

THE GARDEN GATE

May 2003

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOOMERS



At last writing I said that I believed Spring was here. With over fourteen hours of daylight there can be no doubt of its arrival and my forecast. I am sure that none of you need to read about a tip of the month this time since you are trying to make the most of your time outdoors. So with this in mind, I will briefly outline some points that came up at our last Board Meeting.

A special thank you to Ann and Eric, Rita and Mike, Don, Valle, Pat and Bill. I hope I have not forgotten anyone. We pruned blueberries for Bill as part of our MG assisting MG program. The weather and company were wonderful and we hope more of you will work with us in this program. Please contact Valle (265-4688) if you know a MG who could use assistance.

Another special thank you has to be extended to all of you who are working at the Peaceable Kingdom to assist Lois with her gardens. The camaradery, fresh air, beautiful surroundings and Lois's attention to detail make this a must-see for every gardener. As part of the MG assisting MG program, you are invited to put in community hours each Thursday in May from 1pm to 3 or 4pm. Please contact the Extension Office for directions to Lois's Peaceable Kingdom.

On a different note: a piece of donated garden art, Caring Hands, is missing. It is a cement bird bath that used to be located in the Dick Ward memorial bed behind the Extension Office. Please contact Valle if you have any information about its location or fate.

And now for an important reminder: Rita and Beth are working fast and furiously getting all of the details ready for our upcoming Spring Plant Sale. It will take place on May 31st at Lake Pend Oreille High at 1005 N. Boyer Avenue. Bring seeds, plants, cookbooks,

gardening books and unused garden tools for the sale. This is our biggest fund raiser so please be generous with your time and donated items. I generally only purchase items but with this year's gentle winter, I will be able to split some plants and bring them to the sale.

At the outset of this note I stated that I would be brief and, in keeping my word, I will end this article by saying: enjoy the sunshine; friendships made with your new Master Gardener friends; eat and sleep well; and, garden until the sun disappears behind Baldy Mountain!

I look forward to seeing you at the Plant Sale and working with you at the Plant Clinic.

Michelle

Michelle Reichelt

MGs Helping MGs

How much fun we had pruning Bill's blueberry patch. It was a beautiful day and we had lots of giggles while clipping. Join us next time for a wonderful way to share and give.

The Boss





What a beautiful day!



Are they working or gossiping?



Will this row ever end?

SAVE THE DATE

May 31: SPRING PLANT SALE - Hope all your seedlings and plants are ready for to be adopted into a good home. See you there!

August 7-9: Master Gardener Mini College, Corvallis, Oregon

There is a conference being planned for Master Gardeners in Oregon, Washington and Idaho that will be held at Oregon State University in August this year. It is a three-day conference with a variety of topics such as irrigation, ornamental grasses, plant propagation, etc. One class that looks interesting is titled "Successful Community Education Programs". There also will be some in-depth workshops on plant identification and disease diagnosis. An insect diagnostics workshop will be co-taught by Bob Wilson and Wayne Jones (Idaho Falls). Any Master Gardener is eligible to attend, but there will be scholarships available for certified MG's. There will be scholarship funding for 20 Idaho Master Gardeners and this will pay all but \$40 of expenses. Applications for these scholarships should be available fairly soon.

Kayoko Nadamoto has generously agreed to keep the Association Scrapbook. She is in the process of making an album for this year. If you have photos please bring them to the office or email her with the 1. date, 2. event title, 3. name of person in photo and 4. any comments you would like to make. Kayoko's email address is kako@sisna.com

05/05/03 MG Board Meeting Notes

Old Business

1. Minutes approved
2. MG Helping MG - Valle asked that we put a note in the newsletter to remind everyone to call her at 265-4688 if anyone needs MG assistance

New Business

Bob

1. - Florascape Nursery Fieldtrip - 9:30am Tuesday 05/20/03
2. ID Forestry Contest - Weed Identification - Thursday 05/08/03 - Bob has seven new MG volunteering to assist with this event
3. Plant calendar was passed around so board members could sign up

4. MG mini college event at Oregon State University - 08/07-08/09/03, five MGs from each Idaho district will be selected to go at no charge. An application will be sent to each MG so that they can apply.
5. Pest/Disease class is still in the works. Bob is hopeful that he will be able to put the program together so that it can be held in June or July
6. New MG directory has been completed

Rita

1. She has met with the high school and we are still uncertain if we will be inside the greenhouse or need tents. If we need tents, we have the one donated by Pat V. and Rita has one. We can use tables from inside the school.
2. Rita created a great flier; Beth will place them around town. Michelle will make 40 copies.
3. Eric has been generous to offer his services as our "gopher".
4. Rita and Beth will work all day and Bill has offered also, other MGs can come whenever they want and assist with set up, sales or clean up.

Don

1. He has been in touch with the Sustainability Group in regards to our Community Garden idea. He has received a lot of interest but no responses to date. He will give us an update at the next meeting.
2. Home Hort Series - Don voiced concern that the facilitators do not know what they are supposed to do for the evening classes. Valle and Bob will look for a copy of the day facilitator list and send to Michelle. Michelle will create a checklist for the facilitators.
3. Home Hort Series bank - We will leave a bank of \$30.00, put the additional money with the sign-up list in an envelope, and give to Bill.
4. Fruit tasting - Don mentioned that he had seen a great idea of offering a fruit tasting so that people could taste the difference between fruit varieties. His idea was to have this at the Farmer's Market. Michelle to see if one of the hospital employees would be will to bring his cider mill.
5. He has contacted Levi Strauss to get assistance for the fact sheet for newcomers to N. Idaho. It was suggested that Don talk with both Marci Crockett and Susan Dafron since they would be interested in assisting Don.

Valle

1. She will be checking to find the Home Hort Series facilitator list
2. She also told us that Lois Wythe had suffered several small strokes and is in a wheelchair. **(She asked that we remind people to assist Lois in her gardens each Thursday in May 1pm-3 or 4pm)**
3. She asked that we put a note in the newsletter to find out what has happened to the Bob Ward "Caring Hands" garden art piece that was in the back flowerbed behind the extension center. (I will put note in my article)

Bill

1. He will be going to Missoula and will talk with the people at their community garden. If anyone has questions please contact Bill before he goes

2. He will be going to Plants of the Wild in Tiko, WA on 05/15/03. He is going to purchase some plants for the extension gardens.

Everyone was asked to send their articles to Pat by Friday 05/10/03.

Next meeting is June 02, 2003 at Creekside - 9am

TRIED AND TRUE TIPS

Do you think all those cds on cereal boxes and cluttering up your mail box are for the birds? Well - they are. Tie them up around your berries and fruit trees and give the birds something to contemplate - they may go someplace else to feast.

J'nene Wade is in Eugene, Oregon this week - we look forward to her *Wild Greens* column next month.

*Editors note - I apologize for the latness of this Garden Gate. I was in California to do mandatory fire spring cleanup and had to rake and burn pineneedles and it snowed and it snowed and it snowed and it snowed. I finally had a smudge pot of a fire, passed the inspection and came back to Idaho. And it snowed and it snowed. And . . . I have had my 2 ½ yr old granddaughter for 9 days and I am tired and tired and tired. Excuses, excuses, excuses - but I am very sorry. Pat Moss