

Aug. 30, 2007

## **First Lady Helps Kids Grow: Lori Otter Reads to Kids**

BOISE, Idaho – Books, brains and beauty are all part of “Literature in the Garden,” a University of Idaho Extension and Idaho Botanical Garden event aimed at inspiring youth through outdoor activities and ecology-themed stories. Idaho’s First Lady Lori Otter and others will read stories from award-winning gardening books for youth to an audience of approximately 200 children and their parents on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the IBG. The third annual event is open to the public with admission ticket to the IBG.

“This event inspires learning through fun outside activities, creative expression and open exploration, all in a beautiful garden setting,” said Kevin Laughlin, University of Idaho Extension Junior Master Gardener coordinator. “First Lady Lori Otter is an educator who is interested in enhancing the future of our children, so it’s a natural fit for her to be a part of this learning program, and we’re proud that she’ll be reading to the children.”

Junior Master Gardener is a University of Idaho 4-H program that offers lively activities to teach horticulture and environmental science concepts to youth. More than 18,000 youth and 600 adults have been participated in the program since its 2002 inception.

After the “Literature in the Garden” reading, families can visit garden book stations, participate in hands-on activities and enjoy refreshments in the garden. Regular garden admission for non-members is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for children ages 6 to 12 years; admission is free for garden members. The first 50 non-member children will receive free entrance to the event. IBG is located at 2355 North Penitentiary Road in Boise.

For more information on JMG, visit [www.jmgkids.us](http://www.jmgkids.us).

###

### **About the University of Idaho**

Founded in 1889, the University of Idaho is the state’s flagship higher-education institution and its principal graduate education and research university, bringing insight and innovation to the state, the nation and the world. University researchers attract more than \$100 million in research grants and contracts each year; the University of Idaho is the only institution in the state to earn the prestigious Carnegie Foundation ranking for high research activity. The university’s student population includes first-generation college students and ethnically diverse scholars. Offering more than 150 degree options in 10 colleges, the university combines the strengths of a large university with the intimacy of small learning communities. For information, visit [www.uidaho.edu](http://www.uidaho.edu).

SS-8/30/07–Extension

Sydney Sallabanks, University of Idaho Communications (208) 364-9916, [sydneys@uidaho.edu](mailto:sydneys@uidaho.edu)