



Garden Gate

Bonner County Master Gardeners Newsletter

November 2003

Coming Events At a Glance

- Next BCMGA Board Meeting: December 01, 2003 9 a.m. at the Creekside building
- Christmas Party: December 9, 2003 6 p.m.- 8 p.m. at the Brown House

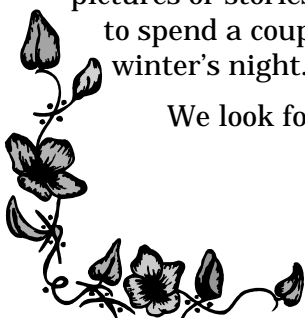
Christmas Party and Seed/Houseplant Exchange

Winter is just around the corner and that means that our annual Christmas Party and Seed/Houseplant Exchange is not far off either. If you've saved seeds from this year's garden, please bring along any extra that you might have to share with other Master Gardeners. This event is a great way for all of us to add something new to our gardens and flowerbeds. If you have an abundance of houseplants that you need to relocate, this houseplant exchange is an opportunity that you won't want to miss.

The Christmas Party will be held December 9th, at the Brown House on the hospital grounds from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. and will include a potluck dinner.

In addition to the party, we're planning to spend some of our time together stuffing envelopes with "left-over" seeds to pass out at the Winter Carnival parade. So bring your seeds, your houseplants, your appetite, your tasty offerings, and your best gardening pictures or stories. This should be a great way to spend a couple of hours on a cold, winter's night.

We look forward to seeing you!



Winter Carnival 2004

by Don Childress

It's time again when we, The Master Gardener Association, must decide whether we want to participate in the Sandpoint Winter Carnival Parade.

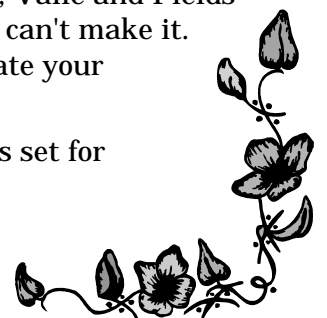
Although marching in the dark in 20-degree weather may not sound inviting at first, picture instead the opportunity to revel with fellow Master Gardener performers in front of crowds of cheering onlookers in a most picturesque setting and to make hundreds of children happy as they receive the free seed packets we hand out. Past participants who have dressed warmly have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We do need participants to pass out seeds as we trail our (almost) award-winning float. If we do not have the necessary volunteers, by the December 1st Board Meeting, we will not be joining this year's celebration of Winter in Sandpoint.

Please call me, Don, at 255-7928, or e-mail your willingness to participate (dwc1rsc@televar.com)

Our regulars, Jennifer, Pat V, Valle and Fields do not need to call unless you can't make it. We depend upon and appreciate your participation.

The winter Carnival Parade is set for January 17th.





The President's Bloomers

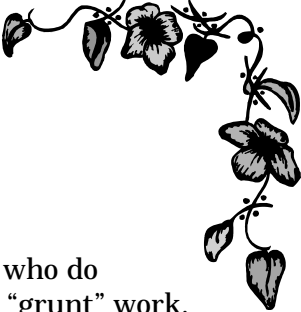
by Michelle Reichelt

In just a couple of weeks, we'll be celebrating Thanksgiving. It's a time when family and friends get together not only to enjoy good food and each other's company, but also especially to give thanks for many joys and blessings received throughout the year. In the spirit of that feast, I want to give thanks as well, not by offering some exotic recipe but by recognizing the many dedicated and selfless people who comprise our special "family" — the people who make up Bonner County Master Gardeners.

Before I begin to acknowledge the many wonderful individuals separately, I have to recognize the entire group. Why? Because as a body of dedicated gardeners, you contribute so much to the community in the form of volunteer work and education. The residents of Sandpoint and Bonner County have benefited in many ways from your dedication to your community. From work on the Hospital's Hospice Garden to the work at the Extension Center, the Master Gardeners have demonstrated a commitment to serving, both in terms of beautifying the areas you've worked on as well as improving the "natural" health of the places. You've also helped to educate so many people — and that includes me. I've learned so much during my participation in the Master Gardeners, from how to grow plants and shrubs that thrive in our climate to home made bug repellents.

Just as important as learning about gardening things is, learning from the "masters" is for me just as meaningful and rewarding. I think you'll all agree that Valle Novak, Loie de la Verne, Bob Wilson and Lois Wyeth belong in our very own Pantheon of Garden Masters. With their incredible knowledge, experience and willingness to share, I certainly have benefited tremendously. I'm sure you'll agree with me that you have, too.

To make the Master Gardener program function also requires the



dedication of many volunteers who do much of the behind-the-scenes "grunt" work. Not the least among them are members of the Board and numerous committees. Pat Moss and Ann Murphy in particular have worked so hard and without complaints to keep us informed and current with the newsletter and project coordination. Keeping things working smoothly is Patty at the Extension Center. Without her cheerful help, our job as Master Gardeners would not be as easy and simple.

Thanks go to all of you who have kept the program going and fostered kinship among old and new members. While I may not have recognized most of you individually, I am fully aware that your dedication and spirit of giving is a true reflection of what it means to be a Master Gardener. THANK YOU!

Here is a cute Gardener's Prayer that I found while on the Internet. I hope you enjoy it.

Michelle Reichelt

A Gardener's Prayer

O Lord, grant that in some way it may rain every day.

Say from about midnight until three o'clock in the morning,
but you see, it must be gentle and warm
so that it can soak in.

Grant that at the same time, it would not rain on campion,
alyssum, helianthus, lavender and others which you in your
infinite wisdom know are drought loving plants.

I will write their names on a bit of paper if you like.

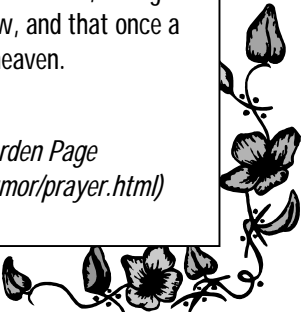
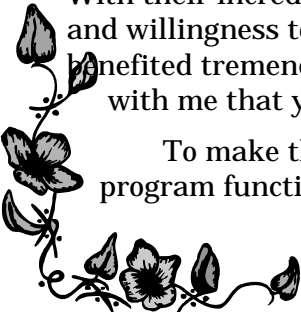
And grant that the sun may shine the whole day long;

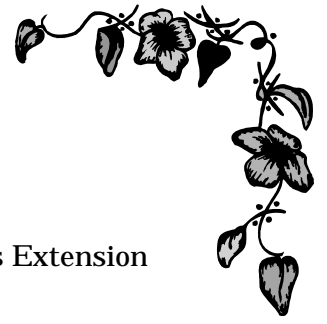
But not everywhere (not, for instance on the spirea, or on
gentian, pliantain lily or rhododendron) and not too much.

That there may be plenty of dew and little wind, enough
worms, no plant lice or snails, no mildew, and that once a
week guano may fall from heaven.

AMEN

*From the Waushara County Garden Page
(<http://www.waushara.net/garden/humor/prayer.html>)*





Bonner County Extension Office Policies

by Kristan Peacock, Office Manager Bonner County Extension Office

As Master Gardener season fast approaches, we look forward to a new class of students. So we felt this would be the perfect opportunity to review the University of Idaho Extension Office hours, policies, and procedures.

The Extension Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office is closed for all staff from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. daily for lunch. We ask that Master Gardener students conduct their business with the office staff during the class break, during regular office hours or request materials for later pickup so that all business is concluded during regular scheduled business hours.

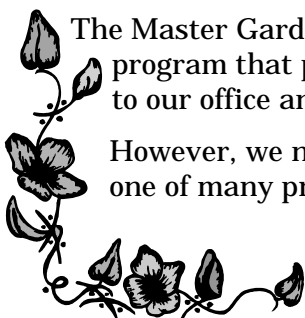
While staff may remain in the office at lunch, or even stay at their desks, we ask that they not be disturbed or asked to do work-related tasks. Working over lunch forces the Extension Office to pay overtime to staff, as mandated by state law.

Patti Speelmon, who works extensively with Bob Wilson and the Master Gardener Program, became a full time employee in October. With this full-time status, her job description has changed. She is now the Administrative Assistant for all programs occurring in the Extension Office.

If Master Gardeners have program needs, please allow ample time in your planning for brochures, copies and support to be provided. If Patti is unavailable or working with other clients, please consult with me and I will be happy to provide any type of support needed. As always, we realize some things cannot be planned for, please let us know how we can assist you and we will be happy to accommodate your needs.

The Master Gardener Program is a wonderful program that provides a tremendous service to our office and community.

However, we need to keep in mind it is only one of many programs that occurs in the



Extension Office and requires Extension Office Staff support.

For those new and advanced Master Gardeners working in the Plant Clinic during late spring, summer and fall, thank you for all the hard work you provide to the public as a representative of the University of Idaho.

When the Plant Clinic is in session and members require copies for clients while they are in the office, please ask Patti, Bob, or me to make the copies. If copies need to be mailed to clients or samples need to be mailed to the University of Idaho for identification, please place the books to be copied with applicable page numbers noted, and the name and address of clients in the "To Be Mailed Box."

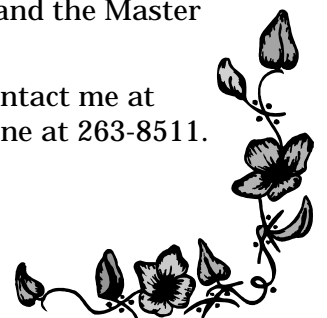
Plant Clinic requests made on Tuesday will be mailed on Wednesday. Plant Clinic requests made on Thursday will be mailed on Friday.

Because the Plant Clinic remains in session during the office lunch hour, we ask that staff members not be disturbed during this lunch break to perform work-related tasks. Upon the installation of a new phone system, which should be completed in the next two months, the Master Gardener Plant Clinic will have an assigned extension and voice mail box so Plant Clinic business can be done during the office lunch hour and no calls should be missed.

When informational publications are pulled for clients while in the Plant Clinic, the Master Gardener volunteers with support from the Extension Staff need to ensure that the publications are paid for before they leave the office.

As always, the staff at the Extension Office looks forward to working with the new class of Master Gardener volunteers and the Master Gardener Association.

Anyone with questions can contact me at bonner@uidaho.edu or by phone at 263-8511.





Regional Conference Planning Update

by Bob Wilson, Extension Educator/Horticulture

On October 23, we had the first general meeting to start planning a regional conference for Master Gardeners here in northern Idaho. I have to admit, I was a bit overwhelmed at the turnout — 24 Master Gardeners showed up! This conference has picked up a lot of momentum in a short period of time and we had a very productive discussion about putting on a conference.

The first agenda item was deciding where to hold the conference. Coeur d'Alene seemed to be the favorite of most and was agreed on since it is fairly centrally located and has a variety of possible conference sites available. It also likely will attract the best turnout with its proximity to Spokane.

The next topic what the conference should look like. This issue is always a balancing act between wanting to offer a lot, and not making it so big that everyone is overwhelmed with work. We decided that the conference would run over three days – Thursday through Saturday.

The first day will be a half-day of programs dedicated to volunteer leadership skills followed by an evening social.

The training segment could include such things as how to teach a class, examples of community projects, etc. Don Childress and I will be working on this part of the program. Any suggestions about non-gardening skills or information you would find useful to improve your effectiveness as a Master Gardener would be appreciated.

Friday will be dedicated to presentations on gardening and landscaping topics. Subject matter will be chosen by Master Gardeners to be appropriate for folks who have already been through the MG training.

There will be multiple classes held at once to give everyone a choice of topics. We will have a banquet that evening.

Saturday will offer more classes as well as a tour. We will try to finish up by mid-day on Saturday.

A number of committees were formed to start working on the various aspects of the conference.

At present, we have committees for:

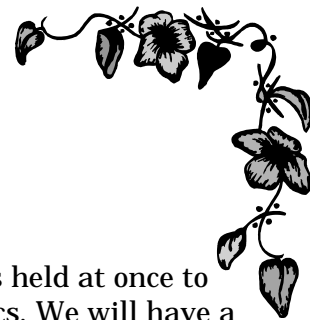
- facilities
- program agenda
- publicity
- fundraising/sponsors/vendors
- banquet
- registration
- leadership training
- outside activities

If anyone is interested in joining any of these committees, please let me know. It's never too late. The fundraising and leadership committees are fairly small right now and could use some additional support.

We have yet to decide on a date, or even time of year for this conference. Our facilities committee is working hard to put together a list of alternative sites. Once we choose a site, then we can discuss possible dates that are available there. This will be decided at a follow-up meeting.

I think this is going to be a great conference and I am very pleased at how quickly this event is taking shape and how so many people have stepped up and pitched in.

My thanks to you all!





November BCMGA Board Meeting Highlights

The November board meeting was held on November 3, 2003. Bill Lamson, Pat Moss, Ann Murphy, Michelle Reichelt, Don Childress, Rita Janisse, Bob Wilson, and Kristan Peacock were present.

- Bob reviewed the Regional conference meeting. There were 26 attendees, including two people from Spokane. Six committees were designed. Don is on the program committee and Ann is on the facilities committee. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2003 at 1:30pm at the Kootenai County extension office. Michelle will give Bob a list of orchid growers that may be interested in having a session. Michelle will assist with vendor protocol.
- Kristan discussed office procedures and time frames (see her article in this issue of the Garden Gate).
- Increased rates for classes were discussed. (\$5.00 for Master Gardeners and \$10.00 for the public).
- Any promotional item used for the Master Gardener program must have the University of Idaho logo on it. We will have to change the flowers in the foam MG hand to use the logo before its next use.
- Christmas party date is December 9, 2003, 6 p.m. to 8p.m. at the Brown Huse.
- Rita and Kristan will coordinate the Extension Office landscape maintenance. Kristan will arrange for community service to assist in lawn mowing, weeding, and trimming. (Note that when a Master Gardener wants labor from the community service pool he or she must make a request with Kristan.) Kristan recommended that the iris be thinned and planted in some of the new bed areas.
- Bill was thanked for removing the junipers.
- Bob and Valle were selected to be on the Nomination Committee for new Board members.
- Don Childress is the Winter Carnival Chairperson.
- The next meeting is December 01, 2003, 9 a.m. at the Creekside building.



Bonner County Master Gardeners



University of Idaho
Extension

Bonner County Master Gardeners
Bonner County Extension Office
4205 N. Boyer
Sandpoint, ID 83864