



The Garden Gate



March 2010

President's Note

Dear Master Gardeners,

As you finalize the planning for your 2010 vegetable garden I have one request...**please remember the *Plant a Row* program.** For those of you unfamiliar with *Plant a Row*, it is a program that encourages all gardeners to plant an extra row of produce each year and donate their surplus to local food banks, soup kitchens and service organizations to help feed America's hungry. The local food banks gladly accept fresh produce from your gardens.

I don't know about you but I grow more food than my family could possibly consume. I find myself madly preserving from mid-summer into the fall. First of all, I can't possibly preserve everything that comes out of my garden. Even if I could, we can't possibly eat all of the food that has been preserved in a single winter.

In past summers I have made numerous trips to the food bank with offerings from my garden. The truth is I did it primarily when I could see that I didn't have the time to properly care for the produce. This year it will be different. I am committed to taking the harvest from one day per week and delivering it to the food bank. It accomplishes many goals; relieves me of the work to preserve it, insures that it doesn't go to waste and provides nutritious alternatives to families in need.

The following picture gives you a sense for the challenge I have and why I have the resolve to do something even more productive in 2010. Note the bolting lettuce in the foreground...just an example of why I need to pull produce one day a week and take it to the food bank so



that it doesn't go to waste:

Numerous BCMG members have been involved in the *Plant a Row* program over the years and have provided support to Bonner County organizations to promote the delivery of surplus food to the local food bank; Ann Warwick and Penny Barton just to name two. Ann reported at the membership meeting that you can receive a \$1.50 per pound as a tax deduction on your personal income tax filing.

A link that speaks to the history of the program follows:

<http://www.gardenwriters.org/gwa.php?p=par/index.html>

My request is that more BCMG members get involved in support of our local communities via the *Plant a Row* program. Thanks to all for your support!

Thanks to all and as always if you have ideas, questions, concerns or comments – please don't hesitate to contact me.

Zoe M. Bolton, President

zbolton@gmail.com

264-1210



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Gaining Momentum!

I love March in the Master Gardener Program. The most recent meeting of the BCMGA caused the room to burst at the seams, brimming with positive energy and enthusiasm. There are many good ideas and projects for this year. Janae Dale is working on the possibility of informational booths at the local farmers markets and other venues. This would promote the MG program and dispense general information to the public. This is a great idea.

In Priest River, I am working on a community garden in partnership with the UI Building Sustainable Communities Initiative. This project involves students in providing a springboard for community development in the town. My role is in promoting and building local food systems. This year we are planning a modification of last year's Victory Garden Series. During the eight week series, we will present practical information that will promote sustainable gardening. There will be an emphasis on exercises that allow participants to plant a successful garden.

I am producing outlines for each session that take on a month in the gardening season.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. I am confident we have one of the best MG programs in the state. Keep up the good work!

Mike

Plant
Clinic
2010



The Plant Clinic season for 2010 is April 22nd through September 30th on Tuesdays and Thursdays. CMGs are required to complete nine hours and trainees 24 hours in the Plant Clinic. Please call the extension office at 208.263.8511 to sign up.

I am looking for presenters for the pre-designed modules and mentors for the guided practice exercises . Call me if you would like to volunteer; we would love your involvement.

As you may have heard in the news, our public universities are in a budget crisis, and UI is no exception. Mandatory furloughs (unpaid leave) for faculty were announced last week, which I believe is a good way to achieve temporary savings. There will be another cut of almost 10% for the next budget year with more likely to come. As I mentioned at the meeting, this is an excellent time to reassert your educational mission to help justify the Master Gardener Program in Bonner County. I will keep you updated as decisions are made.

IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENT

Missing from the Plant Clinic:
Botany for Gardeners
If you have this book please return it to the Plant Clinic.

REMEMBER, Plant Clinic books must not be removed from the plant clinic.



Earn volunteer hours in Priest River



April Plant Clinic Schedule

Community members in Priest River are in the process of planning, and will soon break ground on, a community garden. Residents of Priest River can request a whole or half of an approximately 3'x40' plot. There will be about twelve (whole) plots available. Some supplies and tools will be available for shared use of all plot users. Melissa Hamilton, an intern from the University of Idaho, will work with the students at the local high school to start plants in a greenhouse. These will be available to plot users as well.

The coordinating group of the Priest River Community Garden is looking for volunteers.

Initially volunteers are needed for the layout of the garden itself. Later volunteers will be needed to staff the garden each day in half day segments. If you would like to volunteer your time to help residents of Priest River grow healthy food for their families, call Tina Raiha (208.610.1069) or Dan Eskelson (208.448.2024), for more information. All volunteer hours will count toward your Master Gardener requirement.

Tina

Tuesday-20th

AM 9—noon
CMG Howard Fennimore
TRN Jon Porter
TRN Penny Goodman
PM noon—3
CMG Lexie de Fremery
TRN Jon Porter
TRN Jon Bair

Thursday-22

AM 9—noon
CMG Blair
TRN Toni North
TRN Kim Peterson
PM noon—3
CMG _____
TRN Toni North
TRN Janis Clark

Tuesday-27th

AM 9—noon
CMG Chris McIntosh
And Bonnie Cavanaugh
TRN Jan Wilfert
TRN _____
PM noon—3
CMG Blair
TRN Jan Wilfert
TRN Jon Bair

Thursday-29

AM 9—noon
CMG Gail Burkett
TRN Stan Miller
TRN Joshua Walters
PM noon—3
CMG Gail Burkett
TRN Stan Miller
TRN Joshua Walters

Editor Contact Information:

Tina Raiha acoolraiha@gmail.com or
Call 610.1069

*"If the weather was standardized,
half the joy of gardening
would be lost."*

Unknown.

THANKS JAN G.



I am looking forward to a lot of exciting submissions for the Garden Gate this year! Submissions must be in to me by the first Friday of each month. Remember, if it is interesting to you, it may be to someone else as well!

Tina



Oldies But Goodies

Here are some valuable articles that folks have contributed to the Garden Gate in the past. I have listed them followed by the link directly to the newsletter. Just flip to the page listed.

If you do not have a computer and are reading this in the printed version, contact me to request a copy of any articles you are interested in. Tina

Starting Seeds and a Seed Starting Timetable,
by Don Childress and Michelle Reichelt (Feb. 2004 page 4)

<http://www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/gg-feb04.pdf>

Facilitating a MG class By Bob Wilson,
(Feb. 2004 page 5)

<http://www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/gg-feb04.pdf>

April Showers Bring May.....Lettuce by Helen Campbell,
Master Gardener 2001 (March 2004 page5)

<http://www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/gg-mar04.pdf>

Organic Matter in the Home Landscape, by Bob Wilson
(March 2005 page 5)

<http://www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/gg-mar05.pdf>

Staking Trees, by Bob Wilson (March 2006 page 4)

<http://www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/gg-mar06.pdf>

We're on the web

www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners



What on earth is a CoCoRaHS,



Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network. Would you like to learn more about our weather and be an official precipitation recorder? If so, visit www.CoCoRaHS.org to sign-up as a volunteer observer. CoCoRaHS is a volunteer network of backyard weather observers measuring precipitation in local communities across the U.S. The daily data is used by a wide variety of organizations including the National Weather Service, NOAA, BLM, meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities, ranchers and farmers to name just a few.

Several of us Master Gardeners signed up last year and it has been fun. If you signed up and are not using your gauge, maybe you could give it to a new person. If you wish more detailed information about what we do and would like to see local reports, contact Jan Griffiths 265-4380, 290-1973 or jan@looptravel.com

A super-secret, double-reminder for all fearless flowers

If you but soak up the
sunlight you are given,
drink each drop of water I send,
and strive only to be yourself,
life shall quicken in your roots,
spirit shall raise you into the light,

Penny Barton



Each year, CMGs must complete nine hours of volunteer work and trainees sixteen (excluding plant clinic hours). There are many great opportunities with each event and ongoing program. Be sure to look at the event calendar on a regular basis and call the Chair(s) to become involved with the event or program you are interested in. Refer to the Membership Directory for their contact information. *Happy Volunteering!*



Advanced MG

Chair: Janae Dale

The Advanced Master Gardner Plant Clinic Refresher will be on April 9th at 8:30 am.

This is the most important class of the season! We represent a wonderful service organization and need to be comfortable, consistent, and professional in this role. Be sure to **enroll with Patti Speelmon by April 2nd. 263.8511**



Home Horticulture

Chairs: Gail Swan,
Don Childress, Janae Dale

Pick up your registration form and full class descriptions at the extension office. You can email inquiries to bonnermg@uidaho.edu

3/24: Judith Pagliasotti- Succession Planting- Planting Vegetables All Season Long. Make the best use of your garden space. This is very helpful in our northern climate.

3/31: Kit Cooley- Basics Of Vegetable Gardening. A comprehensive course beneficial to new or veteran gardeners.

4/7: Delsie Marienau- Berries to Grow in N Idaho. With these methods you will soon be eating and preserving a variety of berries.

4/14: Matt Friedmann- Basics of Water Features & Pathways. Matt will show us how water features and pathways can enhance our garden or outdoor living space.

4/21: John Hastings-Lawn Alternatives. With the green movement and water wise gardening, this popular theme will make sense to all.

4/28: Valle Novak-Cold Hardy Roses. Valle will show us all the basics and specifics of this popular cultivar.

5/26: Nicole French-Hands on Spring Flower Arranging Nicole will bring vases and flowers and you may bring some of your own flowers too. Cost of this class is \$20.



City Baskets

Chairs: Penny Barton,
Jan Rumore, Gail Swan

We are tentatively planning to plant the city baskets sometime between March 25th and March 31st. As before there will be an am shift and a pm shift made up from those Master Gardeners who have already signed up. Keep your eyes open for an email with additional information.



Native Plant Arboretum

Chair: Linda Kirchman

The first spring clean up at the Arboretum will be April 21, at 10am. Other times for volunteering (beginning in May) can be arranged with Linda. To contact her directly, send an email. She won't be available by telephone for the next several weeks but her husband will pass along messages. April 23rd will be a fun day at the Arboretum celebrating Arbor Day. There will be short demonstrations on worms, coring and tree rings as well as some native plants given away. Starts at 10am. Bring the kids.



Home and Garden Show

Chair: Brenda Fletcher

April 17 and 18 at the Bonner County Fair Grounds will be the 25th Annual Panhandle Building Contractors Association (PBCA) Home & Garden Show.

Showtime: Saturday 9:00 am – 5:30 pm & Sunday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

We are honored to share in this annual event and appreciate the PBCA inviting us to utilize an exhibition booth space. Our location is the west end (the back of the building). The same place as last year.

We are looking for a poster maker extraordinaire to make some posters for some displays at the show.

We also want to add more live plants and we need your help to accomplish GREEN! This could be a nice large house plant or a flat of veggies that you may have purchased to plant.

Bring a plant for the public to enjoy on Friday any time after 4pm. We are meeting at the Extension Office at 4pm, but you can bring plants directly to the Fair Grounds Building until 7pm. Please pick up your plants on Sunday at 4pm during our exhibit teardown.

This year we have several Advanced Master Gardeners that are offering to share their knowledge with short seminars. A seminar schedule will be posted in the April Garden Gate.

If you would like to help staff our booth, this is a great way to obtain volunteer hours! We are running two hour increments but are flexible according to your schedule. Any questions call Brenda Fletcher (208) 255.8197 or email bfletcher@hughes.net



Nursery Tour

Chair: Penny Barton

We will meet on **Tuesday April**

20th, 8:30am, at the extension office. We will visit Priest Gardens in Priest River, Florascape Nursery in Westmond, and Ponderay Gardens in Ponderay. Please bring a brown bag lunch and some bottled water. We will be carpooling. This tour is open to all Master Gardeners and is a great way to meet and spend some time with the new class.



Healing Garden

Chair: Valle Novak

March 1st 2010, have you ever seen the first of March as beautiful as that? At the

Healing Garden, three determined women were making the best of it as the first day of clean up for the season. Sharon McCormick, Linda Plaster, and Barb Pressler were in high spirits as they raked beds, cut back old growth and surveyed the new growth signaling spring. The tulips were peeking out and liking what they saw. Linda Plaster has scheduled three additional clean up days: April 17, May 22, and May 28. Meet at the Garden between 9 and 10 am. Rain will cancel. Linda also said that the Healing Garden board is looking for new board members. Please call her at 263.3958 or 290.6929.

Valle Novak takes care of the roses at the Garden and would like some volunteers for that. Call Valle at 265.4688.

Jay Baker also knows his way around the garden and can get you started volunteering there as well. Call Jay at 263.3026.

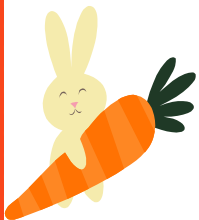
As often as you can folks, grab your garden gloves and head down there to help make this summer at the Healing Garden its most beautiful ever.



Mickinnick Trail

Chair: Jan Griffitts

Thanks to the Bonner County Master Gardeners and the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, the Mickinnick Trail-head looks fantastic for the several thousand hikers and bikers who use the trail all year long. We meet the first and third Wednesday, May through October and work from 9 am until noon, and often meet earlier in the warmer months. Being with other gardeners is educational and fun. You may put in two to twenty hours. If you like solitary work, you can go any day once you have learned what to do. The Trailhead is on Woodland Drive off Schweitzer Rd. We will have an orientation on Wed. April 14 at 8:30 am and will work afterwards. If you can not make that date, please call me and I will go through it with you anytime. If you wish to know more history and a list of the native plants and critters of this well loved and often used trail, please contact: Jan Griffitts.



Northside School Garden Club

This is an opportunity for you to work with children who have an interest in gardening and embrace any new knowledge you can provide to them. The sessions contain the basics and practicum of seeding, transplanting and planting. This is spread out over several weeks. The sign-up sheet and contact information is on the bulletin board in the conference room at the Extension Office.

Seeds, seeds, we need all the seeds we can get!

What do Zoe Bolton, Mikey Haven, and Janae Dale have in common? They all use and like the seeds from Territorial Seed Company. So the secret is out. They have extensive information in their catalog and on their website. They also send out a seed packet with orders that are specially labeled for use for the Plant a Row program. They are located in Cottage Grove Oregon which is just south of Eugene on I-5.

Www.territorial-seed.com phone: 541.942.9547 Fax: 888.657.3131



Master Gardener Garden Tour

Chair: Penny Barton

I am looking for several more gardens to put on tour this year. If you have any gardens that you would like to recommend, please get in touch with me. I am NOT looking for perfect gardens, but ones that will inspire the onlooker to go home and be creative themselves. Even this time of year I can tell if a garden will work for the tour; the bones are still there to see after the foliage is gone.

The Tour will be on Sunday June 27th 10 am to 4 pm



Sandpoint Farmer's Market

An informational booth is in the planning stages. Be on the lookout for information forthcoming about opportunities to participate.



Hope Farmer's Market

A Bonner County Master Gardner theme day is in the planning stages for this market. Be on the lookout for information forthcoming about opportunities to participate.



Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Notes
Membership Meeting	3/3	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Home Horticulture Classes	Mar-May	Don Childress, Gail Swan, Janae Dale	Ext Office 6pm
City Baskets	March	Penny Barton, Jan Rumore, Gail Swan	
Advanced MG Program – Plant Clinic Orientation & Diagnostics	March	Mike Bauer, Martha Fortunati	Extension Office
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 Limited class size
Membership Meeting	4/7	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Home and Garden Show	4/17-4/18	Brenda Fletcher	BC Fairgrounds
Nursery Tour-Class of 2010	4/20		
Plant Clinic Opens	4/22	Martha Fortunati	Extension Office End date = TBD
Healing Garden – Spring Kickoff	Spring	Valle Novak	
Mickinnick Trail – Spring Kickoff	Spring	Jan Griffitts	
Native Plant Arboretum – Spring Kickoff	Spring		
Learning Garden – Spring Kickoff	Spring	Mikey Haven, Gail Swan	Extension Office
Membership Meeting	5/5	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Advanced MG Program – Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, author of “The Informed Gardener”	5/18**	Janae Dale	Panhandle State Bank, downtown Sandpoint 6-8pm
Membership Meeting	6/2	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
BCMG Home Visit	June	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	



Membership Meeting	7/7	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
4 th of July Parade	July 4th		
Sandpoint Garden Tour	Summer	Penny Barton	
BCMG Home Visit	July	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	
Membership Meeting	8/4	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
BCMG Home Visit	August	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Kit Cooley - Host
Bonner County Fair	Summer	Gail Locke	BC Fairgrounds
Yard Sale	Summer	Janae Dale	
Membership Meeting	9/1	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
BCMG Home Visit	September	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	
Home Horticulture Classes	Fall	Don Childress, Gail Swan, Janae Dale	Extension Office
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		