

IMPACT

University of Idaho
Extension

Boundary County, 208.267.3235, Fax: 208.267.3056
6447 Kootenai Street, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

Master Gardener activities increase class participants and volunteers

The Situation

The Boundary County Master Gardener Program has served as an educational and volunteer organization. The program had a good core set of volunteers, but would benefit from more volunteers. The training had been held every other year and usually had just 10 students per class. In 2009 a training class was held and the volunteers primarily volunteered in the Plant Clinic answering questions and at a fair booth at the county fair.

The goal was to increase class size and offer it every year if there is enough interest. With more trained volunteers, the program could expand their volunteer efforts in the county.

Our Response

Advertising efforts were increased for the Boundary County Master Gardener Program throughout the county. Community presence of the volunteers was expanded to include a monthly booth at the Bonners Ferry Farmers Market.

Program Outcomes

With increased advertising in 2009, there was enough interest to hold another class in 2010. This class had the 10 students in the class. Six of those participants completed the volunteer hours to become certified Master Gardeners. That increased the number of active volunteers to 16. These volunteers were able to reach a broader audience with the booth at the local farmers market from 2010 to 2012. The volunteers distributed educational information on gardening and information about the program itself.

Again in 2011, there was enough interest to hold a training class. This time there were 20 students in the class with 10 of them complete the full volunteer requirements to become certified. There were 26 total



Master Gardener booth at the Bonners Ferry Farmers Market.
Photo: Jennifer Jensen

volunteers. In 2012 there was not enough interested to hold a training class, but by 2013 there were 17 class participants.

Increased volunteers meant that there were more community outreach opportunities at other fairs and more programs for kids such as education programs at the 4-H Friday Friends afterschool program, and a Junior Master Gardener program for one summer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jennifer Jensen, Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension, Boundary County
PO Box 267
6447 Kootenai Street
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
Phone: 208.267.3235
Fax: 208.267.3056
E-mail: jenjensen@uidaho.edu

12-13jjensen-gardener.pub
8/13