University of Idaho Extension – Canyon County

Beginning Master Gardener Program

The University of Idaho Extension's Master Gardener Program gives gardeners an opportunity to improve their horticultural knowledge and skills and serve their communities. "Helping people grow" is the motto of the program, and it is designed to meet the gardening information needs of the community. Aspiring Master Gardeners receive basic horticultural training on a variety of topics, and give back to their community through various kinds of service. ***They also have a lot of fun!***

2012 PROGRAM DETAILS

- Classes will be held January 11 – May 2, Wed. mornings 9 am – 12:00, *unless specified.*
- We will meet at the Canyon County Extension Office, 501 Main Street, Caldwell, *unless specified*.
- A Pruning Field Trip will be scheduled outside of class time.
- A Field trip to the Idaho Botanical Garden will be scheduled for one of our last class meetings.
- Your course materials fee is $115 and includes your textbook, handouts & field trips
- You may earn University of Idaho CEU credits (8.5) for an $25 due on the first day of class. Academic credits from University of Idaho may be arranged for additional fees.

Course Instructor(s):

Ariel Agenbroad, Extension Educator, is your primary instructor and course coordinator. Office phone number: 208-459-6003 Cell phone number: 208-899-6727 Email: ariel@uidaho.edu

Ariel will be available most Wednesdays after class, from 12 noon to 1 pm. All class participants and guest speakers are invited to bring their lunches and use the time to get to know each other, ask questions and explore topics of interest. ***Instructor(s) will not be available for questions before class***. ***Please call or email if you need to schedule a time to visit and can't stay for the lunch hour.***

Course sections will also be taught by invited University of Idaho faculty, horticulture professionals and certified Master Gardener Volunteers.

Our **chief advisor** is retired instructor Ron Galloway, who can be reached at 208-602-0213 or janetg4@earthlink.net . Ron will be your contact for the Nampa Farmers' Market and Home Show.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

- High quality, university level instruction in home horticulture topics appropriate for Idaho.
- A professional, inclusive, and welcoming environment for **all learners**.
- Respect for your valuable time. We will do our best to start and end class on time.
- Timely communication via email or telephone if there are any changes to the schedule.
- One-on-one mentoring/tutoring throughout the certification process.
- Flexibility! We understand that adult learners lead busy lives.

WHAT WE'LL EXPECT FROM YOU

- Learners who take responsibility for their own success in the program and complete the minimum requirements.
- Communication from you if you have special needs.
- Class members who abide by the University of Idaho policies of diversity and non-discrimination.
- Class members who maintain a positive learning environment for everyone.
- Learners who respect *our* valuable time. Please let us know if you'll be coming late or leaving early.
- **CLASS MEMBERS WHO KEEP THEIR CELL PHONES QUIET DURING CLASS.**
- Class members who pitch in and help with set up, take down, refreshments and other classroom tasks. You'll even earn volunteer hours for doing so!

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Attendance:
Attendance is expected for all classes and scheduled field trips unless otherwise arranged. Participants are responsible for arranging for missed notes or handouts if absent.

Reading Assignments:
Weekly reading assignments will include chapters in *The Idaho Master Gardener Program Handbook,* University of Idaho and supplemental materials handed out in class. Reading assignments may also include sections of the Idaho Extension Landscapes and Gardens Site: http://extension.uidaho.edu/idahogardens/.

Field Trip(s): We believe there is great value in direct, hands-on experience. We will schedule at least 2 field trips during this course. We will give you plenty of time to prepare for the field trips.

Poster Display: Each participant will be provided with a blank 3-fold poster display or poster board during the early weeks of class. Participants will **choose a topic in the beginning of**

the course and develop an educational poster on this topic. We will provide lists of commonly encountered problems in Canyon County, but participants may choose their own topic as well. **Posters will be due and displayed by end of class.** Your poster will also travel with you to at least one outreach event such as a Master Gardener Open House, Farmers' Market booth or the Canyon County Fair.

Final Exam: All participants will be given an **open-book final exam due by end of class.** This will be handed out mid-course. You will be provided with the assistance and additional resources to complete this document successfully.

Volunteer Service/Hands-on Learning: Each participant will be expected to complete **30 hours** of volunteer service learning through University of Idaho Extension and on approved community projects by October 31, 2012. ***The majority of your time will be spent on designated activities, but you will have some choice in how you earn your hours.***

Service-learning opportunity	Dates	Minimum hours required	Description of opportunity	Example Total Hours
Help with MG Information booth at Nampa Home and Garden Show	Feb. 11-13 2011	One 2-hour shift required (at least 2 hours)	Meeting the public, sharing information about the Master Gardener Program, helping with a youth activity, answering questions with advisors and Advanced Master Gardeners.	2
Plant Clinic Shifts at the Extension Office in Caldwell	M,W, F April to October	Five 3-hour shifts required (at least 15 hours)	Teams of 2-3 volunteers solve home gardening questions at the Extension office in person or by phone or email with help from the Extension Educator and Advanced Master Gardeners.	15
Master Gardener Farmers' Market (Caldwell TBD)	Saturdays, April-October	One 5-hour shift required (at least 5 hours*) *If set up and take down are quick, you will be there less time but may claim the full 5 hours.	Help Ron Galloway set up, staff, and take down a weekly MG booth at the Nampa Farmer's Market! Share your poster presentation, talk to the public, and promote our program. You'll get to shop the market, too, enjoy great live music, and meet our local growers and former MG alumni, too!	5
Various	April – October	Up to 8 hours (optional)	Your choice! Volunteering with a school or community garden, teaching, assisting with Extension horticulture programs and youth activities, helping out in MG class, attending educational events or tours. Just ask!	8
			Certification requirements met!	**30**

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