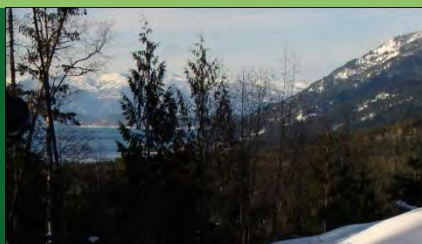


The Garden Gate



October 2010

Please contribute to The Garden Gate. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome. For questions or comments please email lauriebrown54@gmail.com or call 208.263.7108. When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.

In This Issue

President's Note

Agent's Corner

Northside School Edible Schoolyard

October Gardening To Do List

2010 Fall Horticulture Classes

Seeking New Lead for the Learning Garden

BCMGA Event Calendar

Fun With Beets!

additional Master Gardeners in presenting short topics to local community groups next spring.

Another big thank you goes to Jan Hansen. With the reduced resources available at the U of I Extension Office we were challenged with taking on the scheduling duties including collection of funds, scheduling attendees and the overall management of the process. The job really calls for a single point of contact. Jan agreed to take it on and has done an outstanding job!!

President's Note

Dear Master Gardeners,

We are mid-season into the Fall Home Horticulture series and the classes have been very well received. Don Childress, Janae Dale and Gail Swan continue to put together an excellent program with outstanding speakers. In addition to our guest speakers we have also had some of our own Master Gardeners take on a speaking role for the series. Thanks to Mikey Haven and Becky Reynolds who both presented for the first time and did an excellent job of presenting their respective materials. Look for a Master Gardener Advance class this winter at which we will be teaching Public Speaking 101. Our goal is to prepare

This organization is successful only due to the efforts of all of our volunteers!

Mike Bauer has called an Evaluation Meeting at the Extension Office at 9am October 28nd. At this meeting we will review 2010 projects and proceed with our planning for 2011 projects. All members are invited to participate. We look forward to an exciting program going into next year.

At the November Membership Meeting we will continue the discussion and also plan our social events for 2011. The November Membership Meeting is Wednesday November 3rd at 9am at the Extension Office. We look forward to a lively discussion. Again, all members are invited.

In the meantime I hope you are enjoying finishing up your fall cleanup and preparing for the winter to come.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the BCMGA please do not hesitate to contact me.

Zoe M. Bolton, President
zbolton@gmail.com
264-1210



Agent's Corner

As the Seasons Change...

The Master Gardener season has ended, frost is in the air and it is time to take a long, hard look at our program and think of ways to improve its impact and accountability to Bonner County and the University of Idaho.

As many of you know, Extension's mission is to "improve people's lives by engaging the University and our communities through research based education. Extension addresses this mission through several values:

Community-based responsiveness rooted in local relationships, ensuring delivery of needed education and community support;

Accountability by engaging in programs with measurable outcomes and communicating those impacts to stakeholders;

Integrity and credibility through educational programs that are unbiased and research-based;

Excellence supported by cutting edge research and innovative and resourceful approaches that address community concerns;

Internal and external partnerships that leverage resources through partnerships and collaborations to

increase the impact and visibility of Extension programming;

Diversity by exhibiting mutual respect for each other and our clientele;

Healthy, productive employees by promoting a culture of trust and appreciation for diverse values; and the

Land Grant Mission to address national priorities and help guide the University's academic/research functions by keeping the University informed of people's issues and problems.

I am very excited about the future of our Extension programs. While budget and staff cuts have been challenging, we are entering an era of rapid change within our society. Extension's mission is to be at the forefront of this change, and with the reality of dwindling resources, must simply reinvent itself to continue to address its mission.

We are more interested in growing our own food. There are untapped partnerships with green industry, government and community organizations. Many programs that worked in the past may no longer be appropriate under our current needs and resource constraints. We must invent new ways of accomplishing our mission. New ideas for programs offer the promise of better serving our clientele.

While changes can be daunting, they are also very exciting. One thing is for certain, the value of volunteers to accomplish our mission will always be appreciated.

Thanks for your continued service!

Mike





Following Northside Elementary's awesome success with their School Gardens, Kootenai Elementary has put in some raised beds and gotten started with some gardening this summer. Janae Dale has been contributing gardening advice, and the enthusiastic students could really use some more help. They have been meeting once a week on Thursdays right after school. This fall their final meeting will be October 21, planning next year's garden. The Garden Clubs will start up again in the spring, and if you are interested in helping children learn about gardening, contact Gail Burkett or Janae Dale.



School Garden Joy

Last February, a tiny team of five—two teachers, one parent and two gardener volunteers—formed an Edible Schoolyard Garden Committee and our offspring is the Northside School Garden Club. We know it takes motivation to garden, but if that excitement is born at an early age, its power will grow stronger with every passing year.

We count on motivation every week and have not been disappointed. At Northside School, children ranging from age 6 to age 12, come to Garden Club, an hour a week after school, for the fresh air and for the fun of being together. They keep coming because gardening produces results. And there's plenty of action in gardening to sustain everyone's interest, especially in the small dosage of a single hour a week. We can count on twelve or fifteen children to show up for Garden Club every week, those numbers make even the biggest chore into a minor twenty minute job. We do it on ready, set, go! Gardening is probably the best example of action education or experiential ed, as the academics like to call it.

In March when lettuce and pea seeds were passed around, children's tiny fingers pinched them from their open palms and placed them in soil. They added water and waited. From those very first seeds, the miracle held inside such little seeds did not fail to inspire. For

many months, the Northside School Garden children produced many pounds of lettuce, peas, zucchini, and beans, and each Monday they took home the surplus. For their school lunches, they have harvested 55# of potatoes, 60# of carrots, and 40# of onions.

As good gardeners always say at the end of a season, like now: there's always next year. But, not so fast: these children planted a hoop house full of fall greens for their school salads, and will continue to harvest those until the snow gets too deep. They will take their motivation and their action education and apply it to tomatoes, winter squash, pot herbs, and who knows what else next year. On the backside-of-the-calendar, during the schoolyear, these action gardeners are still growing strong. They are mighty grateful to those Master Gardeners who came to help out this first year.



Do you have any extra produce? Take it to the food bank- there is great need for fresh food.

Seeking New Chair for the Learning Garden

Mikey Haven is retiring as chair of the Learning Garden for the 2011 season. She has done a wonderful job in leading the effort and will be sorely missed. Although she will be busy with other projects she has volunteered to provide input to the incoming chairperson. So please let me know if you are interested in heading up this important project for the 2011 season. I can be reached at zbolton@gmail.com or 208.264.1210.



Dirty Little Secrets

A compost of gardening hints and tips

Potholes. To prevent the dirt from coming out the drainage holes of your flower pots when planting them you can use some of the following items cut into squares to cover the holes. They also help keep out critters like slugs, ants, earwigs and pill bugs. You can use: screen wire, coffee filters, mesh bags that produce comes in from the grocery store and panty hose. Panty hose can also be used to tie up climbing plants like tomatoes, squash or cucumbers. (From: various sources.)

Crack Grass. To get rid of grass and weeds growing in the cracks of your sidewalks or pavers pour full strength vinegar (red or white) on them or boiling salt water. You can also spread dry rock salt or baking soda in the cracks as well. You will probably have to reapply any of these items several times a season or as the plants reappear as they are washed away by rain or water sprinklers. (From: "Amish Gardening Secrets")

Miles Per Flower. Whenever you need to dry flowers or herbs quickly look no further than your own car. Cover flat surfaces with newspaper, spread a layer of flowers or herbs, close the windows and park in the sun for a day. Not sure if this would work for drying fruits and veggies, but it might if they were thinly sliced and you had no place to go for a couple of days. (From: "Trowel and Error" by Sharon Lovejoy)

Information collected and recycled by Becky Reynolds. If anyone has a hint or tip they would like to share in the Garden Gate please contact me at: 264-3214 or rplace@directv.net



Fun with Beets

By Janis Clark

After a great beet season (cool and wet), I found myself looking for new ways to prepare these gorgeous red and purple roots.

The ancient Romans were one of the first civilizations to cultivate beets to use their roots as food. The tribes that invaded Rome were responsible for spreading beets throughout northern Europe.

Beets are high in folic acid, potassium, calcium and antioxidants. Beet juice is rich in natural sugar, sodium, sulphur, chlorine, iodine, copper and vitamin B1, B2, C and bioflavonoids.

Some believe that beet juice combined with other juices like carrot and cucumber are excellent for cleansing the kidneys and gallbladder and for restoring health to these organs. My Aunt Tootie, who is 94, still working and playing tennis, drinks a beet cocktail regularly, so I guess it works for her.

I'll wager in all antiquity, nobody baked **Chocolate Beet Cake**. Just for fun, here is the recipe my friend Renee sent me. This cake is delicious, easy to make, and a real show stopper at a potluck. No, it is not red.

Chocolate Beet Cake

- 1 c. butter or margarine, softened and divided
- 1 ½ c packed dark brown sugar
- 3 eggs at room temp.
- 1 ½ ou. dark chocolate
- 5 medium beets (2 cups pureed). I used Detroit Red.
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 t. baking soda
- ¼ t. salt
- ½ t. cinnamon



October Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:
http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Month/zonesep01.html

Zone 3

- Start fall compost pile
- Cover perennial, vegetable, bulb, and strawberry beds for winter
- Plant winter- and spring-flowering bulbs
- Divide and replant crowded fall-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Protect roses for winter

Zone 4

- Start fall compost pile
- Cover perennial, vegetable, bulb, and strawberry beds for winter
- Plant winter- and spring-flowering bulbs
- Divide and replant crowded fall-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow
- Buy spring-blooming bulbs
- [Plant container](#) and balled-and-burlapped fruit trees
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Plant, feed, and aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials after bloom
- Protect roses for winter
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant balled-and-burlapped trees
- Plant trees in containers
- Plant frost-tolerant trees

Zone 5

- Start fall compost pile
- Plant winter- and spring-flowering bulbs
- Divide and replant crowded fall-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow
- Buy winter- and spring-blooming bulbs
- Plant container and balled-and-burlapped trees [fruit trees](#)
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Plant cool- and warm-season lawns
- Aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials after bloom
- Plant container roses
- Protect roses for winter
- Plant container and balled-and-burlapped trees, [shrubs](#), and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees



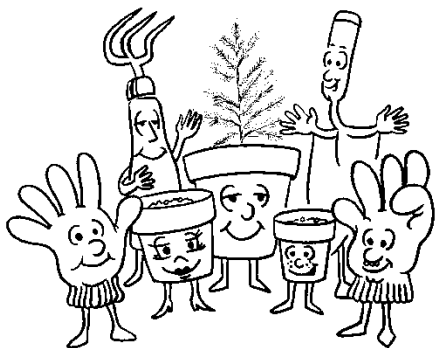
Garden Party!

All hands on deck...or in the dirt as may be more appropriate. Please plan on attending our final fall work party to close down the Learning Garden and clean up the flower beds at the Extension Office. Bring your gardening gloves and tools and come prepared to join other Master Gardeners in tidying up before the snows arrive. It is scheduled for October 22nd at 10am and your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

Our Home Horticulture Committee has once again put together an excellent program for the Fall Home Horticulture series. The following lists this

season's line-up. If you are interested in attending please fill out and mail the brochure below to the address listed.

2010 Home Horticulture Workshop Series



presented and coordinated
by
Bonner County Master Gardener Association

All programs will be held from 6pm - 8pm
at the Bonner County Extension Office
4205 N. Boyer, Sandpoint, Idaho

Email inquiries to bonnermq@uidaho.edu

Dates and Topics

September 15 "Composting"

Presented by Extension Educator Mike Bauer

What is composting? How do you use compost? What can it be put on? Learn all this and more from the Master Composter. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

September 22 "Soil Preparation"

Presented by Certified Master Gardener Mikey Haven and Extension Educator Mike Bauer

The most important component of gardening is the soil. Learn how to get your garden soil ready this fall for planting in the spring. Find out about soil amendments and cover crops. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

September 29 "Raised Beds"

Presented by Certified Master Gardener
Becky Reynolds

Come and learn how to make raised beds using various techniques and a variety of methods. Learn handy tips, dos and don'ts. Becky will teach you how to get started from the ground up. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

October 6 "Controlling Garden Insect Pests"

Presented by Tom Ekberg, Entomologist
for Land Management in Coeur d'Alene,
Idaho

Tom will help you learn to identify which insects in the garden are pests and give you some ideas of how to control them. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

October 20 "Growing Garlic"

Presented by Pat Van Volkinberg, the Potato Guru

Learn all of Pat's tips on growing the "Stinking Rose" here in north Idaho. Pat has been a long time seller of garlic and potatoes at the Farmer's Market in Sandpoint. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

October 27 "Simple Greenhouses and Cold Frames"

Presented by Marsha Semar, Gardener
Extraordinaire

Marsha has people waiting in line for her produce at the Bonners Ferry Farmer's Market. Learn how she extends her growing season with simple, easy greenhouses and cold frames. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

November 3 "Landscaping with Native Plants"

Presented by John Hastings, co-owner of
All Seasons Garden and Floral

John has been giving classes for several years on reducing lawn area and replacing some of that area with native plants. Learn what and where to plant and how to care for them. **Cost for this class is \$10.00.**

All programs will be held from 6 pm - 8 pm at the
Bonner County Extension Office, 4205 N. Boyer,
Sandpoint, Idaho.

Please check the classes you wish to attend and send with check. **Class space is available on a first registered and paid basis.**



**2010 Fall Home Horticulture Workshop Series
Registration Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

- | | | | |
|-----------|----|--------------------------------------|--|
| September | 15 | "Composting" | Presented by Extension Educator Mike Bauer |
| | 22 | "Soil Preparation" | Presented by Master Gardener Mikey Haven and
Extension Educator Mike Bauer |
| | 29 | "Raised Beds" | Presented by Master Gardener Becky Reynolds |
| October | 6 | "Controlling Garden Insect Pests" | Presented by Tom Ekberg, Entomologist for Land
Management of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho |
| | 20 | "Growing Garlic" | Presented by Pat Van Volkinberg |
| | 27 | "Simple Greenhouses and Cold Frames" | Presented by Marsha Semar, Gardener Extraordi-
naire |
| November | 3 | "Landscaping with Native Plants" | Presented by John Hastings, co-owner of All Seasons
Garden and Floral |

\$_____ enclosed.

**Please make checks payable & return to:
Bonner County Master Gardener Association
PO Box 58
Ponderay, Idaho 83852-0058**

Fees cover the cost of publications, materials, and the support of non-profit activities of the Bonner County Master Gardener Association.

***An Advanced Class for November –
Winter Gardening***

Kit Cooley, CMG, will be teaching a class on growing and maintaining plants inside through the winter. The class will be held at the extension office on Tuesday, November 9, at 9 AM. She will cover care of houseplants and tender perennials brought inside for the winter, cold frame use in winter and early spring, and some basic equipment and supplies. This class is open to all Certified Master Gardeners at no charge.



Garden Party!

All hands on deck...or in the dirt as may be more appropriate. Please plan on attending our final fall work party to close down the Learning Garden and clean up the flower beds at the Extension Office. Bring your gardening gloves and tools and come prepared to join other Master Gardeners in tidying up before the snows arrive. It is scheduled for October 22nd at 10am and your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

BCMG Membership Meeting Oct 6, 2010

Present:, Kim Peterson, Howie Fennimore, Janae Dale, Ann Warwick, Bob Blair, Penny Barton, Mikey Haven, Kit Cooley, Jay Baker, Lynn Wilson, Becky Reynolds, Judith Pagliasotti, Zoe Bolton (via phone) and Gail Swan

Meeting was called to order at 9:05am by President Zoe Bolton.

Treasurers report: \$6504.73

The minutes from August meeting were accepted with correction to treasurers report.

Committee Reports:

Learning Garden: 77 lbs have been taken to the food bank @ this time; a work day is scheduled for Fri., Oct 22, @ 10am to put the garden to bed for the winter; work on the landscaping also; food will be provided

Home Hort: attendance has been down a bit from the spring series; Jan Hansen doing a great job of taking care of all the classes; we have 3 classes left for the fall series; so far 23 are signed up for the garlic class on the 27th so will probably stay @ the extension office for the class

Plant Clinic: no report-Martha unable to attend meeting

Old Business

Advanced MG Program: Tom Bry will give a class if we can pay him; Penny will check with him regarding “garden design” and how much we would need to pay him.

Mentoring Program: Kim Peterson is still gathering people who are interested in this committee & taking on mentoring the new class

Evaluation Meeting: Oct 28th form 9-12 @ the extension office

New Business

Survey: Zoe sent out a survey to all members; there have been 18 responses so far; most like learning and the social aspects; would like to see less negativity

Recertification Process: Mike will send a second recertification letter this month regarding U of I recert requirements-to be returned by Nov 1st; a committee will be formed to go over all recertification papers

Nominating committee: Mikey Haven, Lynn Pietz & Gail Swan; the committee suggested increasing the number of board members from 6 to 7; a motion was made, seconded and carried to that effect; a ballot for the new officers and board members will be sent out to the membership at the end of Oct

Graduation : Oct 15th (Friday) from 6-9PM; very nice invitations were sent out; award ceremony will be held at graduation; Penny will pick up the key for the community center; CMG's will bring all the food & Janae will pick up 2 trays of lasagna from the Pack River Store so we should have plenty of food

Christmas Party: Sat., Dec 4th; we will be using the "Coldwater Creek" cafeteria for our venue; it will already be decorated; discussion included having it partially catered-buying meats with MG's adding other dishes; Robin will check on possibility of having alcohol there; thanks to Robin & Janae for checking out this new venue; Ann Warwick will try to develop a car pool tree so the party can be held at night

Garden Gate : Laurie Brown has offered to take over the editing of the GG; a big thanks to Laurie!!! She will need items sent to her as she will not be able to attend the meetings

School Gardens: Howie has made compost bins for 3 schools so far; Northside school has had lots of food grown by the students and they have done very well with their gardens; Gail Burkett is their "garden gnome"; Janae has been the "Gnome" for the Kootenai school; the Sandpoint Charter school would also like to be involved with developing a garden & would like some help; Janae says it takes about an hour a week to help

Mike's Report: Mike unable to attend

Meeting adjourned @ 10:45

**BCMGA - Event Calendar
2010 Working Copy**

Event	Date	Chair(s)	Notes
Home Hort Class – Growing Garlic	10/20	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm-8pm
Garden Party – Learning Garden Fall Cleanup	10/22	Mikey Haven and Gail Swan	Extension Office 10am
Home Hort Class – Simple Greenhouses and Cold Frames	10/27	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm-8pm
Master Gardener Evaluation Meeting	10/28	Mike Bauer	Extension Office 9am-noon; open to all
Membership Meeting	11/3	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Home Hort Class – Landscaping with Native Plants	11/3	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm-8pm
Advanced Class: Winter Gardening	11/9	Kit Cooley	Ext Office 9am
Membership Meeting	12/1	Zoe Bolton	Ext Office 9am
Holiday Reception	12/4		Coldwater Creek Cafeteria