

# The Garden Gate

## November 2008



Edited by Chris McIntosh (dcradish@gmail.com)

A look back at 2008...

### **A Few Facts...**

Bonner County Master Gardeners contributed over 2750 hours of volunteer service in 2008.

22 MG Trainees graduated to Certified MGs on October 25<sup>th</sup> and contributed an average of 41 hours apiece.

20 CMGs contributed the required 18 hours with an average contribution of 56 hours.

Over 350 inquiries were processed in this year's plant clinic, up from 301 inquiries last year!



### **Graduation Night**

On October 25, we welcomed 22 new Master Gardeners into our ranks. This outstanding new class exceeded expectations and we are seeing impressive new leadership come to the forefront. Penny Barton and Gail Swan did a great job recognizing the Master Gardeners. The food and company were incredible!

### **Results from the Program Evaluation Meeting**

With your valuable input, I have made the following decisions for 2009:

- Interview all applicants and make the commitment to the training and the plant clinic clear. Distribute handbooks and the training schedule and syllabus at the interview.
- Expand basic training to approximately 66 hours and design training to prepare trainees for the Plant Clinic specific questions we receive.
- Create a year-long advanced Master Gardener training which will include tours and other hands-on experiences. This program will be free to all certified Master Gardeners. Please **contact me with your topic suggestions**.
- Evaluate our non-Plant Clinic projects with regard to Education, Volunteer Support, Program Promotion and Social Aspect. We will calculate the pool of hours expected for 2009 and select the highest ranking projects as those approved for 2009.
- If you have not already, you may complete the project survey by going to <http://extension.ag.uidaho.edu/bonner/>, click on Bonner County Master Gardeners, click on the link and complete the survey.
- At the November 5 meeting, the BCMGA Board voted to increase to total number of hours required of MG Trainees for the first year from 35 to 40 hours. The Plant Clinic requirement will remain at 24 hours.

Don't forget – the Master Gardener Christmas Party is Friday, December 12 at 6:00 pm at the Sandpoint Community Hall!

Happy Gardening!

Mike

## Fall Home Horticulture Classes

A **\$10.00** registration fee per class is required.  
Please pre-register for all classes by calling the  
Bonner County Extension office  
\* 263-8511 \*

- November 12 "Holiday Arrangements for Your Home"  
Presented by Nicole French from Petal Talk. Learn how to create your own arrangements for the holidays.
- November 19 "Gifts From Your Garden"  
Presented by Sue Traver, University of Idaho Extension Educator. Learn how to use produce from your garden or market to create one of a kind gifts for your friends and family for the holiday season. Make tantalizing goodies that will have you being known as the "Best Gifter" year after year.

ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE HELD  
WEDNESDAY'S FROM 6PM—8PM  
AT THE BONNER COUNTY  
EXTENSION OFFICE  
4205 N. Boyer Sandpoint, Idaho

### IT'S TIME!

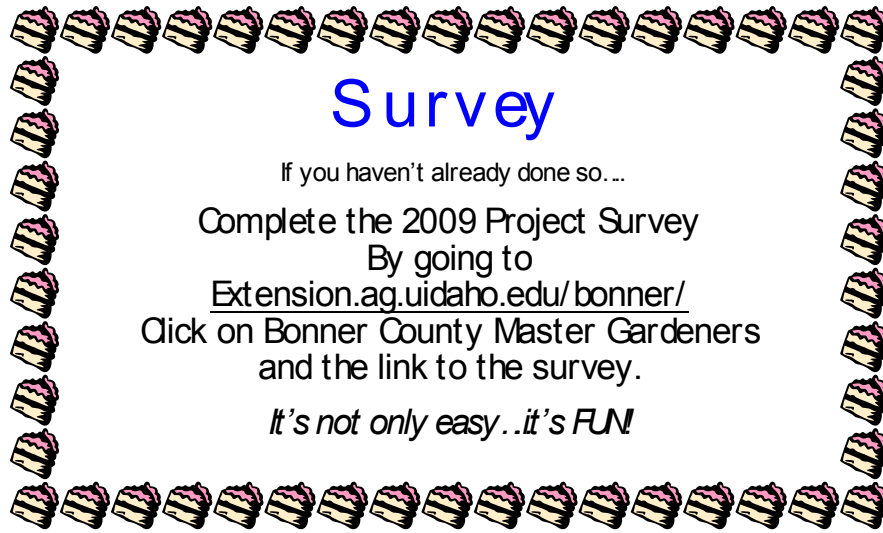
*Once again, it's time to re-certify. A re-certification form will be mailed to you. All you need to do is read, sign and send it back WITH a \$10.00 check in the return envelope provided. Really, that's it.*

*We won't be nagging you this year; if you want to be a Master Gardener for 2009, it's up to YOU to make sure the form and check get back to the ext. office. Associate members still needs to sign the form and pay the \$10.00 fee.*

*Remember: Dec. 31st....signed form.....check for \$10.00....it's that easy! Questions? Contact Patti at 263-8511.*



The ballot for 2009 officers and board members will be sent in a separate e-mail (I couldn't get the darn thing to attach to the newsletter...), so be on the lookout. You may e-mail it back to Mike, send it in, go by the extension office, or complete a ballot at the Christmas party. Questions? Contact Mike! Thanks, Chris



# Survey

If you haven't already done so...

Complete the 2009 Project Survey  
By going to  
[Extension.ag.uidaho.edu/bonner/](http://Extension.ag.uidaho.edu/bonner/)  
Click on Bonner County Master Gardeners  
and the link to the survey.

*It's not only easy...it's FUN!*

Save the date

## Master Gardener Christmas Party

Friday, Dec. 12 at the Sandpoint Community Hall  
(across the street from the Court House)

6:00pm to 9:00pm

Pot luck, "white elephant" gift exchange, significant  
others welcome!

And new this year.....seed and/or plant exchange. Bring  
your extra seeds and pots of plants for sharing!

Look for your invitation in the mail in the coming weeks.

Sandpoint Transition Initiative meeting is Friday, Nov. 14 at the Panida. Starts at 7pm and cost is \$5.00. More information go to [sandpointtransition.org](http://sandpointtransition.org).

Janae's sister is author of the book "Chefs on the Farm" and will be signing copies at Fosters Crossing from 12-5 on Friday, Nov. 14.

Ann Warwick reported that the food bank collected over 9,800 lbs. of fresh produce this year!

Know anyone who wants to become a MG? New Master Gardener classes start Feb. 24—April 22, Tues. and Thurs. Cost is \$150.00. A \$50.00 deposit is due with the application. Please see more info. at [extension.ag.uidaho.edu/bonner/](http://extension.ag.uidaho.edu/bonner/), click on *Bonner County Ext. Ofc.*, then click on *Bonner County MG*, and *2009 MG Application*. Deadline is Dec. 12, 2008.

Treasurers' Report: \$4655.89

Janae took the Nativity set to a consignment shop in CDA ("Feather Your Nest") and we hope the darn thing sells!

# Graduation 2008

