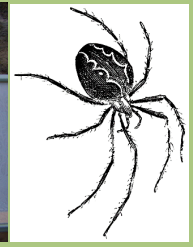


# The Garden Gate



edited by Kit Cooley (the\_editrix@yahoo.com)

October 2009

## It's Graduation! You did it! Hurray!

Completing the course and all the hours in the Plant Clinic takes a great deal of effort and a commitment of time. For those of you who met all the requirements, congratulations! We are looking forward to your graduation ceremony on October 17. It will be a special evening, with great food (potluck, so bring a dish), good company (lots of Master Gardeners), and certificates and pins! Well done! *Janae Dale, President, Bonner County Master Gardeners Association*

**Please contribute to The Garden Gate. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome.**

## President's Note



To the *Frozen Dirty Fingernail Crowd*,

After this last cold snap I don't think there is anyone left without at least a first freeze. So now it's time to "put the garden to bed." There always seems to be so much to do after the

growing things are gone. It's the end of the harvest, but the beginning of getting things ready for next spring. It's the time to start over with Master Gardeners, too.

Hours have been turned in and counted, so everyone who got in their time is certified for the coming year. The certification time period has been changed this year, and MGs are now certified from the beginning of October 2009 to the beginning of October 2010. It is time to start the new volunteer year, so get a time sheet and start filling out your education and community service hours, starting now, for next October. This year I promise to record mine as I do things, rather than trying to remember things months later!

The form to begin recertifying for 2010-2011 was mailed

to you recently, along with the form for joining the Bonner County Master Gardener Association. I encourage all MGs, particularly the new graduates, to join the association. Please complete the forms and return them to the office by October 31. You could bring them to the graduation party, if you prefer.

Check out the ballot attached to this newsletter. The candidates are all excellent, and I want to thank each one of them for volunteering. I'm certain you will agree, it will be a great year with any of these board members! The new term will begin January 1.

Plan on attending the UI Evaluation meeting, Thursday, October 22. This is your opportunity to give your input about what you like, as well as what you would like to see changed. If you can't make it to the meeting, please share your ideas with someone who will be there, or write them up and send them to Mike. We need to hear from everyone.

Keep looking down,

***Janae Dale, President***

*"One day I will burst my bud of calm and blossom into hysteria."* Anonymous

## Agent's Corner



### Time to Celebrate!

The preliminary numbers are in on your Master Gardener Program. With a few Master Gardeners left to report, the total volunteer hours are already up 20 percent over last year, mostly due to a sharp increase in the number of CMGs recertifying. Efforts such as the past members reception, the non-public Friday Plant Clinic sessions and advanced training sessions helped encourage participation. Plant Clinic contacts increased by 25 percent over last year. Other projects benefitted from the dedication of Master Gardeners. You are all to be commended for your commitment to excellence in 2009! On October 17, we will celebrate the accomplishments of the Bonner County Master Gardener Program. I hope to see you all there!

### 2009 MG Evaluation meeting

On October 22, from 9 a.m. to noon we will meet at the Extension office to see how we can improve the Bonner County Master Gardener Program. Please plan on attending and bring your ideas!

### 2010 Master Gardener Recertification

Please consider recertifying as a Master Gardener in 2010. To do so, please fill out the recertification form you recently received in the mail. Recertifying MGs will be able to attend a limited number of basic MG training classes free of charge in 2010. The basic classes are slated to begin February 2, 2010. Beginning in March 2010, advanced MG classes will be available *free* to all MGs who committed to recertification in 2010.

*I would like to offer these benefits to all past MGs who agree to recertify in 2010 by October 31, 2009. After that date, you will have needed to recertify either in 2008 or 2009 in order to maintain your status as a Certified Master Gardener. It is a state requirement that Master Gardeners need to recertify at least one year out of the last three to maintain their status. We are committed to working with CMGs to maintain their certification.*

### BCMGA Membership

I encourage all past MGs to maintain their membership in the Bonner County Master Gardener Association. This organization provides valuable networking experiences and friendships. For a mere \$10 you can maintain your membership.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Mike**



## Master Gardener Committees

A special thank you to all MGs who headed up committees this year for the outstanding job you did. For 2010, we are simplifying the tasks for chair people by implementing a checklist for organizing each event, which will be in the MG Bible, located in the Plant Clinic (on top of the file cabinet).

Printed hand-outs to present to the public for events, such as the Home and Garden Show and the County Fair are available in the second drawer of the filing cabinet. Please check this source before printing additional material to avoid duplication and the expense of copying items that may not be needed (we do have to pay for copies made through the Extension Office). There is a special form for Plant Clinic questions that people ask at such events to make sure that follow-up takes place in an orderly manner, and to insure that these queries are counted in the Plant Clinic Log and year-end statistics.

All members are encouraged to take a look at the MG Bible and to suggest additions that may be needed. We are trying to make this book a source for any questions that may come up regarding projects of the organization and to simplify organizing and participation for all volunteers.

Thank you all for an outstanding year!

**Ann Warwick, Vice President**



## Important Dates

October 1, Thursday, Final Plant Clinic (public)

October 2, Friday, Final Plant Clinic (non-public)

October 5, Monday, MG Volunteer Activity Record forms due

October 7, Wednesday, BCMGA Meeting, 9 a.m., UI Extension office, all welcome

October 17, Saturday, Master Gardener Graduation Ceremony 2009, 5 p.m. to ??, Sandpoint Community Hall, Potluck. Bring food and a friend!

October 21, Wednesday, Advanced Master Gardener training: Composting. Instructor: Mike Bauer, 9 a.m. to noon, UI Bonner County Extension Office. Please RSVP by calling 263-8511 as space is limited. Free to recertifying Bonner County MGs

October 21, Wednesday, Home Horticulture Series, "High Altitude Gardening & Use of Season Extenders", 6 p.m., UI Extension office

October 22, Thursday, UI Bonner County Master Gardener Program Annual Evaluation meeting, 9 a.m. to noon, Extension office. All MGs are encouraged to attend and tell us their thoughts about how to improve our program. Facilitator: Mike Bauer. Information: 263-8511

October 28, Wednesday, Home Horticulture Series, "Holiday Flower Arranging", 6 p.m., UI Extension Office

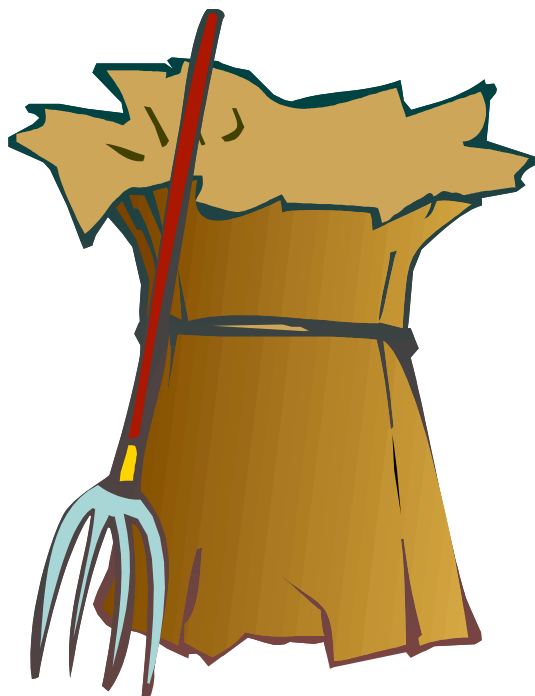
October 31, Saturday, Recertification forms due in UI Extension Office

November 4, Wednesday, BCMGA Meeting, 9 a.m., UI Extension office, all welcome

December 2, Wednesday, BCMGA Meeting, 9 a.m., UI Extension office, all welcome

December 5, Friday, BCMGA Christmas Party, 5 p.m. to ??, Sandpoint Community Hall (Potluck). All CMGs and BCMGA Associates and their guests are invited.

Please contact any Board Member or Officer if you wish to participate in or organize any activity.



## Announcements



**Submissions** to *The Garden Gate* are welcome. Photos (digital preferred), garden hints, and suggestions for articles that you would like to read are especially needed. Please send them to Kit Cooley by the first of the month for that month's issue.



**Master Gardener logo decals** for t-shirts and sweatshirts are available at Super Tees in the Bonner Mall (next to J.C. Penney's). The decals are paid for by the BCMGA, so they are free for you! Just buy or bring an article of clothing, along with your MG badge or graduation certificate, to Super Tees and they will transfer it on for you.



**Home Horticulture Series classes** are only \$5 for Certified Master Gardeners, and \$10 for general public. Here are the classes that are coming up:

\* **October 21, Wednesday, 6 p.m., "High Altitude Gardening & Use of Season Extenders", presented by Master Gardener Judith Pagliasotti. (Please note: This class was previously scheduled on October 14.)**

\* **October 28, Wednesday, 6 p.m., "Holiday Flower Arranging", presented by Nicole French from Petal Talk.**



## *Garden Hints*

Make sure to treat your pots and plants for insects and fungus before bringing houseplants in for the winter, and before storing or reusing pots. A little 10 percent bleach solution or distilled white vinegar will take care of the pots. Use neem or insecticidal soap (or a good rinse off) to make sure your plants are clean of creepy crawlies. (Kit)



*Thought is the blossom, language the bud, action the fruit behind.*

*--Ralph Waldo Emerson*



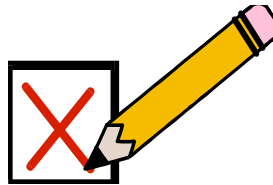
## 2010 Bonner County Master Gardener Membership Board Ballot

Vote for ten of the following candidates for the 2010 Master Gardener Board.

Please return the ballot to the office by email, snail mail, or bring it in before Oct. 30 2009. The new officers will begin their term January 1, 2010.

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Zoe Bolton - President       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ann Warwick - Vice President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bob Blair - Treasurer        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To Be Determined - Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Howard Fennimore             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mikey Haven                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Marlissa Keyes               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Willie Millard               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lynn Pietz                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Elissa Wadds                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mike Williams                |

\_\_\_\_\_ Write In



### **Ballot instructions:**

All members of the Bonner County Master Gardener Association in good standing may vote. Please put a mark in the box next to your selection for officers and board members (there are seven positions on the board, aside from President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary). Return all ballots to the UI Extension Office, 4205 N. Boyer, by October 31 via email, USPS, in person or by fax to 263-6191. If you have any questions about the positions or election process, please contact any current officer or board member.

### **2009 BCMGA Officers & Board Members**

Janae Dale, President, 265-2205  
 Ann Warwick, Vice President, 263-2844  
 Zoe Bolton, Treasurer, 264-1210  
 Kit Cooley, Secretary, 265-5706  
 Valle Novak, Board Member, 265-4688  
 Bob Blair, Board Member, 263-8416  
 Mikey Haven, Board Member, 448-0384  
 Brenda Fletcher, Board Member, 265-7944  
 Willie Millard, Board Member, 263-1797  
 Liz Kunze, Board Member, 623-3170