

The Garden Gate



Bonner County

Master
Gardeners



January 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,

Happy New Year....and let the planning begin!

As much as I would like to say, let the planting begin, it is too early for that. So instead dust off those gardening books, order up the seed catalogs and start the planning process for your 2011 gardens. As I quoted just a short year ago Ward Elliot Hour said *"The color of springtime is in the flowers, the color of winter is in the imagination"*. This is the time of year to imagine what our gardens will look like when they are not covered in snow. Whether you plan simple maintenance tasks or a larger renovation enjoy the planning now that will bring you

colorful rewards in the spring, summer and into the fall.

Speaking of planning, the BCMGA committees have kicked off the new year with lots of fun ideas for 2011. We would love to have all of you participate in these lively meetings that help set the pace for the upcoming year. Updates on some of these activities are contained in this newsletter. If you would like to join in check the Event Calendar at the end of the Garden Gate for dates and times or contact the chair of the committee(s) as listed in the Event Calendar.

Finally, the Home Horticulture Committee has once again put together a great program for the Spring Series. The classes begin February 23rd and continue with a variety of educational opportunities that will help us in our own planning for the upcoming season. Look for the full line-up with descriptions that will be published in the next few weeks. The brochure is available in the extension office and will also shortly be posted at:
<http://sandpoint.org/bcmastergardners/>

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

January Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:
http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Month/zonejan01.html



Zone 3

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

Zone 4

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds indoors for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)

Zone 5

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



Spring Home Hort Schedule

2/23	Xeriscaping	Bob Wilson
3/2	Pruning	Gail Locke & Jon Bair
3/16	Small Orchards	Robb McCracken
3/23	All Berries	Jon Bair
3/30	Basic Gardening 1	Kit Cooley
4/6	Basic Gardening 2	Kit Cooley
4/20	Seed Saving	Jennifer Costitch-Thompson
4/27	Setting Up Irrigation	J.R. North

Cost to the general public is \$10 per class or \$60 if they buy all eight classes. Cost to members of the BCMGA is \$5 per class or \$30 for the series of eight.

All classes are to be held from 6 to 8 PM at the Bonner County Extension Office.



Bonner County School Gardens Get State Recognition

Michele Murphee, one of the main people responsible for setting up the local School Gardens, was recently interviewed by Boise State Public Radio. The story of the School Gardens was published on the website of NW Food News, launching their 2011 Year of Food. You can read this delightful and inspirational story at <http://www.nwfoodnews.com/2011/01/01/edible-schoolyards-sprout-up-in-north-idaho> .

If you are interested in becoming involved in this program, please contact Master Gardener Gail Burkett , 946-9191, grousecreekgardens@gmail.com .



Bounce Sheets for Bugs

You've all heard the stories about Bounce dryer sheets repelling mosquitos. Well, here is the website for an article giving the scientificallly based research, "Bounce Fabric Softener Dryer Sheets Repel Fungus Gnat".

<https://sharepoint.cahnrs.wsu.edu/blogs/urbanhort/Media/1830.pdf>



BCMGA 2011 Officers and Board Members

President - Zoe Bolton; zbolton@gmail.com or 264-1210

Vice President - Mikey Haven; jake4u@frontier.com or 610-4829

Secretary - Lynn Pietz; lynnpietz@hotmail.com or 265-3563

Treasurer - Penny Barton; one-cent@gotsky.com 265-9733

Board Members:

Jay Baker; cjbaker@gotsky.com or 263-3026

Stan Miller; cadmanmiller@yahoo.com or 255-4935

Toni North; toni83801@gmail.com, or 561-1015

Becky Reynolds; rplace@directv.net or 264-3214

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Valerie.ripley@gmail.com or 304-8947

2nd Alternate Janice Clark; jclark@blackfoot.net or (406)847-2482

BCMGA Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Chair(s)	Notes
Beautification Community Service Project Committee Meeting	1/22/11	Zoe Bolton – see above	Extension Office 1pm
Continuing Ed Class – Teaching How to Teach – Part Two (repeated)	1/22/11	Janae Dale – see above	Extension Office 9:30am
Membership Meeting	2/2/11	Zoe Bolton – see above	Extension Office 9am
Continuing Ed Class – Using Grow Lights	2/26/11	Janae Dale – see above	Extension Office 6pm
Membership Meeting	3/2/11	Zoe Bolton – see above	Extension Office 9am
Membership Meeting	4/6/11	Zoe Bolton – see above	Extension Office 9am
Home and Garden Show	Apr 9 th -10 th	Ellie Lizotte; hopeellie@aol.com or 264-5462	Bonner County Fair Grounds

BCMG Membership Meeting Jan. 5, 2011

Present: Becky Reynolds, Julie Woods, Jon Bair, Penny Barton, Kit Cooley, Jay Baker, Bob Blair, Ann Warwick, Gail Swan, Toni North, Janae Dale, Zoe Bolton, Mikey Haven, Valerie Ripley, Lynn Pietz

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by President Zoe Bolton.

Treasurer's report: \$4,374.02

Committee Reports:

Mentor Program, Lynn Pietz, chair. The group met Dec. 18 and discussed possible projects for the group in 2011. Among these are: field trips in the local vicinity; creating small interest groups; developing a list of people interested in being consulted in a field of expertise by other MGs; support for school gardens and a school gardening booth at the fair. The name "Mentor Group" will remain their identification. A January meeting will be scheduled.

Continuing Education, Janae Dale, chair. There will be two classes in January, "Teaching How to Teach" part one and part two. Each will be presented twice to accommodate different schedules. The group is currently creating a schedule of classes for this spring, possibly involving insect ID and control, grafting, plant ID, garden design and other topics. Preference for the classes should be for those who have not taken a specific class before. It was suggested that the group ask the membership what classes they would like, and what would be their best days to come.

Home Hort Classes, Don Childress, chair. The group is compiling a list of classes and locating people to teach them. A schedule will be coming out soon. Possible classes could be: xeriscaping, pruning, berries, small orchards, basic gardening, seed saving and irrigation for gardening.

A discussion ensued about the best way to publicize the classes. It appears that most people find information about home hort classes through the Bonner Bee newspaper. People could be told to get registration forms from the Extension Office, or check online for forms. It was suggested that people who have previously attended home hort classes could be notified through email of upcoming classes. A question arose as to whether this conflicts legally with people's privacy; businesses cannot use email to solicit business, although ours is a nonprofit. This will be researched.

U of I Extension Report, Mike Bauer, Horticulture Educator. Mike was not available for a report.

Old Business: A concern continues about attrition in the MG group; we need to keep people involved. It was suggested that the Mentor Group work to bridge the gap to help the 2010 class feel more comfortable in the Plant Clinic.

New Business: Goals for the year 2011. Ideas included:

1. MGs should wear their badges to meetings. Associate members should not wear their badges because they are not considered representatives of the University of Idaho. It was suggested that separate badges be created for associate members.
2. MGs should purchase our own media equipment so that we will not have to depend on U of I. Of particular interest is a projector to connect a laptop (in the past we have rented one for \$30 from the Chamber of Commerce). It was pointed out that before we purchase a projector we should make sure it is compatible with our laptop.
3. Education:
 - It was suggested that MGs increase our participation in the School Garden Program, and research how we could support the Community Garden. Lynn Pietz will discuss the Community Garden with its chairman.
 - MGs should do more public speaking at schools and in public.
 - For the Home and Garden Show we should recruit children who are involved with the School Gardening Program to give talks in our booth.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

