, Jan Wilfert, Jan Griffiths, and Liz Kunze;
3:30 to 5:30, Kathleen Huntley and Penny Barton

Sunday:

10 to Noon, Jenna Bertus;
12 to 2, Howie Fennimore; and
2 to 4, Ann Warwick and Gail Swan.

We need another person for the 10 to noon slot and the noon to 2 slot. Please call Ann Warwick (263-2844) or email w.redguy@frontier.com if you can help out. If you wish to volunteer at other times, we can probably use up to three people per time slot.

Set up will be on Friday, late in the afternoon, and take down will be after 4 pm on Sunday. We welcome volunteers for these activities, as well. Thanks to everyone who volunteers.



Firing up your starts yet? Feeling that spring fever? This is a picture from last year...late March. The starts were well on their way.

BCMGA POTLUCK **GARDEN VISITS**

Becky Reynolds and Ann Warwick and the potluck/garden visit committee are planning the events for 2011, and there is plenty of room on the calendar for folks to sign up as hosts.

Thus far, we have only three signups for the season. Kim Peterson has recently moved to Naples and would like advice on planning her landscape design. Ann Warwick will host a potluck this summer, and Mikey Haven is seeking some guidance for setting up a garden at her new address.

Anyone who would like to host a garden visit this summer, please call or email Becky Reynolds or Ann Warwick. BCMGA supplies all cutlery, plates, cups and the like. Those who attend supply the food, their own beverages and lawn chairs, if needed. The host simply needs to be available as a garden guide.

March Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:
http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Month/zonemar01.html



Zone 3

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Remove mulch from early bulbs
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Sow seeds for cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors

Zone 4

- Plant bare root trees
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Sow seeds for cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors

Zone 5

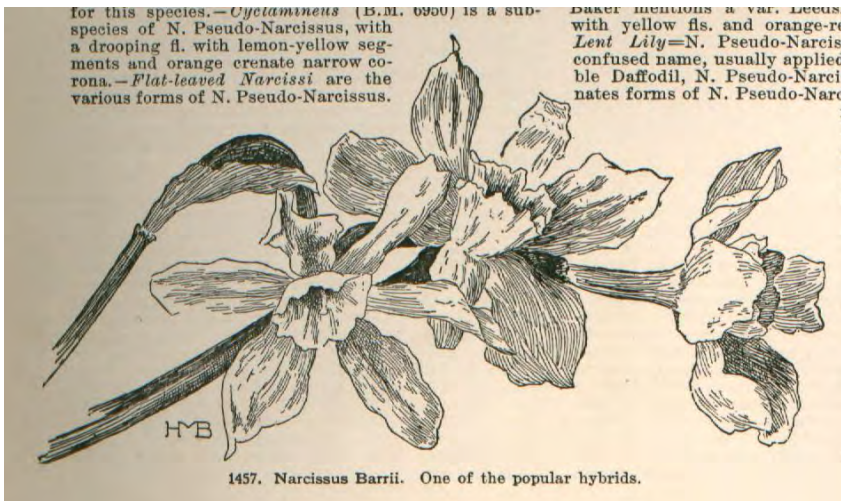
- Plant dormant, hardy container and balled and burlapped plants
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals indoors
- Remove winter mulch, lightly cultivate soil if thawed
- Prune out winter damage
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees
- Plant or transplant frost-tolerant perennials

- Sow seeds for tender perennials indoors
- Plant bare-root roses
- Plant bare-root trees, shrubs, and vines
- Prune winter-blooming shrubs and vines just after bloom
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables (asparagus, rhubarb etc.)
- Plant seedlings of cool-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for cool- and warm-season vegetables
- Protect tender plants from frost



BCMGA – 2011 Event Calendar

Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Notes
Home Hort - Berries	Wed 3/23/11	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Ponderay Event Center 6pm – Speaker Jon Bair
Home Hort – Basic Gardening I	Wed 3/30/11	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm – Speaker Marsha Semar
Continuing Education	Sat 4/2/11	Janae Dale; Class coordinator, Bob Blair, rangermon@gmail.com , 263-8416	Extension Office 3pm – Speaker Dr. Bob Tripepi
Membership Meeting	Wed 4/6/11	Zoe Bolton, zbolton@gmail.com or 264-1210	Extension Office 9am
Home Hort – Basic Gardening II	Wed 4/6/11	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm – Speaker Marsha Semar
Home and Garden Show	Sat & Sun - Apr 9 th and 10 th	Ellie Lizotte, hopeellie@aol.com , 264-5462	Bonner County Fair Grounds
Home Hort – Seed Saving	Wed 4/20/11	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm – Speaker Jennifer Costich-Thompson
Home Hort – Basics of Low Pressure Irrigation	Wed 4/27/11	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm – Speaker J.R. North



It's officially spring today, and soon the bulbs will be up and blooming! I'm seeing primrose leaves and the bleeding hearts and daylilies are poking their little green noses up. A bit of cleaning up has been done, but I'm afraid to step into the beds because they are at the very squishy point and I'm afraid that if I compress the soil now it'll stay compressed all year. Considering that I went in to over my ankles in the driveway a couple of days ago, I'd say it's a valid concern. A lot of the roses are looking really bad right now- even the rock hardy zone 3 Buck roses- and I'm hoping that this is some vile optical illusion. There has also been a tremendous amount of rodent damage in my garden- tunnels everywhere, girdling of the Japanese maples, the creeping phlox have been eaten to nothing. A lot has been happening under the snow, both good and bad.

Presented and coordinated by
Bonner County Master Gardeners As-
sociation



All programs will be held from 6pm – 8pm
At the Bonner County Extension Office
4205 N. Boyer – Sandpoint, Idaho
Each class - \$10.00 or all 8 classes for
\$60.00

Email inquiries to: bonnermg@uidaho.edu
Website: <http://www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/>

Dates and Topics

"Xeriscaping" Changed to March 18th 5:30-7:30

*Presented by horticulturist Bob
Wilson of Cedar Mountain Perennials.*

Xeriscaping is a valuable approach for conserving water in the home landscape. Practical techniques for making do with less water and still creating a lush, colorful landscape will be discussed with an emphasis on native plants.

March 2nd - "Pruning"

*Presented by Gail Locke, Certified Master
Gardener*

Pruning insures safety, increases yield, and maintains the health and appearance of your plants. Several techniques will be demonstrated. Learn when, how, and what to prune, and how to main-

tain pruning equipment. Bring your pruning tools for evaluation and maintenance.

March 16 - "Small Orchards"

*Presented by Robb McCracken, Executive
Director of Clark Fork/Pend Oreille Conservancy.*
Learn all aspects of growing fruit trees in northern Idaho - includes growing sites, varieties, planting and avoiding problems.

March 23rd - "Berries" (Ponderay Event Center)

*Presented by Jon Bair, Certified Master
Gardener*
Take a journey through nature's bounty of berries. Learn varieties and techniques for a successful harvest. Also includes a discussion on native berries for the landscape.

March 30th - "Basic Gardening I"

*Presented by Marsha Semar, Commercial Or-
ganic Gardener*
Get started growing your own vegetables. This first session will look at planning, choosing location, preparing soil, seed selection, and will include starting seeds, both indoors and out.

April 6th - "Basic Gardening II"

*Presented by Marsha Semar, Commercial Or-
ganic Gardener*
Review seed starting, and then cover transplanting, irrigation, weed and pest control, and general care and maintenance. Other topics include options for protected plantings, container gardening, and preparing for harvest/seed saving.

April 20th - "Seed Saving"

*Presented by Jennifer Costich-Thompson,
Certified Master Gardener.*
Jennifer will discuss the basic principles and low-tech methods for saving seed and will help

you prepare for your seed-saving this year. Bring your garden planners, along with the lists of plants (including cultivar names or seed packets) you hope to plant.

April 27th - "Basics of Low Pressure Irrigation"

Presented by J.R. North of Groundskeeper, Inc.

Does hand-watering ever seem like an endless chore? This class will teach you the fundamentals of installing micro-irrigation (drip irrigation) into your outdoor containers, veggie gardens, and landscape beds.

Class space is available on a first-registered and paid basis. Spring classes typically fill up fast.

Please check or circle the classes on the registration form that you wish to attend, and mail the form with a check to:

Bonner County Master Gardeners Association

**P.O. Box 58
Ponderay, ID 83852-058**

Fees cover the cost of publications, materials, and the support of non-profit activities of the Bonner County Master Gardener Association.

2011 Spring Home Horticulture Workshop Series Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: _____

e-mail: _____

(Used for future notifications)

Please circle or check the classes you wish to attend.

**March 18 – (changed) "Xeriscaping" – Bob Wilson
5:30-7:30**

March 2 - "Pruning" – Gail Locke

March 16 - "Small Orchards" – Robb McCracken

March 23 - "Berries" – Jon Bair

March 30 - "Basic Gardening I" – Marsha Semar

April 6 - "Basic Gardening II" – Marsha Semar

April 20 - "Seed Saving" - Jennifer Costich-Thompson

April 27 - "Irrigation" – J.R. North

Each class - \$10.00 or all 8 classes for \$60.00

\$_____ enclosed - Please make checks payable and mail to:

Bonner County Master Gardener Association

P.O. Box 58

Ponderay, ID 83852-0058

