

The Garden Gate



Bonner County

Master
Gardeners



April 2011

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 "MG" in the subject line.

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President's Note

Dear Master Gardeners,

"April flowers bring May flowers."... As I look out my window at yet another drizzly day I am reminded of this rhyme. Although it may have been overused through the years it is still a reminder that we must be patient, for the beauty of spring is on its way.



Association Update – You should have received my notices via email (or regular mail) in the last couple of weeks. That brings us pretty much up to where we are today. The most frequent question I get is "What does it all mean?" So let me try to address that in this article.

Regarding the U of I Master Gardener Program – (and let me qualify this as it is how I understand it.) To become certified in 2011, a total of 24 hours must be volunteered to the program; 12 hours are required in the Plant Clinic and 12 hours are required as other volunteer efforts. The approved "other volunteer" efforts have not been defined. Mike Bauer is leaving it up to those remaining in the program to bring projects to him for approval and once approved will qualify for the "other volunteer" hours. Note that in addition to the 24 hours, there is also a requirement of 10 educational hours and Mike has said he will approve any education earned, even if it is education received through the BCMGA.

If you don't recertify with the program in 2011, you have two additional years to recertify without having to retake the basic Master Gardener classes. You can recertify in 2012 or 2013 by simply meeting the volunteer and educational requirements as announced in that year.

Some Master Gardeners who are interested in getting their recertification in 2011 are waiting to see what type of other volunteer projects evolve before making that decision. That is because if they can't

get their other volunteer time in, which prevents them from recertifying in 2011, they are not inclined to commit to working the Plant Clinic. Their position being if they are going to contribute their time to the plant clinic they would like the opportunity to meet all of the requirements and gain recertification for 2011.

Other Master Gardeners have made a decision to let their certification lapse for 2011 and will revisit that decision in 2012 after some of the dust has settled on how to meet the requirements of the Extension Program.

For those interested in getting their recertification for 2011 you need to do one of two things (or both). You can attend Mike Bauer's monthly meeting later this month to discuss, coordinate and indicate your intention to volunteer time to projects sponsored by the U of I Extension Program. The other option is to identify other educational opportunities you could personally provide to the community and request approval from Mike Bauer prior to the event in order to receive credit toward your volunteer hours.

Regarding the BCMGA – There has been much activity within the association over the past 30 days in relationship to who we are and how we serve the community. First of all understand that with one exception, we are really no different than we were three months ago. Although the U of I Master Gardener Extension Program will no longer seek our assistance in meeting the goals of their program, we are still here to provide gardening education and community service to the residents of northern Idaho and we will continue to do so.

The Home and Garden Show held April 9th and April 10th demonstrates our commitment to providing education and information to Bonner County. There were six excellent presentations which were well attended and laid the groundwork for ways in which we can communicate with the public. The booth was hopping with requests for information. How to grow tomatoes, not surprisingly, was a hotly requested item.

The other area that has us busy is from an administrative perspective. The Extension Office had provided resources to the BCMGA in the past that are no longer available to the association. This includes things such as office space, computer, etc. In addition, as we move forward, we don't want to confuse the public. They have been accustomed to

and in some cases possibly even saw the U of I MG Program and the BCMGA as one in the same. We therefore have to carefully consider a new name. A committee has been formed to review and make recommendations on these subjects along with reviewing the by-laws to determine if modifications need to be submitted based on the U of I decision to sever of ties.

Yes it is a busy and exciting time. You, the membership, have stepped up to the plate to push this organization to a new level of service for our community. It is your passion for gardening combined with your desire to serve your community that makes this such a success.

As always, if you have any questions, ideas or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

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

Continuing Education

The committee is looking at organizing a couple more classes soon. It is hoped we can find an instructor or group of instructors for a class on Ergonomic Gardening, Practices and Tools. We are also considering a class on GMO's (genetically modified organisms) to be taught by someone with some expertise, hopefully someone from the U of I. The Charter School has asked for someone to teach a class to their students on this topic and it is hoped an instructor would be willing to do a class for them and a class for us. Watch for information for these two classes.

If you have any suggestions for other Continuing Education classes, please email or call Janae Dale, dalejanae@gmail.com, or 265-2205.





April Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:
http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Month/zoneapr01.html



Zone 3

- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals indoors
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Sow seeds for tender perennials
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials
- Plant bare-root and container roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root shrubs and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees

Zone 4

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees

- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees before buds swell
- Spray apples, peaches, and pears that have been affected with canker problems
- Plant, feed, and aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Plant container and bare-root roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs and vines
- Apply dormant spray to trees, shrubs, and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leaved evergreens

Zone 5

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees before buds swell
- Spray apples, peaches, and pears that have been affected with canker problems
- Plant cool- and warm-season lawns
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials

- Sow seeds for tender perennials
- Plant container and bare-root roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs, and vines
- Apply dormant spray to trees, shrubs, and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens

We are fortunate to be able to have the opportunity to share that knowledge with others!!!

In Appreciation.....Ellie



Gail Swan discussing worms with booth guests



2011 Home and Garden Show a Success!!!

By Ellie Lizotte - Chair

It was a pleasure to have a group of highly professional master gardeners presenting informational workshops at the Home and Garden Show. I was approached by John Knowles, one of the persons in charge of the event, and he was so impressed with your presentations. Zoe told me that they liked what we did last year and added their own presentations to the Show. How awesome is that? We are trailblazers!!!!

Your dedication to educate the public on gardening shows our outstretched arms to the community in building a connection that has grown throughout the years. I believe that the presentations that were shared by the BCMGA have given us ownership to the "new" association. All information given was pertinent to our times.

Hats Off to the exhibit volunteers who stepped up when knowing that their hours would not count on recertifying. We all want to stay connected and it showed this weekend. I am in awe of the BCMGA knowledge, I have learned much from listening while you share that wisdom.

It is exhilarating and energizing to be part of a group that embraces a lifelong love of learning!!!



Kudos to our Hard Working Chairs for the Home and Garden Show

By Becky Reynolds

Response to Ellie's article above:

Thank you Ellie for such an eloquent article and I think you hit the nail on the head.

We all love gardening and this last weekend just confirmed how dedicated we are to it and to each other. You and Ann did a fantastic job in getting it all organized and your love and dedication was reflected in a great booth display and a successful weekend of connecting to the community. Everyone was just so excited to be there and not only be with each other, but to have the opportunity to share our knowledge and passion with others. It was great and we owe you two a big, huge, "Thank You" for making it all possible.

Last weekend was what we are all about as MG's and we need to do more of it. Not only because it is just too much fun, but because our community values and thirsts for it. Our efforts paid off in so many ways and everyone involved made it happen so "Thanks to Everyone" as well.

That's my two cents worth and let's garden!



Road Trips...Watch for the Dates and More Info



As much as we like spending time working in our own gardens, we also like to visit other gardens to learn about different designs, plant varieties, growing methods, etc. Better yet, it is great fun when we can do it together. There have been a handful of gardens or growers identified to visit throughout the summer so stay tuned for dates and information about where and when to meet.

Spokane Garden Expo – date already set – May 14th – details to follow

Marsha Semar's vegetable garden – based on her schedule

Manito Park, Spokane – possibly June or August
Green Bluffs, eastern Wa – possibly July or September



SANDPOINT CHARTER SCHOOL GARDENING

Jay Baker has agreed to assist in the School Garden program at the Sandpoint Charter school. That school has a more academic approach, and Jay will be working with the teacher, giving gardening pointers to help in growing their school garden. What a great program! Jay will be a real asset to their success.

The best fertilizer for a piece of land is the footprints of its owner. -- Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th US President



Grafting Class

On Saturday, April 2, Dr. Bob Triepi from the U of I in Moscow taught a class on grafting for us. He taught not just the principals of grafting but gave us a hands-on experience! We learned three different types of graft: the T-bud, the chip bud, and the whip and cleft graft.

Our grafting experiments were conducted using Supporter 4 apple rootstocks from Treco Nursery (P.O. box 98, Woodburn, Oregon 97071. Phone numbers are 800-871-5141 or 503-634-2209; <http://www.treco.nu/>) and various apple scion woods brought in by class members.

Everyone got a chance to do all three graft types. It turns out that apple wood is a very difficult wood to work with- very hard to cut- but there were no injuries. Dr. Triepi provided grafting bands (wide rubber bands to secure the scion wood to the rootstock) and grafting tape (clear, stretchy plastic that holds humidity in and keeps disease and bugs out), along with the cutting tools to do the job. Sadly, he says most beginning grafting classes get a very low success rate- I still can't tell if any of mine are going to take. Thank you to Dr. Triepi for coming up and teaching us, and thanks to Bob Blair for setting it up and obtaining the rootstocks, to Joyce Pence for giving a home to the rootstocks until the class occurred, to everyone that shared scion wood, and to everyone else to donated their time and energy to make it a success!



Dr. Triepi demonstrates tying the grafting bands over the graft



BCMGA – 2011 Event Calendar



Industriously wrapping grafts



"What? Why are you interrupting me?"

Note: the webpage with the information on the Supporter 4 rootstock is located here:
http://www.treco.nu/Supporter_4.htm

Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Notes
Home Hort – Seed Saving	Wed 4/20/11	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm – Speaker Jennifer Costich-Thompson
Home Hort – Basics of Low Pressure Irrigation	Wed 4/27/11	Don Childress, Janae Dale, Gail Swan	Extension Office 6pm – Speaker J.R. North
Membership Meeting	Wed 5/4/11	Zoe Bolton, zbolton@gmail.com or 264-1210	Extension Office 9am
Spokane Garden Expo	Sat 5/14/11	To be announced	Spokane Community College Lair
Membership Meeting	Wed 6/1/11	Zoe Bolton, zbolton@gmail.com or 264-1210	Extension Office 9am
Garden Tour	Sun 7/3/11	Penny Barton, one-cent@gotsky.com or 265-9733	



2011 Home Horticulture
Spring Workshop Series

Presented and coordinated by
Bonner County Master Gardeners As-
sociation



All programs will be held from 6pm – 8pm
At the Bonner County Extension Office
4205 N. Boyer – Sandpoint, Idaho
Each class - \$10.00

Email inquiries to: bonnermg@uidaho.edu
Website: <http://www.sandpoint.org/bcmastergardeners/>

April 20th - "Seed Saving"

*Presented by Jennifer Costich-Thompson,
Certified Master Gardener.*

Jennifer will discuss the basic principles and low-tech methods for saving seed and will help you prepare for your seed-saving this year. Bring your garden planners, along with the lists of plants (including cultivar names or seed packets) you hope to plant.

April 27th - "Basics of Low Pressure Irrigation"

Presented by J.R. North of Groundskeeper, Inc.

Does hand-watering ever seem like an endless chore? This class will teach you the fundamentals of installing micro-irrigation (drip irrigation) into your outdoor containers, veggie gardens, and landscape beds.

Class space is available on a first-registered and paid basis. Spring classes typically fill up fast.

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

**2011 Spring Home Horticulture Workshop Series
Registration Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: _____

e-mail: _____

(Used for future notifications)

Please circle or check the classes you wish to attend.

April 20 - "Seed Saving" - Jennifer Costich-Thompson

April 27 - "Irrigation" - J.R. North

Each class - \$10.00

\$_____ enclosed - Please make checks payable and mail to:

Bonner County Master Gardener Association
P.O. Box 58
Ponderay, ID 83852-0058