

The Garden Gate

Oct, 2007



Edited by Gail Swan (gswan8274@hotmail.com)

The next Membership Meeting will be held Monday, Nov 5th @ 9am at the extension office. This is due to the elections on Tues. All Master Gardeners are welcome & encouraged to attend all meetings. Input from everyone is greatly needed & appreciated by the Membership Board. Also, please feel free to contact any of the officers and/or board members if you wish to share an idea & are unable to attend the meetings. Phone #'s & e-mail addresses are available in the membership roster.

Board Officers for 2007:

President: Penny Barton
Vice Pres: Joyce Lane
Sec: Gail Swan
Treas: Janae Dale

Board Members:

Ann Warwick
Ann Keiser
Chris McIntosh
Shirley Barksdale
Linda Kirchmann

Plant Sale/Garage Sale:

Ann Warwick donated several books that are apparently worth money. Janae is still researching their value & will sell them in the manner that will make the most money. Save all your unwanted items and any extra plants you may have for next year. We are already planning to do this sale again.

Plant-A-Row:

Don't forget-take your extra produce to the Food Bank; you may need to ask for a "PAR" receipt. This is not only a great help to our community, but it is also a tax deductible donation. There has been about 100 lbs donated from the Learning Garden and about 3000 lbs from the "jail garden". Ann Warwick will be submitting an article to the Bee about this garden and how well it is doing. Thanks so much to the MG's who had a hand in helping make this garden a reality.

Home Horticulture Classes: The 1st 2 classes, Lois Wyeth's class on Lavender and Diane Green's on Organic Gardening have been well attended. We have 4 more classes to go: Oct 10-Vegetable Gardening in a Cold Climate by Judith Pagliasotti, MG; Oct 17-Rock Gardens by Valle Novak, MG; Oct 24-Espalier by Rich Del Carlo, certified arborist; and Nov 7-Flower Arranging by Nicole French, owner of Petal Talk. There's still time to sign up-just call the extension office or sign in at the class.

The committee will be working on the Spring Schedule soon. Any ideas you have are welcome-call or e-mail Don Childress, committee chair.

Bulb Planting:

A bulb planting day was held @ the extension office last week-Ann Keiser had donated a box of mixed bulbs so several volunteers spent several hours planting for the spring. Thank You Ann for the wonderful donation!!

Plant Clinic:

An "all in one" printer/copier was purchased for the plant clinic. Along with that was purchased extra ink and a large box of paper. With that we will be able to do our own copies of information to be sent to the Plant Clinic clients. Hopefully, this will save some funds in the long run since copies are a major expense for us. A badly needed new copy of "Weeds of the West" was purchased & a more current "Sunset Western Garden Book" will be purchased soon.

If there are any other suggestions, please contact any Board member or the office. Bob asked if anyone would be interested in taking "Plant Clinic" calls @ home now that the clinic is closed for the season. Janae Dale, Ann Warwick, Barb Moore, Don Childress & Gail Swan volunteered. If you would like your name added to the list call the office. The list could never be too long!

From Bob:

I've gotten a couple of calls lately about volunteer hours and what is required. Since there was a change this summer, there is still some uncertainty about what the rules are. In order to assist Ann Keiser with the Learning Garden, the Board voted to require that 2 hours of your Community Service be completed in the Extension Office Landscaping. This does not include Plant Clinic hours that you spend watering plants which still should be recorded as Plant Clinic. In addition, some notes in the newsletter were in conflict with each other. The most important requirement is that you complete a **total of 18 hours** by mid-October which is when all hours must be submitted.

The current breakdown is:

Plant Clinic	9 hours
Community Service	4 hours (2 in the Extension Office Landscape)
Education	3 hours
Unspecified	2 hours
=====	=====
TOTAL	18 HRS

Remember-any time you spend attending membership meetings are considered community service.

The unspecified hours were included to allow more flexibility in choosing how to complete this requirement. A copy of the volunteer activity form was attached to the Sept GG.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

--Bob

**The Christmas will be held at the Brown House on Saturday, Dec 8th.
Decorating to start at 5pm with the party to be held from 6 to 9pm.
Come one-come all and join in the festivities.**

We will be putting on a Master Gardener Training Class in 2008. A committee was formed to meet with Bob to go over all pertinent information that we will need to put this class together without him. Bob will be sorely missed! (Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome-just call Penny or the office.) We already have more than 20 individuals interested in the 2008 program. This is uncharted territory for us & will be a lot of work, but we feel that we need to go ahead with this program to recruit new members. We had a meeting scheduled Sept 21st @ 9am @ the office to go over all the info Bob had provided for us to start the planning of the program. We now have the classes roughly scheduled in and speakers arranged. Applications have been sent out and we will be interviewing prospective candidates. Classes will commence Feb 12 and finish the end of April. We will need facilitators for the classes-please call Penny or the office to sign up if you are interested.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE HAS A LIST OF CANDIDATES TO VOTE ON AS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2008. THE BALLOTS WILL BE SENT OUT WITH THE NOVEMBER GARDEN GATE. WRITE-INS ARE ALSO ACCEPTABLE.

Officers

*President: Penny Barton
Vice President: Gail Swan
Secretary: Chris McIntosh
Treasurer: Shirley Barksdale*

Board Members:

*Brenda Fletcher
Linda Kirchmann
Liz Kunze
Jan Rumore
Ann Warwick*

From President Penny Barton:

Manure: In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship and it was also before commercial fertilizer's invention, so large shipments of manure were common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, it not only became heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a byproduct is methane gas. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen.

Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening.

After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the term "Ship High In Transit" on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term "S.H.I.T", (Ship High In Transport) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day.

You probably did not know the true history of this word.

More Notes from da Prez.

I would like to introduce you to new and wonderful service in our area. It is called "Freecycle". The website address is sandpointfreecycle@yahogroups.com. On this site you can post anything you wish to give away. You may also post items you are in need of. These sites are very successful in other areas but steadily growing in Sandpoint. Once you sign up, you will receive an email when someone posts looking for something or posts wanting to give something away. Let's see what we can do to help this idea flourish in our area.

I still have about 500 iris rhizomes for 25 cents each. These range in colors from white to chocolate, all trimmed and ready to plant. Have about 15 3 to 4 foot lavender lilacs left too.

JAIL GARDEN YIELDS FOOD FOR AREA CHARITIES

Ann Warwick

This summer, a once-vacant field behind the Bonner County jail has become a productive garden which provides vegetables for the jail kitchen and quantities of fresh produce for donation to the Bonner Community Food Bank, West Bonner County Food Bank, Clark Fork Food Bank, Kinderhaven, and the Gospel Mission.

Sheriff Elaine Savage came up with the idea of a jail garden in the spring of 2007, asking Bob Van Buren, coordinator of the Bonner County inmate labor program and the sheriff's labor program to put the idea into action. He quickly put the inmates to work constructing a deer fence around the perimeter and rototilling the area, which is about one eighth of an acre. Realizing that neither he nor his charges had much experience at gardening, Bob called upon Penny Barton, president of the UI Bonner County Master Gardeners. Janae Dale, Joyce Lane and Penny Barton paid a visit to the garden site and provided Bob with a list of vegetables and flowers to grow in their garden along with some basic information on growing them. Soon, there were rows of vegetables emerging from the soil-potatoes, squash, corn, beets, beans, peas, onions, carrots, cucumbers, lettuce, chard, and fresh herbs. The labor crew were a bit wary of the gardening at first, but soon grew to enjoy working with the plants, watching them grow, and discovering how much food they were producing.

How much food? So far, Bob Van Buren says, the jail garden has yielded about 2670 pounds of produce. They were harvesting corn for the jail kitchen on the day of my visit, and still have giant pumpkins many squash, tomatoes and other vegetables to pick. The project has been so successful that next year Sheriff Savage is planning to double the size of the garden. The project is a great way of augmenting the jail food budget, teaching new skills to inmates, and providing fresh food for area charities.

A Fond Farewell

It is with regret that I am leaving the University of Idaho Extension at the end of this month. Never have I held a position that was both so challenging and rewarding. Working with northern Idahoans has been a real pleasure, perhaps none more so than the Master Gardeners whose enthusiasm and commitment has made this a memorable experience.

Over the past 7 years, the Bonner County Master Gardener organization has nearly doubled in size. Each year you have taken on new projects and improved old ones. What has been most inspiring to me is the addition of projects that are really making a difference in the community – Plant-A-Row, the jail garden, the demonstration garden, and the garden tour are all examples of how you have made your mark. The improved interest in Home Hort classes due to a great line-up of classes as well as a thorough and well-timed advertising program has taken attendance to the limit of our classroom.

My thanks to Penny and Gail for taking the lead on the 2008 MG training, and everyone else who is participating on the committee. I have great confidence that you will have an outstanding and successful course.

Although I will not be teaching any classes in the coming year, I do not want to lose touch with everyone here. I will continue my service on the City of Sandpoint Community Forest committee, and I hope to become more involved in the Kinnikinnick Chapter of the INPS. I know I will see some of you through these organizations. I have asked to stay on the newsletter mailing list so I can stay up to date on MG activities too. However, please feel free to call or drop me a note any time. You can reach me at 208-683-2387 or by email at botanybob@wildblue.net.

Best wishes to you all,
--Bob