

In The Dirt

September 2023

Hello Master Gardeners and Community Garden Members!

The next MG meeting will be at Sandi Aberle's house, 339 Overdale Drive. Please bring a chair to the meeting.

Many of you volunteered to have a booth at the Herb Festival and it was a great success! For many of us (myself included), this was our 1st Herb Festival. There were many booths and a wide range of topics, something for everyone! Thank you Shannon and Herb Festival Committee for planning and hosting a fun event!

We are entering our planning phase for 2024. Many committees will be meeting in the next 2 months to get our ideas and thoughts together and plans finalized. I challenge you to join a committee that you have not been involved with before. Every time I visit with many of you, I learn something. You all have a lot of knowledge and joining a committee is a great way to learn more!

I am planning on having a Master Gardener class again after the new year. I do not have dates yet, if any of you would like to teach a class or help on a class just let me know. Half of the classes in 2022 were virtual, due to weather and teachers not wanting to travel. I am also working with Micah Most in Johnson County, we might try to collaborate on the classes too. The classes taught are: Introduction and Information about the MG Program and Botany, Vegetables, Turf, Composting and Vermicomposting, Woody Plants and Pruning, Weeds and Pesticides, Fruit Trees and Berry Crops, Landscape Design, Soils, Pathology, and Entomology.

Feel free to reach out to me anytime.

Mandy Reynolds
Horticulture Program Coordinator

Dates to Remember

- September 4th:** Extension Office closed for Labor Day.
- September 6th:** All Community Gardens Harvest Dinner, 6pm in the Cottonwood Room.
- September 7th:** Grape Vine Pruning at the Urban Orchard at 6pm, bring your pruners.
- September 11th:** MG Steering Meeting, 5:15pm at Sandi Aberle's 339 Overdale Drive, bring a chair.
- September 11th:** MG General Meeting, 6pm at Sandi Aberle's 339 Overdale Drive, bring a chair.
- September 13th:** Pollinator Count at the Urban Orchard 12:15pm.
- September 14th:** MG GLEE Inside Gardening and Hydroponics 6pm at the Gillette Public Library, Pioneer Rooms.
- September 19th:** MG GLEE Inside Gardening and Hydroponics 6pm at the Wright Branch Library.
- October date to be determined:** MG GLEE Pumpkin and Succulent Class.

Websites!

- ♦ www.darwinperennials.com/
- ♦ www.wyoweed.org/
- ♦ www.farmersalmanac.com
- ♦ www.awaytogarden.com/

CCMG YouTube has been updated!

Campbell County Master Gardeners Steering Committee Meeting

August 7, 2023

Cathy Crain's home – Gillette WY

The August Steering Committee Meeting was called to order by President Rick Kistler, at 5:18pm. A quorum was established. Thank you, Cathy, for hosting us in your beautiful backyard!

Attending the meeting were Rich Kistler, Cathy Crain, Suzy Blakesley, Marita Roussey, Mandy Reynolds, Sandi Aberle, Katie Hudson, and Shannon Hudson.

The agenda was reviewed:

Cathy Crain gave the Treasurer's report. Looking at the budget, we could possibly put some of our funds in a CD. To be able to cover our budget, we need to keep about 20K in the account. Thus far the CD Committee has not met yet.

Rich is hoping Janet will be at the meeting to give a report on fair.

Rich has been calling newer members of the CCMG. People are receiving the emails but are not reading them. We may want to look at sending a text, do Remind, or something similar. For some of the new ones, it is hard the moms with children to get to the meetings. We may need to do activities or learning classes for ourselves. We really need something interactive. He invited those he talked with to the meeting tonight. We could perhaps do something fun in October. Some options are making small worm boxes or do something with amaryllises. If we choose to do something with the amaryllises, we could do a craft with the pot and then plant the amaryllis. We could also do a plant cutting trade, where we also talk about the plant and its characteristics. This will be further discussed at the September meeting.

Shannon will speak briefly on the Herb Festival at the regular meeting. There will also be a quick meeting after the meeting to make sure everyone is set.

Pollinator Count is Wednesday. We definitely need more people to come if they can!

For the September meeting, we will plan on having it at Sandi Aberle's home. The Cottonwood Room at the GAMB is reserved for our use if weather does not cooperate.

Our September GLEE is on hydroponics. We could have Sandi speak or possibly others. There is an individual that does hydroponics who may be willing to speak, as well as possibly being interested in the Master Gardeners. Rich will reach out to her tomorrow. We could also ask Nate from Rayne's Garden to talk about Indoor Gardening and lighting needs.

We will have our Awards Banquet in January.

The Education Committee needs to meet in the near future and plan early, scheduling the classes so that we can get cards made.

The Nomination Committee needs to start thinking of those who might want the positions. We will be voting at the November meeting.

We may want to budget hoops and netting for the trees at the Urban Orchard. This may get backlash from the public, but it would also ensure the public being able to hopefully pick fruit.

Mandy then spoke (welcome back Mandy!) about wanting a head count for the pollinator count. She also made a beautiful seed library brochure, as well as an updated Urban Orchard map. Since she was unable to go on her state trip, she took those funds and bought seeds from Johnny's and Menards. Tracey has a lot of the seeds ready to pick up and put in envelopes. It is a mixture of herbs, microgreens, vegetables, flowers, etc. We will be handing out small packets of butterfly and hummingbird flower seeds at the Herb Festival. She also let us know that Chris Hilgert has moved to Colorado.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

Campbell County Master Gardeners Regular Meeting

August 7, 2023

Cathy Crain's home – Gillette WY

The August Master Gardener Meeting was called to order by President Rich Kistler at 1805. A quorum was established. Thank you, Cathy, for hosting us in your beautiful backyard! Introductions were made as well as telling about something exciting. Jody gave a helpful tip of if leaves have powdery mildew, take off the leaves and throw them in the trash opposed to compost. Sandi also gave a helpful tip of popping plants out of their containers before buying them from a greenhouse to check for earwigs and slugs.

Attending the meeting were Rich Kistler, Jody Kruse, Sandi Aberle, Katie Hudson, Mandy Reynolds, Marita Rousey, Suzy Blakesley, Cathy Crain, Ned Stroup, Shawna Stephens, Heather Kleiner, Audrey Mertz, Patsy Larson, Sandra Hunter, and Shannon Hudson.

The minutes from July were reviewed. Sandra Hunter made a motion to pass the minutes as written and Shawna seconded it. Motion carried.

Cathy gave the Treasurer's Report. The CD Committee meeting will be meeting soon but there is enough in the account with reflecting on the rest of the budget for the year, that we could indeed put money in a CD.

There was not as much entered into the Campbell County Fair this year. Hail, rain, and cooler temperatures really affected the gardens. There were no giant tomatoes, but there was a really nice cabbage. In early June 2024, we may need to have a class on presenting vegetables at fair.

Rich has been calling members. A lot are receiving the emails but not reading them. We may want to go to Remind. In October we should do a fun activity. We will invite old and new members. Everyone try to bring an idea to the September meeting and we will decide on something then. We could possibly plant amaryllises.

The Herb Festival is quickly approaching! It is August 12th from 9 to 12. While the Hudson children plan to be there at 7 to start setting up, everyone manning a booth is asked to be there by 0730 to help. The "booths" will consist of hygiene, culinary, crafts, landscaping and companion planting, and preserving, as well as a tour of the Urban Orchard and Perennial beds. There is a meeting after this meeting for all interested in helping! It has been boosted on Facebook, and we are hoping for 50 to 75 people to be there!

Pollinator count is this Wednesday, August 9th at 1215, at the Urban Orchard. We could really use some help counting the pollinators.

For the September meeting, we will plan on having it at Sandi Aberle's home. The Cottonwood Room at the GAMB is reserved for our use if weather does not cooperate.

Our September GLEE is on hydroponics and indoor gardening. The Gillette class will be held in the Pioneer Rooms of the library on September 14th, and then in the Wright library on September 19th.

The Education Committee needs to meet and decide on classes for next year.

The Nomination Committee needs to start thinking of those who might want the positions. We will be voting at the November meeting.

Mandy then spoke on how she updated seed library brochures, as well as updating the Urban Orchard maps. We will be giving seed packets away at the Herb Festival of butterfly and hummingbird garden seeds. Since she was unable to go on her state trip, she took those funds and bought seeds from Johnny's and Menards. Tracey has eleven bags of the seeds ready to pick up and put in envelopes for the seed library. It is a mixture of herbs, micro-greens, vegetables, flowers, etc. Also, Mandy needs bugs for a future entomology class she is planning to teach.

As a thank you, Mandy was gifted a gift card from all the Master Gardeners for all of her hard work. She was also given the cards for Tracey and Treasure. We could not do what we do without the work of these three incredible ladies!

A couple Master Gardeners brought items to share – Jody brought a box of plant hooks, and Sandi brought rhubarb seeds. Sandi also educated us on the differences between growing here in Wyoming versus Arizona.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm.

85 people attended the Herb Festival!

The official attendance count at the Herb Festival was 85 people that came by the entrance tent. We know that we missed some others that walked into the festival from a different part of the park. It was well attended and the weather was perfect! Kudos to Shannon Hudson and the Herb Festival Committee for planning an awesome learning event!

Start thinking about your role as a leader!

Officer Elections happen at the November MG Meeting. Please consider running for a position! This is a great way to learn more about the business side of the group and help to make decisions for 2024. Reach out to the current Nominating committee and Mandy to ask questions!

2023 Committees

Advertising/ FaceBook

Bill Brown
Rich Kistler
Mary Schoen
Kathryne Schwartz
Nikole Schroeder

Awards/Banquet

Linette West, Chair
Katie Hudson
Shannon Hudson
Heather Kleiner
Teresa Norton
Katie Schwartz
Suzy Blakesley
Rich Kistler
Audrey Mertz

Education

Sandi Aberle, Chair
Mary Schoen, Chair
Bill Brown
Cathy Crain
Shannon Hudson
Rich Kistler
Sharon Murphree
Nikole Schroeder
Carol Palmer

Garden Walk

Rich Kistler, Chair
Sandi Aberle
Bill Brown
Shannon Hudson
Sandra Hunter
Heather Kleiner
Linette West
Sharon Murphree
Cathy Crain
Suzy Blakesley
Kathryne Schwartz
Fawn Conrad
Jody Kruse
Marita Roussey
Carol Palmer

Nominating

Sandi Aberle
Cathy Crain
Rich Kistler
Shannon Hudson
Diane Monahan
Mary Schoen

Tree Sale

Teresa Norton, Chair
Bill Brown
Cathy Crain
Shannon Hudson
Faye Jorgenson
Jody Kruse
Monika Yount
Janet Thompson
Mary Schoen
Patsy Larson
Suzy Blakesley
Holly Galloway
Fawn Conrad
Synneva Richardson
Ned Stroup
Marita Roussey

Urban Orchard - Pollinator Count/ Herb & Perennial Bed/ Herb Festival/ Seed Library

Shannon Hudson, Chair all four
Sandi Aberle
Suzy Blakesley, Pollinator Count, H&P Bed, Herb Fest.
Cathy Crain- all
Sandra Hunter- H & P Bed, Herb Fest.
Heather Kleiner-H & P Bed, Herb Fest.
Jody Kruse-H & P Bed, Herb Fest., Seed Library
Patsy Larson
Kathryne Schwartz
Linette West- Pollinator Count, Herb Fest.
Monika Yount - all
Janet Thompson - H & P Bed, Seed Library
Sandy Johnson - H & P Bed
Marita Roussey- all
Nikole Schroeder- all



Reports from International Master Gardener Conference 2023



Climate Change

Dr. Charles Rice, a Noble Prize winner, gave a talk on the challenges of gardening in the changing climate. He discussed the increased weather events including higher temperatures, less/more rainfall including flooding. Warmer temperatures will cause earlier bud break and flowering in spring, faster plant growth, and less cold that some plants need for viability. Insects and pests will be able to live in places where previously cold kept them controlled. They will emerge earlier in spring and have more generations per year. Certain parts of the country will not have the predators that could control the new pests.

He gave climate smart gardening tips:

1. Minimal soil disturbance
2. Soil mulches
3. Winter cover crops [don't leave bare soil]
4. Plant diversity
5. Seek plants that adapt to change
6. Smart watering a. micro irrigation b. rainwater collection c. water reuse

His talk was eye opening, whether you believe that climate change is due to human causes or not it is happening at an alarming rate. Most of us have noticed weather changes, whether in our gardens or in the rainfall or lack of rain and the higher temperature. We should be adjusting on how we grow our garden.

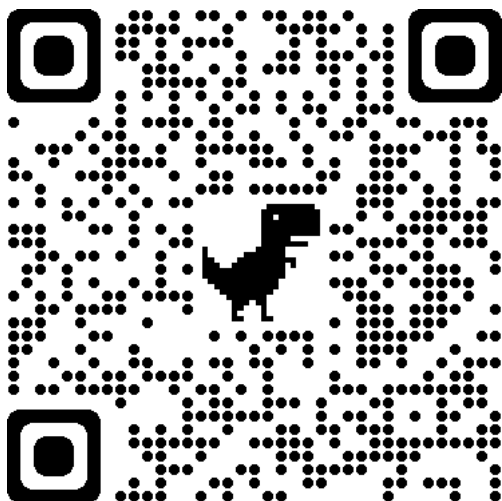
Sandra Hunter

Plant derived essential oils: are they effective against insects and mite pests?

This was a very interesting talk by Dr. Raymond Cloyd. The upshot is we don't know. Many testing studies are not required on organic products. They are often mixed with other essential oils with no clue to how it benefits the mixture and how it works. I took away from this talk to read labels and see how much essential oil is contained in the product, usually it is less than 2%. The cost of these products is usually high and the outcome for using the product has not been verified. Always read labels !!

Sandra Hunter

**Here is a quick way to report your volunteer hours! Using
your smartphone, follow the directions below.**



1. Open the camera app on your smartphone.
2. Focus the camera on the QR code, you might have to gently tap the code. You also might have move your phone around until it "picks up" the QR code.
3. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the action. It might ask if you want to open "uwyoextension.org" in Safari.
4. Tap on that link and you are to the reporting link.



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Campbell County

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In The Dirt September 2023



I HAVE A REQUEST!

IF YOU SEE AN INSECT THAT WOULD WORK GREAT FOR ENTOMOLOGY, PLEASE COLLECT IT IN A ZIPLOCK BAG AND PUT IT IN THE FREEZER. PLEASE DO NOT COLLECT LIVE POLLINATORS! OR ANY SPIDERS. CAUSE ICK!

I WILL BE TEACHING AN ENTOMOLOGY PINNING CLASS TO 4-H KIDS AND WOULD LIKE TO GET SOME INSECTS COLLECTED FROM OUR AREA. I HAVE UNTIL FEBRUARY, BUT YOU CAN BRING YOUR FROZEN PRESERVED INSECTS TO THE EXTENSION OFFICE ANYTIME. THANK YOU!

<https://wyoextension.org/campbellcounty>

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