

Rooted in Resilience

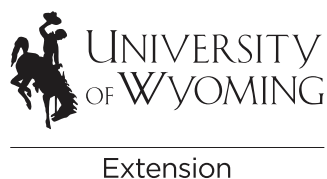
WYOMING
master
gardener
CONFERENCE 2026



Conference Program

Casper, Wyoming | October 2nd, 3rd & 4th

Agriculture Resource and Learning Center (ARLC)



WYOMING
master
gardener
CONFERENCE 2026

AGENDA

FRIDAY

9am - 12pm: Set up

10:30am - 5pm: Registration & Accept Silent Auction Items

11:30pm - 1pm: Lunch on Your Own

1pm - 3pm (No Conference Sessions):

- Wyoming State Master Gardener Meeting
- Wyoming State Master Gardener Executive Board

3pm - 4pm:

- Silent Auction Opens at 3pm
- Keynote Presentation
 - Bridging the Generation Gap - Different Birth Years, Different Stories, Same Team - Joddee Jacobsen

4:15pm - 5:30pm:

- Craft & Hors d'oeuvres - Holly Harrison

6:00pm - 8:00pm: Dinner on your Own

SATURDAY

8:00am - 9:00am: Breakfast & Welcome

9am - 9:50am:

- Diagnosing Abiotic Stress and Diseases of Trees in Wyoming - Room Casper - Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward
- Understanding Insecticides - Room Mills/Evansville - Jeff Edwards
- Edible Landscaping - Room Midwest/Edgerton - Dr. Richard Woodward
- Growing in Geodesic Domes - Room Oregon Trail - Becky Harris & Jedidiah Hewlett
- Jams & Jellies (limit 9; 9am-10:50am) - Room Foods Lab - Josh Bliss

10am - 10:50am:

- Native Plants for Wyoming - Room Casper - Jennifer Thompson
- Tools & Climate Trends in Wyoming - Room Mills/Evansville - Dr. Hannah Rodgers
- Hormones: They're Not Just for Teenagers! - Room Midwest/Edgerton - Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Moore
- Vegetable Insect Pests - Room Oregon Trail - Carol O'Meara
- Jams & Jellies continued - Room Foods Lab - Josh Bliss

11am - 11:15am: Break - Bid on the Silent Auction!

11:15am - 12:05pm:

- Vegetable Abiotic Problems - Room Casper - Dr. Tamla Blunt
- Building Healthy Soil for a Productive Garden - Room Mills/Evansville - Dr. Tanumoy Bera
- What is Horticultural Therapy? - Room Midwest/Edgerton - Holly Harrison
- Growing in Geodesic Domes - Room Oregon Trail - Becky Harris & Jedidiah Hewlett

12:15pm - 1:15pm: Lunch - Bid on the Silent Auction!

1:15pm - 2:05pm:

- Native Plants for Wyoming - Room Casper - Jennifer Thompson
- Understanding Insecticides - Room Mills/Evansville - Jeff Edwards
- Edible Landscaping - Room Midwest/Edgerton - Dr. Richard Woodward
- Interactive Soil Health Workshop - Room Oregon Trail - Dr. Hannah Rodgers
- Harvest Relish (limit 9; 1:15pm-3:05pm) - Room Foods Lab - Josh Bliss

2:15pm - 3:05pm:

- Firewise Landscaping to Protect Wyoming Homes - Room Casper - Bryan Anderson
- Building Healthy Soil for a Productive Garden - Room Mills/Evansville - Dr. Tanumoy Bera
- Vegetable Abiotic Problems - Room Midwest/Edgerton - Dr. Tamla Blunt
- Vegetable Insect Pests - Room Oregon Trail - Carol O'Meara
- Harvest Relish continued - Room Foods Lab - Josh Bliss

3:15pm - 3:30pm: Break - Bid on the Silent Auction!

3:30pm - 4:30pm:

- Diagnosing Turf problems - Room Casper - Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward
- When Ornamental Plants Become Invasive - Room Mills/Evansville - Dr. Kelsey Brock
- Hormones: They're Not Just for Teenagers! - Room Midwest/Edgerton - Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Moore
- Firewise Landscaping to Protect Wyoming Homes - Room Oregon Trail - Bryan Anderson

4:30pm - 5:00pm - Silent Auction Ends, Pick-up Your Items!

6:00pm - 9:00pm: Awards Dinner & Keynote Speaker

- How to Harvest the Best from Your Meetings - Terry Streteskey

SUNDAY

8:00am - 9:00am: Light Breakfast

9am - 10:00am:

- Diagnosing Abiotic Stress and Diseases of Trees in Wyoming - Room Casper - Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward
- Identification of Imature Insects - Room Mills/Evansville - Scott Schell
- Vermicomposting - Room Oregon Trail - Lynn Dampman

10:00am - 10:15am: Break

10:15am - 11:15am:

- Strategies for Producing Three Wyoming Native Berries - Room Casper - Dr. Richard Woodward
Reporting Dr. JJ Chen's Research
- When Ornamental Plants Become Invasive - Room Mills/Evansville - Dr. Kelsey Brock
- What is Horticultural Therapy? - Room Midwest/Edgerton - Holly Harrison

11:15am - 12:05pm:

- Diagnosing Turf problems - Room Casper - Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward
- Identification of Imature Insects - Room Mills/Evansville - Scott Schell

12:15pm - 1:15pm: Lunch

1:15pm - 2:45pm: Clean up

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

SET UP

10:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Registration & Silent Auction Items

The Wyoming State Master Gardener Association offers grants to the various Master Gardener groups across the state. That fund is supported by the silent auctions at the biennial conferences. Each time we gather for a State Conference, we ask that each Master Gardener group provides a silent auction item or two to be included. These vary from books to garden tools to baskets filled with skin care or themes that inspire gardeners from each corner of our state. We hope that you will each take a few minutes at each of our breaks to bid on the silent auction items to support the potential for grant in programs across Wyoming.

11:30 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Lunch on Your Own

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

No Conference Sessions

- Wyoming State Master Gardener Meeting
- Wyoming State Master Gardener Executive Board

3:00 P.M.

Silent Auction Opens



3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Keynote Presentation

Bridging the Generation Gap - Different Birth Years, Different Stories, Same Team

Joddee Jacobsen

We have more generations working, volunteering and living together than ever before, and sometimes it feels like we are speaking completely different languages. Sometimes one person prefers a phone call while another would rather send a text, or one person wants a meeting while another is wondering why it could not have been an email. This workshop takes a practical and lighthearted look at the generations around us and the experiences that have shaped them. We'll explore how those experiences influence the way people communicate, approach work, use technology, respond to feedback, and connect with others.

We will also talk about generational stereotypes and why it is important not to make assumptions about people based simply on when they were born. The goal is not to decide which generation has the best ideas. It is about understanding different perspectives, recognizing what each generation brings to the table, and finding better ways to communicate and work together. Through conversation and activities, participants will leave with a better understanding of generational differences and practical ideas that build stronger relationships across generations.

4:15 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

Craft & Hors d'oeuvres

Fool the Birds, Save the Strawberries!

Holly Harrison

In this session we will be turning rocks into realistic looking strawberries. These painted strawberry bird decoy rocks will fool birds from eating the strawberries in your garden. Curious birds will peck at the realistic-looking strawberries. Before long, the birds will learn that these attractive rocks are not food and will leave them alone. When the real strawberries appear in the same location, the birds don't bother to check them out.

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Dinner on Your Own

Check your Silent Auction Bids!

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Breakfast & Welcome

9:00 A.M. - 9:50 A.M.

Diagnosing Abiotic Stress and Diseases of Trees in Wyoming

Room Casper - Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward

Abiotic stress such as drought, winter desiccation, and injuries are often mistaken for plant diseases. Learn how to recognize tree problems that are due to a plant disease or are due to abiotic stress. Identification and management of plant diseases affecting evergreen and deciduous trees in Wyoming will be discussed.

Understanding Insecticides

Room Mills/Evansville - Jeff Edwards

The program will provide an understanding of insect biology and how specific insecticides act to control insects

Edible Landscaping

Room Midwest/Edgerton - Dr. Richard Woodward

Home landscaping can be more than just a sea of green meatballs. Interest in a landscape that does more than look good is increasing. Edible landscapes (foodscapes) turn patios, yards, and community spaces into attractive, productive ecosystems. This session will examine how to incorporate fruits, herbs, vegetables, flowers, and pollinator-friendly plants into your existing landscape. Did you know that the petals of Nasturtium, a beautiful flower for your garden, add a nice peppery flavor to salads?

Growing in Geodesic Domes

**Room Oregon Trail -
Becky Harris & Jedidiah Hewlett**

This will be the fourth year of growing in the single dome and the third year for the three connected domes that are located on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds. Each year we have learned just a little more about what we need to do and a whole lot more about what not to do. Because we both work for Extension, we realized some experimentation had to occur, so we will be sharing those results with you also.

Jams & Jellies

(Limit 9; 9am-10:50am)

Room Foods Lab - Josh Bliss

Harvesting fruits is always a great part of summer and fall gardening but only so much of that fruit can be eaten right away. This workshop shows you ways to preserve the fruits into jam or jelly. The class is 2 hours designed to make 3 varieties of jams/jellies so that come next harvest, you have the ability to use that fruit easily. Note: attendees will have jam/jelly to take home.

10:00 A.M. - 10:50 A.M.

Native Plants for Wyoming

Room Casper - Jennifer Thompson

With a focus on many native wildflowers we'll be discussing about some of the different environments these plants grow in our state and then cover some that you may want to try or share with your gardening community.

Tools & Climate Trends in Wyoming

Room Mills/Evansville - Dr. Hannah Rodgers

This presentation will go over several tools and resources for understanding the future of drought and other climate trends in Wyoming, including growing season length, wildfire risk, and other trends.

Hormones: They're Not Just for Teenagers!

Room Midwest/Edgerton - Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Moore

Hormones aren't just for teenagers, plants have them, too! From a seedling bending toward a sunny window to a tomato ripening on the counter, chemical signals are constantly directing plant growth and development. In this session, we'll explore the five classic plant hormones: auxins, cytokinins, gibberellins, ethylene, and abscisic acid, as well as some of the newer members of the plant hormone family. We'll connect the underlying plant physiology to familiar horticultural practices including propagation, pruning, fruit ripening, dormancy, and plant responses to environmental stress. Along the way, we'll put our Master Gardener knowledge to the test with a few "Which hormone did it?" mysteries.

Vegetable Insect Pests

Room Oregon Trail - Carol O'Meara

Learn to spot insect pests before they become a problem for the vegetable garden with ID, damage caused, and tips for control.

Jams & Jellies (continued)

(Limit 9; 9am-10:50am)

Room Foods Lab - Josh Bliss

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

11:00 A.M. - 11:15 A.M.

Break

Bid on the Silent Auction!

11:15 A.M. - 12:05 P.M.

Vegetable Abiotic Problems

Room Casper - Dr. Tamla Blunt

This presentation will discuss abiotic (non-pathogenic) issues when growing vegetables. This includes early flowering/bolting, fruit deformation, growth habit, and other issues that can be common in vegetable gardens.

Building Healthy Soil for a Productive Garden

Room Mills/Evansville - Dr. Tanumoy Bera

The presentation will include discussion on managing soil organic matter, nutrient recommendations, soil test result interpretation, and addressing other common soil-related challenges in Wyoming.

What is Horticultural Therapy?

Room Midwest/Edgerton - Holly Harrison

Horticulture Therapy provides gardening activities to help individuals with mobility, improving physical, emotional and mental well being through activities that involve working with plants from those in small containers in an apartment, office or home to working outdoor garden spaces. Join in and learn about how these activities can be included in your gardening or those you share with others.

Growing in Geodesic Domes

**Room Oregon Trail -
Becky Harris & Jedidiah Hewlett**

This will be the fourth year of growing in the single dome and the third year for the three connected domes that are located on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds. Each year we have learned just a little more about what we need to do and a whole lot more about what not to do. Because we both work for Extension, we realized some experimentation had to occur, so we will be sharing those results with you also.

12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.

Lunch

Bid on the Silent Auction!

1:15 P.M. - 2:05 P.M.

Native Plants for Wyoming

Room Casper - Jennifer Thompson

With a focus on many native wildflowers we'll be discussing about some of the different environments these plants grow in our state and then cover some that you may want to try or share with your gardening community.

Understanding Insecticides

Room Mills/Evansville - Jeff Edwards

The program will provide an understanding of insect biology and how specific insecticides act to control insects

Edible Landscaping

Room Midwest/Edgerton - Dr. Richard Woodward

Home landscaping can be more than just a sea of green meatballs. Interest in a landscape that does more than look good is increasing. Edible landscapes (foodscapes) turn patios, yards, and community spaces into attractive, productive ecosystems. This session will examine how to incorporate fruits, herbs, vegetables, flowers, and pollinator-friendly plants into your existing landscape. Did you know that the petals of Nasturtium, a beautiful flower for your garden, add a nice peppery flavor to salads?

Interactive Soil Health Workshop

Room Oregon Trail - Dr. Hannah Rodgers

The interactive soil health workshop would ask participants to bring in soil samples from their own gardens, which we would then test for soil organic matter, pH, nitrate, and texture using easily-available materials.

Harvest Relish

(Limit 9; 1:15pm-3:05m)

Room Foods Lab - Josh Bliss

The most common harvest from a garden is cucumbers or zucchini. Harvest relish is a great recipe to add flavor and a new purpose to squash that is hard to turn into one more loaf of bread. Why not make it into relish that you can put on a burger, brat, or hot dog this winter? Join this workshop to learn how to make harvest relish for next fall. Note: attendees will have a jar of harvest relish to take home.

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

2:15 P.M. - 3:05 P.M.

Firewise Landscaping to Protect Wyoming Homes

Room Casper - Bryan Anderson

Learn landscaping techniques & plant species that are firewise and least susceptible to wildfires.

Building Healthy Soil for a Productive Garden

Room Mills/Evansville - Dr. Tanumoy Bera

The presentation will include discussion on managing soil organic matter, nutrient recommendations, soil test result interpretation, and addressing other common soil-related challenges in Wyoming.

Vegetable Abiotic Problems

Room Midwest/Edgerton - Dr. Tamla Blunt

This presentation will discuss abiotic (non-pathogenic) issues when growing vegetables. This includes early flowering/bolting, fruit deformation, growth habit, and other issues that can be common in vegetable gardens.

Vegetable Insect Pests

Room Oregon Trail - Carol O'Meara

Learn to spot insect pests before they become a problem for the vegetable garden with ID, damage caused, and tips for control.

Harvest Relish (continued)

(Limit 9; 1:15pm-3:05m)

Room Foods Lab - Josh Bliss

3:15 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Break

Bid on the Silent Auction!



3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Diagnosing Turf problems

Room Casper - Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward

Multiple factors cause turf grass to brown and die out in Wyoming. This session will cover common turf diseases and abiotic (non-disease) factors that are cause turf problems.

When Ornamental Plants Become Invasive

Room Mills/Evansville - Dr. Kelsey Brock

Many of the plants we grow in our gardens stay right where we put them, but some don't. This talk explores how ornamental plants can spread beyond gardens, and in some cases become invasive species that cause ecological or economic problems.

Hormones: They're Not Just for Teenagers!

Room Midwest/Edgerton - Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Moore

Hormones aren't just for teenagers, plants have them, too! From a seedling bending toward a sunny window to a tomato ripening on the counter, chemical signals are constantly directing plant growth and development. In this session, we'll explore the five classic plant hormones: auxins, cytokinins, gibberellins, ethylene, and abscisic acid, as well as some of the newer members of the plant hormone family. We'll connect the underlying plant physiology to familiar horticultural practices including propagation, pruning, fruit ripening, dormancy, and plant responses to environmental stress. Along the way, we'll put our Master Gardener knowledge to the test with a few "Which hormone did it?" mysteries.

Firewise Landscaping to Protect Wyoming Homes

Room Oregon Trail - Bryan Anderson

Learn landscaping techniques & plant species that are firewise and least susceptible to wildfires.

4:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Silent Auction Ends

Pick-up Items!

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Awards Dinner & Keynote Speaker How to Harvest the Best from Your Meetings

Room Casper - Terry Stretesky

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Light Breakfast

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

Diagnosing Abiotic Stress and Diseases of Trees in Wyoming

Room Casper - Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward

Abiotic stress such as drought, winter desiccation, and injuries are often mistaken for plant diseases. Learn how to recognize tree problems that are due to a plant disease or are due to abiotic stress. Identification and management of plant diseases affecting evergreen and deciduous trees in Wyoming will be discussed.

Identification of Immature Insects

Room Mills/Evansville - Scott Schell

Information on the diagnostic characteristics of the immature stages of Wyoming garden and landscape pests. The ability to identify insects of all stages is important as this required for effective management of pests. Additionally, frequently the immature insects are the damaging stage gardeners have to deal with.

Vermicomposting

Room Oregon Trail - Lynn Dampman

We'll explore just how easy it is to get set up to compost with worms. There are options for the container, the location in your home, the bedding, feeding your worms and where to actually get worms. We'll also discuss the different kinds of worms.

10:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.

Break

10:15 A.M. - 11:15 A.M.

Strategies for Producing Three Wyoming Native Berries

Room Casper - Dr. Richard Woodward

Wild berries are an important component of indigenous food sovereignty. These berries provide key nutrients and antioxidants for evading nutrient deficiencies. These berries are becoming depleted in the Intermountain West. This presentation will focus on research conducted at the University of Wyoming on strategies to optimize greenhouse production of three native berries: Silverberry, Three-leaf Sumac, and Silver Buffaloberry.

When Ornamental Plants Become Invasive

Room Mills/Evansville - Dr. Kelsey Brock

Many of the plants we grow in our gardens stay right where we put them, but some don't. This talk explores how ornamental plants can spread beyond gardens, and in some cases become invasive species that cause ecological or economic problems.

What is Horticultural Therapy?

Room Midwest/Edgerton - Holly Harrison

Horticulture Therapy provides gardening activities to help individuals with mobility, improving physical, emotional and mental well being through activities that involve working with plants from those in small containers in an apartment, office or home to working outdoor garden spaces. Join in and learn about how these activities can be included in your gardening or those you share with others.



11:15 A.M. - 12:05 A.M.

Diagnosing Turf problems

Room Casper - Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward

Multiple factors cause turf grass to brown and die out in Wyoming. This session will cover common turf diseases and abiotic (non-disease) factors that are cause turf problems.

Identification of Immature Insects

Room Mills/Evansville - Scott Schell

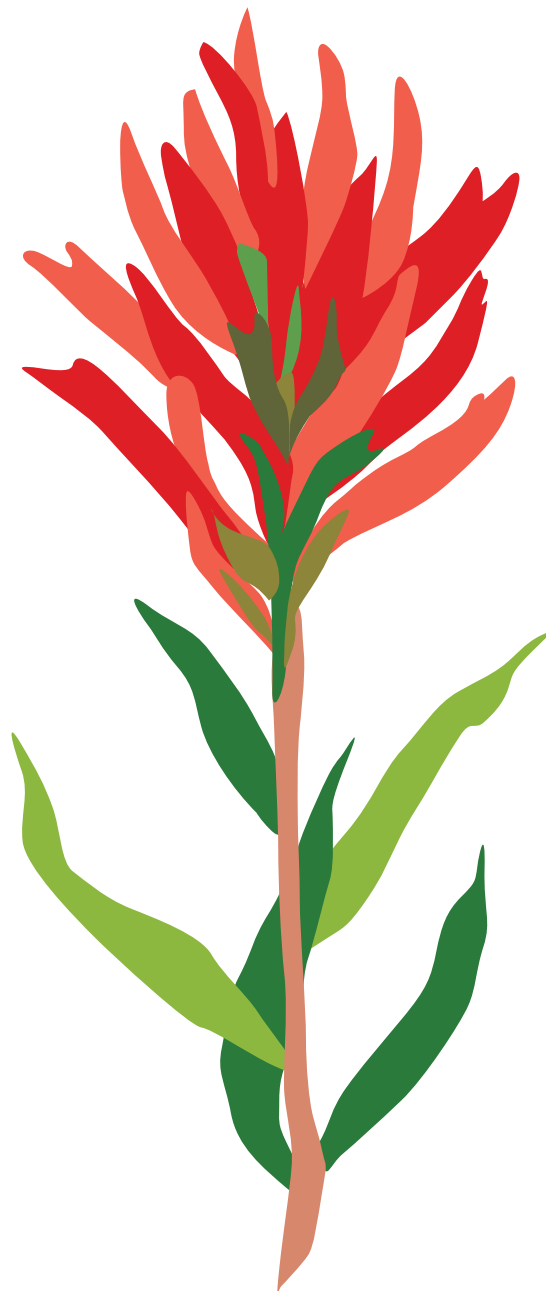
Information on the diagnostic characteristics of the immature stages of Wyoming garden and landscape pests. The ability to identify insects of all stages is important as this required for effective management of pests. Additionally, frequently the immature insects are the damaging stage gardeners have to deal with.

12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.

Lunch

1:15 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.

Clean Up



SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE CONFERENCE



Extension



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

JODDEE JACOBSEN

An Idaho native, Joddee L. Jacobsen is the University of Wyoming Community Vitality & Health (CVH) Educator for Natrona County in Casper, WY and CVH Program Leader. She holds an M.A. Education from the University of Northern Colorado and a B.A. History from Idaho State University.

She has been awarded a John P. Ellobgen grant in Youth Entrepreneurship, Wyoming Food, Fun & 4-H focusing on healthy cooking, nutrition, and bringing families together around the dinner table with collaborating UW 4-H Educators and most recently collaborating with colleagues on a new program. Ready, Set, Explore is a program designed to inspire outdoor adventures and help families connect. Awards include the Achievement in Service Award, Distinguished Service Award, and the Creative Excellence Award in UW Extension programming. She's active in her community, Casper Chamber of Commerce, the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Collaborative, Phi Delta Kappa and Epsilon Sigma Phi. For fun? World travel, good friends, good books, good music, and watching hockey!



TERRY STRETESKY

Application Specialist at Natrona County School District for over 25 years. Learning computer programs/systems and training staff. Officiated over the Wyoming State 4-H Council for 4 years. President of the Natrona County 4-H Council for 6 years and also the Natrona County 4-H Foundation for 6 years. President of the Casper Figure Skating Club. Trained Leaders and several 4-H Clubs on how to use Robert's Rules of Order. I learned Parliamentary Procedure in FFA and have used its rules ever since to run successful meetings efficiently. You will, too!



SPEAKERS

HANNAH RODGERS

Hannah Rodgers graduated from UW in 2024 with a doctorate in soil sciences. After her graduation, Rodgers worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Northern Plains Climate Hub, where she helped farmers across the Northern Plains region create economically secure, resilient agricultural systems. With the University of Wyoming extension, Rodgers works on projects that can help inform drought-adaptation and soil health management for producers in Wyoming and across the Northern Plains region.



JEFF EDWARDS

UW Extension Specialist and Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator. 15 years in the Ag Chemical Industry, UW Extension since 2008. Recently returned from Sabbatical teaching others how to build geodesic domes for the production of food.



JENNIFER THOMPSON

Jenny has had a life-long interest in native wildflowers, studying and gardening with them in Kansas, Wisconsin, Arizona and Wyoming. Her interest in the beautiful but tough plants of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions has led to nearly two decades of experimentation with their use in low-input, regionally appropriate Wyoming landscapes. These landscapes incorporate both native and introduced plants. Along with her own gardens at various locations, which contain over 400 native and introduced plant types, she has helped plan, plant and maintain a variety of community spaces. She enjoys traveling the state to share this information and to learn from others.



KELSEY BROCK

Kelsey Brock is an Assistant Professor and Invasive Plant Extension Specialist at the University of Wyoming. She works to solve problems caused by invasive plants and prevent more invasions from happening in the future.



SPEAKERS

ELIZABETH MOORE

Elizabeth “Liz” Moore is a transplant from Texas who is thrilled to have been planted in Wyoming nine years ago. Before moving to Wyoming, she spent ten years teaching in the Department of Agriculture at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas. During that time, she also held a joint appointment with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, serving as the Randall County Horticulture Extension Agent.

Liz has always enjoyed both working with the public and teaching college students. After moving to Laramie, she decided to return to the classroom, this time as a student rather than the teacher, to pursue her doctorate in Plant Sciences, which she completed in 2022.

In January 2021, Liz joined the University of Wyoming Department of Plant Sciences faculty as an assistant lecturer, where she primarily teaches horticultural science courses. She continues to love being in the college classroom, sharing her enthusiasm for plants and horticulture while helping UWYO students take the next steps toward earning their degrees and building their future careers. Go Pokes!



TANUMOY BERA

Dr. Tanumoy Bera is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Soil Fertility and Soil Health at the University of Wyoming. His research and Extension program focuses on soil health, nutrient management, and sustainable crop and forage production, with an emphasis on developing practical, science-based solutions for Wyoming producers and landowners. Through research, teaching, and outreach, he works to improve soil productivity, nutrient-use efficiency, and the long-term sustainability of agricultural systems.



RICHARD WOODWARD

Dr. Richard Woodward is an Extension Horticulture Specialist in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. He joined the University of Wyoming in January 2025. He is part of the UW Plant Diagnostic Team. Dr. Woodward is a plant pathologist by training and has over 30 years of experience in teaching, diagnosing horticultural problems, and plant production. He currently runs an extension and teaching horticulture program at UW.



SPEAKERS

BECKY HARRIS

Becky Harris has worked in Converse County Extension for 11 years where she is the Master Gardener Coordinator and is the person people call with their gardening questions. She has been an active Master Gardener for 24 years. She became involved with planting first the hoop houses that were built in 2010 and then later the domes. The first dome on the Fairgrounds was built in 2022, and when the large hoop house aged out, they built the three connected ones in 2024. So even with 16 years experience growing in an enclosed environment, no two years have been the same and it is always interesting.



JEDIDIAH HEWLETT

Jedidiah Hewlett grew up in the Laramie valley before attending college for farm and ranch management at the University of Wyoming. He started his role as Agriculture Extension Educator for Converse County in 2024. Since then, he has been helping out with the upkeep and plant care in the GeoDomes located on the WY state fairgrounds. He is especially interested in using wool as a soil amendment for gardening.



HOLLY HARRISON

Based in Gillette, Holly Harrison is the Horticulture Program Coordinator for the University of Wyoming's Campbell County Extension Office. She is the Campbell County Master Gardener Coordinator. Her background is in Environmental Studies, Horticulture and Horticultural Therapy. Holly is a Registered Horticultural Therapist with the American Horticultural Therapy Association.



SPEAKERS

CAROL O'MEARA

Carol O'Meara is an Entomologist retired from Colorado State University Extension in Boulder County, Colorado. She managed the Boulder County Master Gardeners for over 20 years, wrote gardening articles for the Rocky Mountain News, Denver Post, Boulder Camera, and Longmont Times-Call. Currently, she's living her best life keeping plants and sourdough starter alive along with volunteering at a local food pantry.



SCOTT SCHELL

Scott Schell is the University of Wyoming's extension entomology specialist based in Laramie. Scott's background includes three years spent working on a farming and ranching operation in Kansas just after high school. He decided there had to be an easier way to make a living and still be a part of agriculture. Returning to his native Wyoming, he received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in entomology. He then worked as a research associate in the College of Agriculture for nine years, helping to develop economical and less environmentally harmful methods for rangeland grasshopper management. Starting in 2003, his responsibilities changed to the identification of arthropods submitted through the Extension system to UW and providing management recommendations for arthropod pests of all sorts.



TAMLA BLUNT

Dr. Tamla Blunt is a retired plant pathologist. She previously was in charge of the Plant Diagnostic Clinic located on the Colorado State University campus for 16 years. She was also involved in Extension outreach for CSU as well as teaching LIFE102, the first-year biology course for science majors and preparation of the laboratory sections for the on-campus Plant Pathology course. She also taught at Front Range Community College for 23 years, teaching Plant Health Care, Plant Propagation, and Pesticide Safety and Use. She currently teaches online offerings at both CSU and Front Range.



JEAN WILLIAMS-WOODWARD

Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward is an Associate Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Jean runs the Extension Plant Diagnostic Laboratory where she diagnoses plant problems and provides disease management recommendations for commercial producers and homeowners statewide. Jean also works with county extension educators and producers throughout Wyoming providing disease information for all crops. Prior to joining the Plant Sciences faculty at UW in 2025, Jean was an Extension Plant Pathologist at the University of Georgia for 29 years where she was responsible for providing statewide plant disease diagnosis, management recommendations, and extension programming for ornamental plants in commercial greenhouses, nurseries and landscapes, urban forestry, and Christmas trees.



SPEAKERS

JOSH BLISS

Joshua Bliss has served as an Extension Educator in 4-H youth development for 3 and a ½ years. In this role, he has served the needs of Natrona County's youth development program and served as the Natrona County Extension Coordinator, who is tasked with the responsibility of assessing and guiding the local presence of UW Extension in Natrona County. Joshua owns and operates Jay's Jams as a small side business and frequently partners with teaching events to offer instruction on food preservation methods and is happy to teach at the 2026 State Master Gardener Conference.



LYNN DAMPMAN

Lynn Dampman developed a love for gardening from her father at an early age. Her interest in maintaining a compost pile steered her to vermicomposting; a way to compost all year long in the middle of Wyoming where winters often bring temperatures well below zero for weeks. She became a Master Gardener in 2000 and quickly became "the worm lady" giving demonstrations and handing out red wigglers to just about anyone who was interested. She has a deep appreciation for the role that worms and all other earth dwellers play in keeping the environment well balanced.



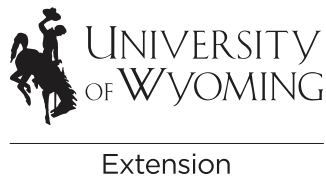
BRYAN ANDERSON

Bryan Anderson was a 5 year UW Extension Forester in Douglas and has been with Wyoming State Forestry Division in Casper for he past 30 years. He is now the District Forester for District 2 of Wyoming State Forests.



Rooted in Resilience

WYOMING master gardener CONFERENCE 2026



Issued in furtherance of extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. John Scasta, Interim Director, University of Wyoming Extension, College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming Extension, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

Persons seeking admission, employment, or access to programs at the University of Wyoming shall be considered without regard to race, sex, gender, color, religion, national origin, marital status, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political belief, or other status protected by state and federal statutes or University Regulations in matters of employment, services, or in the educational programs or activities it operates, in accordance with civil rights legislation and University commitment. To request accommodations, please contact the UW Extension Communications & Technology Office at (307) 766-5695 or uwe-ct@uwyo.edu to discuss possible solution(s) to fit your specific needs.

Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by University of Wyoming is implied.