

WILDFLOWER WALKS

Each spring Sun Valley wildflowers paint the valley floor and hillsides with vibrant colors and textures. Join the Sawtooth Botanical Garden and other wildflower and native plant enthusiasts to learn more about what you marvel. These easy to moderate difficulty hikes tour popular spots that are packed with a variety of plants each week. Walks take place both during the day and the evening to accommodate all schedules. Please refer to the calendar of events or the website for details.



Camas Prairie Wildflowers & Sandhill Farm Tour Saturday, May 16

Visit the sea of blue flowers at the Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh with wildflower expert Carol Blackburn. The area is also well known for spotting wading birds. Then visit the off-the-grid home and organic farm at Bill and Faus Corlett's Sandhill Farm where three forms of alternative energy are used. Participants meet at the SBG at 9 am and caravan to Fairfield for the day. Organic lunch prepared by Faus, a real chef, will be served. Registration is limited and does fill up quickly. Please call 726-9358 to reserve your spot today.



SAWTOOTH BOTANICAL GARDEN
Celebrating Plants ~ Inspiring People
P.O. BOX 928 - SUN VALLEY, IDAHO 83353
WWW.SBGARDEN.ORG

Non-Profit
Organization
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Sun Valley, ID 83353
Permit #105

Please keep the Sawtooth Botanical Garden on your philanthropic priority list.
We need your continued support.

SAWTOOTH BOTANICAL GARDEN SUNFLOWER

Volume 16, No. 1

Celebrating Plants . Inspiring People

Spring 2009

Save the Date, Sunday, April 26, 1 - 4 pm The 7th Annual Bug Zoo Festival. Bugs of the World

Each year, the Bug Zoo Festival kicks off the two week Bug Zoo showcasing insects and spiders from around the world to educate and inspire our youth. The Festival is a not-to-miss community event celebrating opening day with several buggy games and crafts for children of all ages. Last year the exhibit welcomed 1,300 school children and families and this year we expect that number to grow due to the increased popularity of the event. Where else can you see a Mexican Red-Knee Tarantula and an Australian leaf insect on the same day with no frequent flier miles required?

During the two weeks following the Festival, the exhibit is open to the public free of charge on weekdays from 2:30 - 5:00 pm and on weekends from 10 am - 4 pm. Preschool and elementary teachers schedule staff-lead field trips during the day. Educators love the opportunity to bring their students free of charge to the Bug Zoo, often blending the experience with their classroom science curriculum.

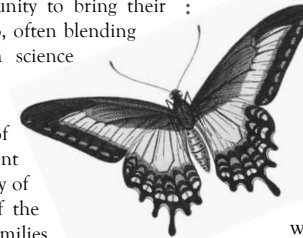
The best part of the Bug Zoo is that it is open to the public and is FREE of charge. In order for us to keep this event free of charge, we rely on the generosity of our members, families and friends of the Sawtooth Botanical Garden. We offer families and individuals the opportunity to sponsor a bug or an exhibit. For more information on how you can donate call the Sawtooth Botanical Garden at 726-9358. See you at the Zoo!



We would like to give a special thank you to the 4-H teen leadership group ENTHUSE. The young ladies in ENTHUSE volunteer each year at the Bug Zoo Festival leading games and crafts. They also host Get Buggy Night (Friday, May 8, 2009), a chance for parents to have a night out alone and children to enjoy private access to the Zoo. Children enjoy games, crafts, dinner, and a movie. This inexpensive evening (\$25 for the entire evening, 5:30 - 10 pm) supports the efforts of ENTHUSE and the Bug Zoo.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The SBG is not unlike any other business or nonprofit in this new economic climate. 2009 will challenge our organization. It is the time to focus on our mission, maximize our internal efficiencies and work with our volunteer core to help us achieve our goals. We will continue to provide the programs and events that the community has come to embrace over the past 15 years. Especially during these times we encourage everyone to remember that our gardens and programs inspire people, lift the human spirit and get people physically and spiritually back in touch with nature. But to continue meeting the community's needs in the face of challenge we need your help. Please call us to find out how you can donate or volunteer today and make a difference at the SBG for generations to come. Thank you! Jennifer Colson



THE SAWTOOTH BOTANICAL GARDEN CELEBRATES THE UNIQUE BEAUTY AND DIVERSE PLANT LIFE OF OUR REGION. OUR MISSION IS TO EDUCATE AND INSPIRE PEOPLE TO APPRECIATE AND LIVE IN BALANCE WITH THE NATURAL WORLD.

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PRODUCING PRODUCE:

A VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS

Growing your own produce provides you and your family an affordable, healthy and organic means to enjoy a variety of seasonal vegetables. Vegetable gardening is easy and we can show you how. Led by Jud McMahan, owner of Wood River Organics, during this two hour class you will learn from local experts how to choose suitable vegetables for our climate, begin starts indoors, prepare your soil, and tricks to extend your growing season. Seeds will be available for purchase.

Thursday, April 9th. 5:30 - 7:30pm.
 \$10M \$12 NM



Community Allotment Gardens

The SBG is pleased to offer Community Garden Beds for the 2009 gardening season. Do you have the space, healthy soil, and irrigation it takes to grow your own vegetables and flowers at home? If not, consider taking advantage of this great opportunity to enjoy the season, experiment with unique varieties of produce and cut flowers, and enjoy the fruits of your labor. All of our raised beds are 4 x 25 ft and have a drip irrigation system so the watering is automatically done for you. We even have wheelbarrows, shovels, and trowels for use. Planting season will be here soon - don't delay. Lease fees are only \$75 per season. For more information and to reserve your plot today, please call us at 726-9358.

We would like to encourage all gardeners to Grow a Row for the hungry this summer. Planting an extra row of fresh produce in your garden could help feed a family in need. Please contact the Blaine County Hunger Coalition for more information on how you can help 788-0212.

WATER CONSERVATION IN THE LANDSCAPE

As we plan ahead for the growing season water is a top priority, especially in the arid west. Water-wise Tips: 1. Install a drip irrigation system watering only at night when evaporation is at its lowest. 2. Group plants according to their water needs to better allocate your water resource. 3. Plant water-wise plants. Need ideas? Visit the Sawtooth Botanical Garden's Xeriscape Home Demonstration Garden next to the Caretaker's Cottage or visit our website's plant database where you can search for drought tolerant plants and find out specific culture information. 4. Build up your soil. Healthy soil creates more efficient water usage. 5. Contact the Wood River Land Trust to certify your landscape "Trout Friendly" www.troutfriendly.org.

OUR TEAM A great number of new talents have joined our team at the Garden. On staff we welcomed two new people this winter, Molly! (yes, with an exclamation point) Goodyear as the new part time Membership and Volunteer Coordinator and Heather Lyons in the Youth Garden Educator role in partnership with AmeriCorps. The Board of Trustees was also delighted to welcome six new directors: Claudia Aulum, Rabbi Barnett Brickner, Veronica Bye, Bobbie Dahl, Dayle Fowler and Marion Monsen. If you know any of these individuals, you know how thrilled we are to have them on our team. We were also grateful to invite past Board Chairs Doris Roemer-Moress and Keith Pangborn to the Advisory Council. What a fantastic combination of experience and passion!

KIDS SUMMER FUN

"Where but in a garden do summer hours pass so quickly?" ... Anonymous

Where better than the Sawtooth Botanical Garden to bring your kids or grand kids during those glorious summer days. The Garden is excited to announce an expansion of our summer programming by offering a new day camp series. These camps for both preschool and elementary school aged children will meet twice a week for three weeks during each of the summer months. Plant life cycles is the theme for June, local ecology is really cool in July and the most popular topic, edible gardening, is saved for August. In addition, once a month we will offer a program for young adults (11-13) and evening events for the entire family. Registration begins soon, so be on the lookout for our summer schedule!

DISCOVERY CORNER

The Children's Discovery Corner, located in the Visitor and Education Center of the Sawtooth Botanical Garden, is an excellent resource for kids ages 2-7+ to learn about the natural world. The Discovery Corner offers self-guided activities for families which combine reading, natural exploration and crafts. This spring, things will get even more interesting when we unveil our new programs. Over the course of the year we will feature activities in the Discovery Corner that focus on the five major biomes of South Central Idaho. Up first - Lava Rocks! - why visit Hawaii when there are lava flows just a stones throw away?



Win a ticket to the Garden Tour!

Our annual Membership Drive is now underway. This year more than ever we need your help to continue to maintain the gardens, outreach programs and member benefits that make this Garden a unique asset to our community. Here's what you can do to help make our Membership Drive a success:

1. **Ask a friend to join.** For every member who refers a friend who then joins the garden, you will receive a complimentary ticket to The Garden Tour held July 11, 2009.
2. **Bring a friend to the Garden** so we can show them exactly what we're all about.
3. **Tell your friends about our Member/Business Partner program.** Exclusive to members, this program offers significant savings on retail purchase at local businesses. (Listed on www.sbgarden.org)

Family Gardening Day

Join the Board and staff of the Botanical Garden on Saturday, May 9th for Family Gardening Day! We're cleaning up the garden and working on special projects to get it ready for summer and we need your help. Bring the family (no dogs, please), your own gloves and tools and a willingness to get a little dirty and have a lot of fun. Afterwards we'll enjoy a potluck barbecue. Call or email Molly! at molly@sbgarden.org for more information. *Parents have identified that one major benefit of volunteering as a family is their leaving a legacy and the instillation of values in their children. Did you know that volunteering youths have experienced more psychological, social and intellectual growth than those who don't volunteer?*

GOOD NEWS FOR YOU AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Sunflower is available online at www.sbgarden.org. Help us save natural resources and the dollars associated with printing and mailing costly newsletters by viewing our quarterly newsletter online. Plus the new e-newsletter of the SBG is emailed monthly providing you with the most up to date information on all of our programs and events.

Please email molly@sbgarden.org with your email address indicating your interest in keeping your membership dollars in the Garden and not in mailboxes.

All members will receive the printed newsletter until the Summer of 2009 at which time it will be available online. If you still wish to receive the Sunflower in print please let us know by calling 726-9358.

