



Bonner County Gardeners Association

Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

March 2013

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 Message

Welcoming us to March, the month synonymous with onset of spring, is the dainty highly scented *Narcissus jonquilla*. *N. jonquilla* has been around for a very long time. The earliest record that mentions daffodils dates back to around 200 BC. As the years have gone by, all narcissi have come to represent March. The official botanical name of the genus is *Narcissus*. Daffodil is the common name and jonquil is a species name within the narcissus genus.

Kingdom: Plantae
Order: Asparagales
Family: Amaryllidaceae
Genus: *Narcissus*
Species: *N. jonquilla*

N. jonquilla, also called the rush daffodil, is native to meadows and woodlands of southern Europe and northeastern Africa. As with all narcissi, *N. jonquilla* is a bulbous plant. It has long narrow, rush-like leaves. Its bloom heads bear up to 5 highly scented dainty yellow or white flowers. It multiplies by both creation of bulbs and seeds and is a parent plant to numerous narcissus hybrids.

All narcissi contain calcium oxalate crystals called raphides and poisonous alkaloid compounds called lycorine. The crystals create tiny cuts that allow the alkaloids to enter the body through the skin causing irritations and rashes; sometimes severe. If ingested the raphides and lycorine, working together, cause swelling, nausea, and vomiting. Rarely does death occur in humans. Most animals avoid eating narcissi, but not Gail Swan's deer neighbors. In 2012 they ate her daffodils to the ground.

N. jonquilla is highly celebrated in many places around the world.

*Since the 18th century, the French have cultivated this species for its sweet smelling oil, a component for many modern perfumes.

*Arkansas extensively cultivates *N. jonquilla* and encourages it to naturalize.

*The narcissus is the Kurdish national flower called *Nergis*. This prolific wild flower blooms in March, covering the landscape with cheerful blooms and an intoxicating scent. *Nergis* are collected and sold during Newroz (the Kurdish New Year).

*The Chinese revere the narcissus for its sweet fragrance and believe it brings prosperity and good fortune; especially if the blooms are open during the Chinese New Year. Part of the New Year celebration is the carving of narcissus bulbs. These bulbs, when properly carved, grow and bloom in exotic manners. To learn more about this ancient practice check out:

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2003/Jan/30/il/i01a.html>

The ancient Greeks attributed the origins of the narcissus to a physically beautiful self-absorbed youth named Narcissus. Narcissus had room in his heart and mind for only himself. This angered the

gods, who ruled that one day Narcissus would fall in love and not have that love returned. Thirsty from hunting, Narcissus laid down to drink from a still pool of water, saw his reflection, and fell deeply in love. The object of his love was eternally separated from him by a membrane of water. Narcissus was unable to pull himself away from his mesmerizing reflection, wasted away, died, and was absorbed into the underworld. A narcissus flower, with a yellow center and white petals, sprang forth where Narcissus had lain.

One of the best locations to view this fabled flower is the Narcissus Valley in Ukraine. The flowers begin to bloom in May and blanket approximately seventy hectares. The land was once under threat of being turned into farm land, but in the 1970s conservationists stepped in and the government made it a part of the Carpathian Natural Preserve.

In 1957, the Canadian Cancer Society offered daffodil bouquets in return for donations. The idea took hold and now the Canadian, American (USA), New Zealand, Australian, and Irish cancer societies run a daffodil fund raising campaign every year. Interestingly, lycorine is being researched and shows promising results for fighting cancerous tumors.

The Spring Equinox is only a number of days away and bouquets of narcissi are touted to bring good luck and happiness. What a wonderful way to celebrate the new season! Jan



March Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:
http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Month/zone01.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 perennial vegetables (asparagus, rhubarb etc.)
- Plant seedlings of cool-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for cool- and warm-season vegetables
- Protect tender plants from frost
- Prune winter-blooming shrubs and vines just after bloom
- Plant bare-root trees, shrubs and vines

Help Wanted For Home and Garden Show Booth

The annual Panhandle Building Contractors Home and Garden Show is coming up on Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14. BCGA operates a booth at this annual event, during which we offer presentations on a variety of garden topics and have a booth manned by members at all times. We are scheduling members for the booth and to make presentations. This is a fun event heralding spring, an opportunity to share some time with each other and to greet the public and acquaint them with our organization and what we offer the community. We'll have informational materials on hand for people and we can answer gardening questions and just let folks know we are here to educate residents on horticultural matters.

We plan to have two volunteers in the booth at all times during the show, and we will offer demonstrations at times during both days. So far, we have five presenters who have volunteered—but we could use a couple more. We need people to man the booth in two hour increments on both Saturday and Sunday.

We will be setting the booth up on Friday evening at 5pm, and will dismantle the display after the show ends on Sunday, April 14. Please contact Ann Warwick (263-2844, or w.redguy@frontier.com) if you would like to participate. We will fill the schedule on a first come, first scheduled, basis.

Thank you for helping out with this worthwhile event.

BCGA Membership Meeting, March 6, 2013

Present: Penny Barton, Howie Fennimore, Jenna Bertus, Jan Wilfert, Jon Bair, Zoe Bolton, Barb Pressler, Ann Warwick, Butterfly Burke, Bob Blair, Barb Moore, Bonnie Pick, Jon Porter, Janae Dale, Lynn Pietz, Mikey Haven, Valle Novak, Sandra Gevurtz and Gail Swan
Meeting was called to order @ 9:00am by President, Jan Wilfert

Feb minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: \$2503.84

Master Gardener Program:

Zoe spoke with a Master Gardener from Boise: (Dan Evans) they are asking questions re: our association; they have seen our website & were impressed by our on-going classes and events that we promote; they have an increase in volunteer hours, no advanced program for existing MG's, no outside educational opportunities, and the plant clinic is to be the basic focus of the group; if they decide to split from the U of I, all of their funds & materials, i.e. library, would be "absorbed" by the U of I

Box Store Bulletin Boards: Bonnie Pick did check with the stores & they do not allow any outside advertisers

Yearly Membership Dues

Discussion regarding raising dues to \$15 or \$20, they have been the same for many years; decision Was tabled until April meeting

Financial Report:

Treasurer, Bob Blair has collated all financial info starting with 2011 in preparation for developing a budget

Pot-Lucks:

Janae Dale's on Sat, Feb 16, great time as usual

Home and Garden Show:

will be April 13 & 14 with set-up on Friday eve after 5pm so we don't block the rear entrance for other people setting up;

Saturday talks

Jon Porter—microgreens

Marion Newsom-Banks—nocturnal gardens
Laurie Brown (& Valle Novak?) attracting beneficial
pollinators
Jon Bair—berries
Sunday talks
Bonnie Pick—hoop houses
Ann Warwick—worms
Jan Wilfert—gardening tools
1 or 2 folks are needed to “man” the booth; contact
Ann Warwick to help with all of this

City Baskets: baskets are a go once again this
year; a tentative date to plant them is Thursday,
April 4; confirmation and more details to follow;
Nancy Hastings is coordinating

School Gardens:
a small grow light was purchased for the school
and a plaque was made with Trisha’s
name on it as a small memorial

Garage sale:
Don’t forget to save items for the 2013 garage sale;
Bob Blair has kindly offered his barn
at 330 East Bronx Rd to store items in until date of
the sale

Farmers Market:
Sandra Gevurtz met with Meg McLaughlin, the
manager of the market; we can have a 6ft table on
the 3rd Sat and 3rd Wed of each month; our attend-
ance can be cancelled up to an hour ahead of
opening time if necessary; we are not allowed to
use a “pop-up” to protect our books
and other info—we may possibly use a patio umbrel-
la; Sandra is planning to attend the venders meet-
ing on March 26 and will report again at our next
meeting

Healing Garden:
Valle would like to meet with those who will be
helping in the garden around mid April to go over
what is planted and where; Jan Wilfert will contact
Gail Locke, who has taken over committee chair for
the garden, with this info

BC Fair
The theme for this year is “Dr Seuss is on the
Loose”
Lynn Pietz is asking for ideas for the booth & ideas
mentioned were seed, weed, flower & pollinator
displays with a main theme of Bee Aware-Show me
the Honey and “ID & Protect All Beneficials”; more
will be discussed when committee meets

Social Media

Regina Mundell is working on publishing items on
Facebook & Twitter

Trisha Murphy Committee

After much discussion, it was decided to put
\$836.75 (from \$34836.75) into our general fund
and earmark \$2000 for a beautification project as a
tribute to Trisha; (project yet to be determined);
Penny Goodman spoke with Kim Woodruff, head of
parks & rec, & they looked at the parks in town as a
possibility for a tribute; more discussion to follow by
the committee

March 7 is the final day of the 2013 membership
course; it will be a review with a potluck to meet
and great the new members; evaluations & activity
sheets will be collected & name badges will be dis-
tributed

Spring Fund Raiser

Mikey Haven is coordinating this with Sears-will be
held out in their parking lot; she is requesting any
plant starts you would like to donate, and also any
divided plants you may have to give;
The fundraiser will be held early in May-look for a
date soon via e-mail

Meeting adj @ 10:45

How Much Sunlight Do Growing Vegetables Need?

This is one of the
most frequently
asked questions,
since not everyone
who wants to grow a
vegetable garden is
blessed with an area
that receives full



sunlight all day long, or with an area large enough
to allow the adequate separation of taller plants to
keep them from shading shorter plants. Such an
example would be corn or tomatoes; these taller
plants tend to shade anything planted east of them.

Large-leaved plants will also provide shade if planted too closely to other crops.

You may also have to take into consideration the existing trees, fences and architecture that can affect the amount of sunlight reaching certain areas of your vegetable garden. For example, some trees have a high, open canopy, allowing dappled sunlight to reach the garden during all times of the day. On the other hand, trees with a lower, denser canopy can mean your garden area is plunged into full shade for more than all but an hour or two a day, a situation impossible to grow almost any vegetables in. Sometimes it is a simple matter of trimming the lowest branches of the tree, in many cases improving the health and overall appearance of the tree, but also enabling more sunlight to reach your garden plot. In extreme cases, gardeners have been known to cut down the offending tree, using the stump to mount a birdbath or birdhouse, instead. It's all a matter of priorities and what matters most to you. When it comes to existing architecture or a fence, the fix can often be as easy as applying a coat of white paint in order to reflect the sunlight and to help dispel some of the shade. You will also want to take your garden site into consideration when planning on planting trees or installing that new garden shed or privacy fence. These projects are often completed in the fall, after the active gardening season is over, but will directly affect your garden come spring.

So, for the purpose of describing shade or sunlight—it is not an exact science; it can depend on where you live. For instance, full sun in the northern part of the country can be 8 to 10 hours of direct sunlight per day. However, in the desert Southwest, full sunlight can mean at least 6 hours of morning

sunlight, but almost full shade in the afternoon hours in the heat of the summer. For the purpose of this article, we will focus on the middle, in Zones 4 through 8, with any adjustments being made up or down in the amount of sunlight depending upon the area:

Full Sun—at least 6 hours to more than 8 hours of direct sunlight per day

Partial Sun—at least 4 but less than 6 hours of direct sunlight per day

Partial Shade—at least 2 but less than 4 hours of direct sunlight per day

Full Shade—less than 2 hours of direct sunlight per day. If your prospective garden area experiences this type of shade, we do not recommend planting vegetables



It will be necessary to observe your garden area throughout a sunny day as spring approaches, and to take a look every couple of hours or so, to de-

termine the total hours of sunlight different areas of your garden will receive. An easier solution, one that doesn't require your taking that walk out to the garden, and which is definitely more precise, is to use our [SunCalc® Sunlight Calculator](#) or [Light Intensity Meter](#) to accurately determine the amount of sunlight reaching any particular area of your yard. As an easy-to-remember rule, leafy vegetables are the most adaptable to low light conditions, with root vegetables being the next in line and fruit-bearing vegetables requiring the greatest amount of sunlight. Most vegetables will grow in lower light condi-

tions, except for fully shaded conditions, though their productivity could be adversely affected. When in doubt, err on the side of more sun.

As a solution to a garden site with less than desirable sunlight, consider planting your garden in two separate areas or think about planting your tomatoes and other fruit-bearing crops in containers on your sunny deck or patio. Bear in mind that you can also use shade-cloths to provide shade to overly sunny areas where you want to grow leafy vegetables.

As a guide to the amount of sunlight required for specific vegetable plants, you can use the following recommendations, making adjustments as needed for your particular situation:

Crops requiring at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day (Full Sun):

Asparagus (perennial)
Beans
Brussels Sprouts
Cantaloupe
Corn
Cucumbers
Eggplant
Garlic
Goji Berries (perennial)
Honeydew
Okra
Peppers
Pumpkins
Rhubarb (perennial)
Squash
Strawberries
Tomatoes
Turnips
Watermelon



Crops requiring at least 4 hours and up to 6 hours of sunlight per day (Partial Sun):

Beets
Broccoli

Cabbage
Carrots
Cauliflower
Collard Greens
Goji Berries (perennial—can also grow in full sun)
Kale
Leeks
Onions
Peas
Potatoes
Radishes
Rhubarb (perennial-can also grow in full sun)
Swiss Chard

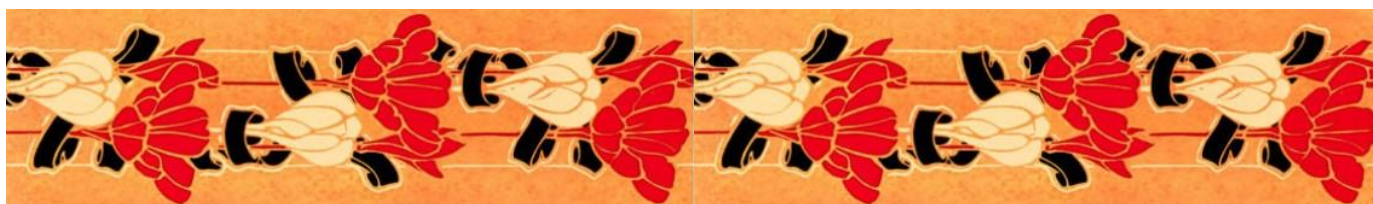
Crops requiring at least 2 hours of direct sunlight per day (Partial Shade—ideally midday sun):

Asian Greens
Herbs
Lettuce
Spinach

From Gardenharvestsupply.com



2012 Event Chairs and Contact Info			
Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Contact
Membership Meetings	Ongoing	Jan Wilfert	263-7405 or rj.wilfert2@frontier.com
Continuing Education Program	Ongoing		
Membership Committee	Ongoing	Zoe Bolton	264-1210 or zbolton@gmail.com
Home Horticulture Series	Spring & Fall	Don Childress, Janae Dale and Gail Swan	Don – 255-7928 or dwc1rsc@televar.com ; Janae – 265- 2205 or dalejanae@gmail.com , or Gail H 263-0180 C 290-4126 or gswan8274@hotmail.com
Home and Garden Show	April	Ellie Lizotte and Ann Warwick	Ellie – 264-5462 or hopeellie@aol.com ; Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or w.redguy@frontier.com
School Gardens	Spring/Sum mer	Janae Dale	265-2205 or dalejanae@gmail.com
Farmers Market	Spring/Sum mer	Sandra Gevurtz	(509)922-2359 or sangevurtz@gmail.com
Mickinnick Trailhead – meet the 1 st and 3 rd Wed of each month at 9am at the trailhead	Spring/Sum mer	Jan Griffiths	jan@looptravel.com , 290-1973
Healing Garden	Spring/Sum mer	Valle Novak	
Potlucks	Summer	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Becky - rplace@directv.net or 264- 3214; Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or w.redguy@frontier.com
Garden Tour	July	Penny Barton	H 265-9733; C 610-1493 or one-cent@gotsky.com
Bonner County Fair	Aug	Lynn Pietz and Jon Bair	lynnpietz@hotmail.com or 265-3563



2013 Spring Home Horticulture

**2013 Spring Home Horticulture Workshop Series
Registration Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

- March 20 Landscape Design With Native Plants
Presented by Gail Bolin
- March 27 Greenhouse Construction and Usage
Presented by Nancy and John Hastings
- April 3 Pruning
Presented by Gail Locke
- April 10 Basic Gardening I
Presented by Kit Cooley
- April 17 Basic Gardening II
Presented by Kit Cooley
- April 24 Mushrooms
Presented by Deborah Halcrow
- May 1 Berries
Presented by Jon Bair
- May 8 How and When to Harvest
Presented by Janae Dale, Ann Warwick, Mikey Haven

Classes \$10Each

Please make checks payable & return to:

Bonner County Gardeners Association

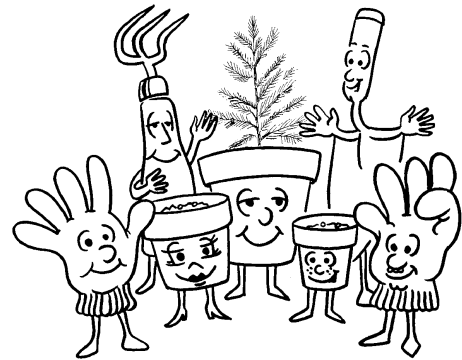
804 Airport Way

Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

Or pay on-line with Pay-Pal

@ www.bcgardeners.org

Workshop Series



**Presented and Coordinated by
Bonner County Gardeners Association**

Classes are held Wed eve's from 6pm –

8pm

at the Ponderay Event Center

401 Bonner Mall Way, Ste E, Ponderay, Idaho

Email inquiries to bcgardeners@gmail.com

Or call message line: 208-265-2070

Dates and Topics

March 20 **"Designing Your Landscape With Native Plants"**

Presented by Gail Bolin, current President of the Native Plant Society and Vice President of the Master Naturalists. Gail has a Masters Degree in Environmental Science and is the owner of "Earth Wise" consulting company and specializes in native plant landscapes and wildlife habitat restoration

March 27 **"Making the Most of Your Home Greenhouse"**

Presented by Nancy and John Hastings, owner's of "All Seasons Garden and Floral"

John & Nancy have been growing veggies for over 15 years in their local greenhouse & will focus on the special considerations our area presents when constructing & using a residential greenhouse.

April 3

"Pruning"

Presented by Gail Locke

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 maintain your equipment. Bring your tools for evaluation.

April 10

"Basic Gardening I"

Presented by Kit Cooley

Get started growing your vegetables. This first session will look at planning, choosing location, preparing soil, seed selection, and will include starting seeds, both indoors and out

April 17

"Basic Gardening II"

Presented by Kit Cooley

Review seed starting, 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 and seed saving.

April 24

"Mushrooms"

Presented by Deborah Halcrow, a past President of the

Coeur D'Alene Mycological Society.

This class will concentrate on springtime mushrooms-where to find them and how to identify them-particularly Morels. Learn the difference between the good and the bad ones.

May 1

"Berries"

Presented by Jon Bair

Journey through nature's bounty of berries. Learn the varieties that do well here in North Idaho, and also techniques for a successful harvest. Jon will also touch on native berries.

May 8

"How and When to Harvest Your Garden"

Presented by Janae Dale, Ann Warwick, and Mikey Haven

These MG's will teach you tricks to know when your produce is ready to harvest and what to do with your produce to keep it through the winter. They will also teach you how to have a continuous harvest of some veggies.

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



Bonner County Gardeners Association

Classes are \$10 Each

All classes will be held Wed eve's from 6 pm – 8 pm

at the Ponderay Event Center
401 Bonner Mall Way, Suite E, Ponderay,
Idaho

ALL CLASSES WILL START PROMPTLY @ 6pm;

Check-in STARTS @ 5:30;
PLEASE BE ON TIME

Please check the classes you wish to attend and send with check to Bonner County Gardeners Association

804 Airport Way

Sandpoint, Id., 83864

You may also bring your registration form & check to this address

Or

You can pay on-line with a credit card via "Pay-Pal"

at www.bcgardeners.org