



Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

January 2016

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 When emailing, please put "GG" in the subject line.

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President's Message

What an amazing year we had in 2015. Special thanks to our out-going President and Vice President, Gray Henderson and Deb Steffen, for their leadership, commitment, support on the front lines, and all their hard work behind the scenes to keep us moving forward. Special recognition goes to departing Board Members Butterfly Burke, Marge Clements and Bonnie Pick, for adding to our depth of knowledge through their expertise. We are fortunate that many dedicated Board members and Chairpersons will be returning to leadership roles in 2016, making the transition in programming almost seamless. Kudos to you all for a successful year!

The incoming BCGA 2016 officers are Cindy Hayes, Gordon Fish, Patti Pietron and Penny Barton; president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, respectively. Pamelarose Crawford, Tim Gift and Gail Swan join returning Board members Penny Goodman, Howie Fennimore, Barbara Pressler and Gray Henderson for the upcoming year. I extend an open invitation to all BCGA members to join us at our monthly Board meetings. We convene at 9:00 on the 1st Wednesday of every month. Your input is welcomed. If you have ideas or concerns please contact

the office by email or phone bcgardeners@gmail.com or [2652070](tel:2652070).

There's nothing like a new year to motivate us to reexamine what goals we'd like to pursue in the coming months. ... shed 10 pounds, get in shape, visit family, travel, raise a prize winning dahlia, volunteer time to a worthwhile cause...the list goes on. The Garden Gate, BCGA's monthly newsletter (<http://bcgardeners.org/newsletter>), and BCGA website (www.bcgardeners.org) are two resources readily available to find information on upcoming BCGA events and ways you can help.

Our first Membership Meeting was held on January 6, 2016. We had a good turnout of about 20 enthusiastic members. We have 14 returning Chairpersons and were able to fill four of the six remaining Chairman slots. Thanks to those who stepped up to help out. We have two slots yet to fill. Chris McIntosh, Publicity Chairman is bowing out after dedicating seven years to the job. We still need a Publicity Chairman and a Gift Basket Raffle Chairman. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact me. You'll find many members willing to lend a helping hand so you won't have to shoulder the load by yourself.

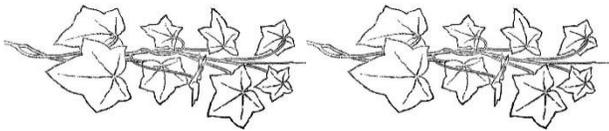
The 2016 Membership class recruitment is moving forward, but we need ten enrollees for the class to materialize. The first class is slated to start February 1, 2016 and subsequent classes will be held on Mondays and Fridays for seven weeks. Please spread the word. Application forms are available from Penny Barton.

The Home Hort committee is closing in on the Spring line-up of evening classes offered to the public. The Home Hort schedule will be published in next month's newsletter.

Many BCGA activities are still in the formative stage at this point, but it is shaping up to be a busy productive year. Plan to be part of the action, add 6 or more BCGA volunteer hours to your New Year Resolution list.

Cindy Hayes, President
cmhayes63@gmail.com
2631104

Look for the hidden blessings in each day.



February Gardening To Do List



Zone 3

- Order seeds
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom
- Sow seeds for tender perennials

Zone 4

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds indoors for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Sow seeds for cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors

Zone 5

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Sow seeds for cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors

January Meeting Minutes

Following are the minutes for the BCGA meeting on January 6, 2016:

Members Present: Cindy Hayes, Patti Pietron, Gordon Fish, Penny Barton, Penny Goodman, Barb Pressler, Gray Henderson, Tim Gift, Deb Gift, Howie Fennimore, Marjory Clements, Butterfly Burke, Ann Warwick, Gail Swan, Janae Dale, Pamelarose Crawford, Deborah Steffen, Sandy Anderson, Bruce Green

At 9:10 am January 6, 2016 President Cindy Hayes brought the meeting to order.

Our President Cindy Hayes thanked the returning board members as well as Butterfly Burke, Bonnie Pick and Marjory Clements who stepped down from their 2015 board positions. She also thanked our new Vice President Gordon Fish for taking on this position and Pamelarose Crawford and Tim Gift for being new board members. Also noted were Penny Barton who will continue as Treasurer and Patti Pietron who will continue as Secretary.

December Meeting Minutes: Howie Fennimore moved to approve December minutes, seconded by Gail Swan. Minutes approved.

Treasures Report: Penny Barton reports currently we have \$472.00 in our account.

Home and Garden Show: Chairman Ann Warwick reported BCGA would attend this years' show. She will be investigating activities other than the talks we have done in the past. Ann said members spent lots of time preparing their talks but the sessions were very poorly attended by show goers.

Farmers Market: Chairman Sandra Gevurtz was not present. No report was given.

Fairbooth: Barbara Pressler will be the new chairman for this committee.

Highway Cleanup: Tim Gift will be the new chairman for this event.

Healing Garden: It was noted that there is the possibility that a landscaping company will take over caring for the healing garden. Cindy Hayes will contact Gail Blasingame and the healing garden staff to find out what is happening.

Mickinnick Trail Cleanup: Cindy Hayes will contact Jan Griffiths to see what kind of help might be needed.

Arboretum Workday: Cindy Hayes will contact Joyce Pence to see BCGA is needed for a cleanup day.

Fairground Beautification: Penny Barton would like to get a group together to beautify the front of the fairgrounds building. She will get in touch with Rhonda Livingston to see what her ideas may be for this area. This topic will be revisited in February.

Membership Classes: Penny Barton reports that as of today we have no one signed up for the classes. She has contacted 17 people who expressed interest in the classes with no resulting sign ups. The University of Idaho will not be offering their Master Gardener course in Sandpoint this year. They will offer one in Bonners Ferry. Penny says we have a new member from the University of Idaho Master Gardeners course, Leslie Gleason. We also have another person interested in joining BCGA. Penny will send out the application to him. Ann Warwick and Gail Swan will ask Jennifer, from the University if she would be willing to refer possible students to us. Both Gail Swan and Gray Henderson are assisting with locating instructors for these classes. Penny will provide them with dates. Ann Warwick will write her article for the Co Op and include information on the Membership classes. January 28 is a possible date for the meet and greet for new students.

Home Horticulture: Janae Dale says she and her committee are working on the classes. They are looking for someone to teach a class on local weather. The committee will meet on Thursday the 14th at 1:00 at the BCGA office to finalize the list. The list will appear in the Co Op paper. The possibility of fieldtrips being added to the Home Horticulture series was discussed. Trips might include going to Ann Warwick's house for a lesson on composting and one to hunt for and identify mushrooms. Penny Barton to contact Robert Zwiefal who is well versed in mushrooming, to

see if he would be interested in doing this fieldtrip/class.

Garden Tour: Penny Barton says she can no longer chair this event. Penny has two possible names for members who might co-chair the garden tour. She will contact them.

School Gardens: Janae Dale spoke with Nancy at All Seasons who suggested we use seed catalogs from a local company Irish Eyes for the classrooms. Nancy will try to secure sets of catalogs from Irish Eyes. The cottonwood tree at Kootenai will be limbed instead of removed. Janae and team have put the root barrier at the bottom of the raised beds to help prevent spreading of cottonwood roots. The charter school will have a garden this year with the special needs class caring for it. Michele Murphree is working on a garden for Sagle. Some beds at Northside will need to be relocated due to shade from a tree at the alpaca farm next door. Michele Murphree also gave Gray many heirloom seed packets and he will bring them to the office for anyone who would like some.

Spring Plant Sale: Marjory Clements and Penny Goodman will co-chair this event. Penny Goodman will apply for license to sell plants. Janae Dale asked that BCGA get the license for a year instead of a one-time license. This will allow us to sell plants at the Yard and Plant Sale as well.

Yard and Plant Sale: Janae Dale is chairman. She will send out an email to members asking for donations of clothing, furniture, books, etc. These may be dropped off at Cindy Hayes and Bob Blair's house for storage until the sale.

Sip and Shop: Deborah Gift is chairman for this event. She has tried to contact Pend Oreille Winery and has not had success. April 12 is a tentative date for this event.

Gift Basket: Cindy Hayes suggested might want to have the gift basket a separate entity not associated with the Sip and Shop as it was last year. This way we would have more time to sell tickets at various other BCGA events like the Plant sale and the Garden Tour. It was suggested we announce the winner in July. This event will need a chairman.

Potlucks: Deborah Steffen will continue as chairman. As of now she has no new hosts for potlucks in 2016.

Media Outreach: Chairman needed.

Facebook: Laurie Brown will take over our Facebook page. She will remake it from scratch. Marrion Newsam Banks will be her backup.

Membership Renewals: Gray Henderson says we have 52 renewals at this time. There are 28 outstanding renewals. Gray will meet with Penny Barton to make sure his list and the dues Penny received match. Gray will email the outstanding 28 members and Gail Swan and Janae Dale will call them if necessary.

Directory: Cindy Hayes suggested we include more personal information in our directory, such as birthdays and interests. Some concern was expressed regarding privacy. The directory will be revisited in February.

Jan Wilfert: Cindy Hayes suggested that if we don't do a scholarship in Jan's name, we might put a plaque on the plant from Jan that is in the BCGA office. This will be revisited in February.

Listserve: Gray Henderson reported that this is being tested with board members.

Christmas Party: The 2016 Christmas party is scheduled for December 10.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35.

Hot Spot

Cindy Hayes
330 E. Bronx
Sandpoint, Idaho

My earliest introduction to gardening was during my childhood in South Bend, Indiana. I remember helping my Dad plant a row of carrot seeds the length of the fence. We never harvested any carrots, however, because the neighborhood rabbits always beat us to them. When I was a sophomore in high school my family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. My Dad tried growing carrots, again, but hungry rabbits once more found their way to our garden. It was decades later before I attempted to grow anything else.

In the years following my graduation from Oklahoma State University, I lived and taught in Tulsa.

My first assignment was teaching Science and Art to upper elementary students. Three years later I relocated to Miami, Oklahoma to help implement one of the first elementary counseling programs in the state. Four years later I married and moved to Fort McClellan in Anniston, Alabama for a couple years. While there I hired on at the Alabama School for the Blind which eventually led to my third career change. I went back to school at Florida State University to get certified as a teacher for the visually impaired. From there I moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana to teach visually impaired students. The next seven years were spent in Cajun country.

After our son was born in 1985 we dreamed of moving to the Northwest where there are four seasons. We had camped in the Northwest earlier and had visited Sandpoint on one of our trips. When some friends of ours moved to Sandpoint we decided to relocate. So in 1987, the three of us moved from the southernmost border to the northernmost border. For the next 24 years I worked for the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind as Region 1 outreach teacher for the visually impaired.

My interest in gardening was kindled during that first year in Sandpoint. A friend shared some tarragon vinegar she'd made during a workshop at Wednesday at the Farm with Lois Wythe. Over the next few years I attended many of Lois's Wednesdays at the Farm workshops and was introduced to the many facets of the world of gardening.

During that time, my first attempt at gardening was to plant strawberries and mint in our small backyard. The strawberries, given to me by a friend, were the start of my Friendship Garden. And the mint, I soon discovered, loved to spread everywhere! Today my Friendship Garden has grown to five flower/herb beds, and a variety of mint has been containerized in numerous planters. From that auspicious beginning I still try to learn and incorporate one new herb into my garden every season to use in culinary or craft projects.

In 2007 my partner, Bob Blair, and I bought a house on one and half acres. The property was already landscaped with mainly native and shade loving plants. It has been a journey learning to care for the dozens of different plants left to our stewardship by the previous owners. But through hard work, and advice from other seasoned gardeners, we've built an environment attractive to birds and butterflies and an oasis for ourselves.

Hot Spot

Gray Henderson
1621 Sequoia St.
Sandpoint

I'm a rather recent transplant to Northern Idaho. Before that I lived in Tucson, Arizona, Columbia, Missouri, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Hanover, New Hampshire, Ithaca, New York, and Ames, Iowa. So this is my first venture into the Pacific Northwest and I plan to stay!

I was born and raised in the Twin Cities in Minnesota. My father had a couple of Ace Hardware stores and, as a teenager, I grew up working in those stores and learning the ins and outs of the hardware business and working to help people solve their plumbing, electrical, tool, etc. problems. It would prove to serve me well in my later years, but I declined an offer to take over the family business.

Both my father and his father before him were gardeners. I still remember my grandfather's fruit cellar lined with jar after jar of preserved vegetables and fruits. And, it all came from a small garden in a Minneapolis backyard. My father wasn't so much into veggies. He had a passion for gladiolas. I mean he loved glads. He probably had 50 varieties, all different colors that he grew. Planted them in the Spring, cut the flowers, dug them up in the Fall, separated the cormlets, dried the corms, and repeated the process year after year. We had tray after tray of glad bulbs in our basement.

My own gardening experience probably begins when I was about 10. Like a lot of Minnesotans we had (still have) a lake cabin (ours was in Wisconsin) which I helped build. While spending summers there I rented a plot of ground from a nearby farmer and planted a vegetable garden. I sold the results of my effort to local cabin owners and resort goers nearby. I even canned dill pickles and sold them. I guess at that time I thought I really wanted to be a farmer. I even worked a few weeks for a couple of summers on a dairy farm in Southern Minnesota putting up corn silage, harvesting wheat and oats and milking cows. Someplace along the way I even made a scrapbook entitled "My Farm" for a school project or something.

Not coming from a family that owned a farm, there was no way I could get into farming. My high school

Bob has added raised beds to our landscape over the years in which I grow raspberries, strawberries, rhubarb, sage, thyme, tarragon, bee balm, oregano, fennel, mint and garlic. We're limited on sunny areas so we have to carve islands around the property and plant annuals in pots. It's been a lot of trial and error to find what will grow in dappled shade and heavy shade among the cedars. This last year we had a bumper crop of tomatoes which we grew in large containers in one of our islands in the sun. Did I mention the deer and the voles? Our cat has the voles under control but the deer are still a challenge. Over time we are planting more native plants to help build a sanctuary for birds, butterflies, pollinators and to cut down on watering.

To help us on our gardening quest, Bob and I attended membership classes (2008 and 2013 respectively) using the Master Gardener Handbook as the primary learning guide. Although book learning was a big first step, the real wealth of information came from our interactions over the years with more experienced gardeners. Through BCGA we found a community of gardening friends willing to share their hard earned wisdom with us and others while having a good time.

When I retired in 2013, I had more time to pursue volunteer work and personal interests. Presently I'm active in Monday Hikers, Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Friends of the Library, and Bonner County Gardeners Association. In addition to gardening, I'm learning to spin wool, craft cards, play piano, read mysteries and Contra dance in my spare time!



aptitude tests said I should be an engineer but my interests were in the outdoors, so in college I tried to blend the two and majored in Agronomy at Iowa State. After graduating and working for a summer for the Soil Conservation Service mapping soils in Northern Minnesota, I started my graduate education in Forest Soils at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. I finished my M.S. and PhD. there researching mycorrhizal relationships in tree seedling in the State of New York nurseries.

It was 1968 and since I had obtained a ROTC commission while at Iowa State, I had a two year military commitment to fulfill. After basic officers training in artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, I spent the first year at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab in Hanover, NH, doing aerial photography interpretation. The second year I headed a Food and Agriculture Team for the 29th Civil Affairs Company in the 5 northern provinces of Viet Nam. I was part of the pacification program winning the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese. We vaccinated cattle and water buffalo, upgraded hog genetics by supplying Duroc hogs from the states to be cross bred with the sway-back local pigs, and we supplied seed and fertilizer for vegetable production. I stayed away from trying to tell the Vietnamese how to grow rice.

Upon returning to the States, I was immediately discharged at Fort Lewis and within a couple of months was lucky enough to find a job as a research ecologist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. I worked on various aspects of nutrient cycling and ultimately headed up an experimental watershed project which looked at watershed management effects on hydrology and water quality.

After 8 years I accepted a position at the University of Missouri in the School of Natural Resources. I spent the rest of my professional career teaching soils, water quality and forest engineering classes as well as advising graduate students in their research programs.

In 1999, I retired and moved to Tucson where continued to do a little consulting for an environmental firm in Missouri. I eventually got tired of the heat, humidity (think Monsoons in July and August) and the lack of water in Tucson, and frustrated with living in a large city. So, in 2012 I moved to Sandpoint, which I had discovered in 2010 while on a 2 month camping trip across the northern tier of states.

Living in the city, I don't have a large area in which to garden. In addition, my soil stays wet throughout the

Spring. So I have constructed three raised beds. One is devoted to raspberries with which I have been very successful. After some experimentation I have concentrated on cool season greens, peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers and squash in the others. I usually can get two plantings of lettuce, pak choi, and peas. I have the most trouble growing peppers. The season just doesn't seem to be long or hot enough.

I have found it very easy to get involved in community activities in Sandpoint. I took the BCGA membership class in 2013 and within the Association I have been active in the school gardens program and have taught soils courses. I am serving on the board and am the past president.

In addition to the BCGA, I am a volunteer water sampler for the Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper and serve as a member of its board of directors. I also am active in veterans organizations; the VFW and am secretary/treasurer of Viet Nam Veterans Chapter 890. I have served on the setup crew for the Festival at Sandpoint. Recently I have started volunteering with the Parks and Recreation Department advising them on soil fertility programs for Sandpoint's athletic fields. I also belong to an international men's group and participate in some of their activities in Sandpoint and the Northwest.



In my recreational time I like to fish and am an avid fly fisher. I tie flies almost every Saturday morning at North 40 (usually with Howie) and am a member of the North Idaho Fly Casters. Recently I purchased a larger boat and am looking forward to using it on the "big water" this summer. I X-country ski during the Winter and do an occasional hike. I have been known to play golf and recently "scored" my first window with a well-placed slice while playing in Sedona. I also enjoy woodworking but have been limited in that activity here because of lack of space. I must say I miss the selection of high grade hardwoods available locally.

It's been a pleasure serving as your President for a year. I have made many good and lasting friends within and through the Association.

Bright Gold Pine Tree

In my Fine Gardening magazine there are many helpful "How To" articles. In some articles and photographs the gardens are a bit too formal for my taste, but I learn something from most of them. In the recent February issue in the "Midwest late-season interest" section, they highlighted a tree, a "Chief Joseph" Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia* 'Chief Joseph'). It is a smaller pine tree, 6 to 8 feet tall and 3 feet wide, but the special thing is that it is bright gold in the winter! "It turns bright gold with the onset of cold fall temperatures. It remains that color in the winter landscape, gradually returning to bright green in spring." I had never heard of an ever-green turning gold, other than the Larch, which, of course, loses its needles. My only comment is, I want one!

Janae Dale



<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/picolcj1.htm>

The Elusive Wood Dragon

A number of people requested information on the picture of the driftwood dragon that accompanied Shannon Callister's bio. After some searching with www.Tineye.com (a great resource when you want to know the origin of a picture on the web that has no attribution) and a lot of getting sidetracked on Pinterest, I managed to find out that the Mendocino Art Center in CA, is actually a horse, and the picture was taken from this site:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/faroutflora/>



Many of us still enjoy the wonder and simple pleasures found in nature. The definition of *Muse* is to wonder, marvel, contemplate meditatively, or find a source of inspiration. Each month I invite you to be a

part of this interactive, human interest dialogue sharing your *Musings of a Gardener*.
Cindy Hayes

act as a mulch and soil improver for acid loving plants. Egg shells help provide calcium to tomato plants and fish heads fertilize roses.

Musings of a Gardener

Why fertilize with fish heads? Why feed coffee grounds to your azaleas and egg shells to your tomatoes? Does “Moose Drool” beer really control snails and slugs? Are Old Wives Tales truth or fiction?

There are dozens of tales passed down from other gardeners. If you have a story to share or some “old wives tale” that works for you, please send it to lauriebrown54@gmail.com Garden Gate. We will share it in future Garden Gate issues.

Although our grandmothers may not have understood the reason for tossing coffee grounds into flower beds, old wives tales wisdom says it’s good for azaleas and roses. Today we know coffee grounds

Event Chairs and Contact Information - 2016			
Event	Date	Chair(s)	Contact
Membership meetings	Ongoing – 1 st Wed. each month	Cindy Hayes	cmhayes63@gmail.com or 2631104
Home Horticulture Series	Spring and Fall	Gail Swan Janae Dale	Gail- gswan8274@hotmail.com or 2630181 or c 2904126 Janae- dalejanae@gmail.com or 2652205 or c 6100403
Membership Committee	January-- March	Penny Barton	miatamaven@gmail.com or 2659733 or c 6101493
Home and Garden Show	April	Ann Warwick	w.redguy@frontier.com or 2632844 or c 6911900
Garden Tour	July	Pat Congleton Gaea Swinford	Pat- patcongleton@yahoo.com 2658218 Gaea – earthmama99@gmail.com
School Gardens	Ongoing	Janae Dale Gray Henderson	Janae- dalejanae@gmail.com or 2652205 or c 6100403 Gray – timberwolf1941@gmail.com or 5977192 or c 5205610643
Farmer’s Market	May thru Mid- October	Sandra Gevurtz	sangevurtz@gmail.com or c 509-9793685

Spring Plant Sale	May	Marjory Clements Penny Goodman	Marjory- clemmj@earthlink.net or 2640105 Penny G.- aok@netw.com or 9460741 or w 2658634
Yard and Plant Sale	August	Janae Dale	dalejanae@gmail.com or 2652205 or c 6100403
Fair Booth	August	Barb Pressler Butterfly Burke	Barb – 2554353 Butterfly – flutt4rby@yahoo.com or 2630545
Sip and Shop	April	Deb Gift	hartgift@hughes.net or 2638128 or c 3044052
Potlucks	Ongoing	Deb Steffen	deborahsteffen@yahoo.com or 2632339 or c 503 8804157
Media/Website	Ongoing	Gordon Fish	fishgo185@gmail.com or 2639027 or c 2901128
Media/Publicity	Ongoing	TBA	
Media/ Facebook/ Garden Gate newsletter	Ongoing	Laurie Brown	Lauriebrown54@gmail.com or c 208-5595510
Gift Basket Raffle	Mid March- Early July	TBA	
Highway Cleanup	Spring and Fall	Tim Gift	giftworks@hughes.net or 2638128
Arboretum	Spring and Fall	Joyce Pence	joycepence@icloud.com or 2661107
Healing Garden	Spring	Gail (Locke) Blasingame	gail@gardenersdaughter.net or 650-8676625
Mickinnick Trail	Spring and Fall	Jan Griffitts	Jan@looptravel.com or 2901973