



The Sage Gardener



From the Editor... *Bob Prchal*



**WE ARE A
COMMUNITY**

EIGHT THINGS I AM NOT READY FOR



1. Maintenance pruning on all my "once small" trees/shrubs.
2. Shredding all my small tree branches that I should have done last fall.
3. Cleaning all my garden beds... *including all the native grasses.*
4. Cleaning all my pots that I should have done last year.
5. Mowing the yard again... *seems like it is growing in size every year.*
6. Turning my three compost piles.
7. Finishing my greenhouse roof... *might even do something in there this fall; if I don't get sidetracked again???*
8. Spray all the weeds that have invaded my yard (*and are already growing*) over the Fall, Winter and Spring.

Volume 12, Issue 3

March 2016

Meetings & Events

- **March 31-April 02**
WYMG /WYFM State Conference in Riverton
- **April 04**
MG Mtg. in Cody
@ 7:00 pm
- **April 16**
Small Acreage Workshop
@ Powell Research Center
- **May 03**
MG Mtg. in Powell
@ 7:00 pm
- **May 13**
WMGA Mtg. in Douglas
@ 10:00 am to 3 pm



Meeting Minutes... submitted by Sandy Frost



President Sandy Frost convened the March 07, 2016 meeting to order @ 7:00 pm in Powell at the Park County Fairgrounds in the Extension meeting room.

Attendance... Sandy Frost, Teri Boyd, Kendra Morris, Ann Hinckley, Mickey Waddell, Kathy Swartz, Nancy Ryan, Mary Vogel, Joyce Johnston, Deb Hayes, Andi Pierson, Kim Pierson, Donna Haman, Bob Prchal, Denise Fink, Rhonda Faulkner and Linda Pettengill.

Guest: Jeremiah Vardiman.

Approval of Minutes... accepted as submitted. **Treasurer's Report...** accepted as submitted.

Old Business...

- **Horticulture 101 Scholarship requests:** Sandy Frost reported that none were awarded.
- **Bylaws; Scholarships section:** A motion was made to amend the bylaws to read; "Any grant is contingent upon available funds". **Motion carried.**

Committee Reports and/or Announcements...

- **Bob Prchal** asked the members to contribute newsletter articles and fill a second WMGA delegate position representing Park County at the three annual meetings. **Cathy Swartz** needs member support to continually (*monthly at a minimum*) update member activities. **Suzanne Larsen** reported good feedback on her newspaper articles. In addition, she stated that a maintenance day is being scheduled for Canal Park and finally, six (6) Gardens are confirmed for the Cody Garden Tour. **Rita Lewis** reported that Master Gardeners are planning to man a table and have fairy gardens at the Cody Arbor Days. **Mary Vogel, Linda Pettengill and Sandy Frost** will volunteer during Powell's Arbor Days. **Kendra Morris** reported that the Cody schools have not set a date for Wyoming Days. She is also checking with the Powell schools on 5th Grade activities. **Andi Pierson** requested ideas by March 31 for demonstration topics at this year Park County Fair. **Denise Fink** requested speakers for the Fall Cody speaker series in October and November. **Joyce Johnston** suggested that those Master gardeners who are donating perennials for the May Plant sale, dig and begin potting them now.

New Business...

- **Member Recognitions: 10 Year service Certificate:** Darlene Manning & Ronda McLean. **5 Year Service Certificate:** Dan Wasp & Karen Anderson.
- **Jeremiah Vardiman:** Conducted a discussion on how UW research programs are selected and approved.

Reminders...

- **Response to emails/Requests for activity support:** Because of the necessity to use email to get important information out or gain feedback from the membership, please respond accordingly when requests/feedback is requested. **Let's respect and help the President or event organizer (s).**
- **WMGA Education Grants:** *Park County Master Gardeners should assess their educational needs and if there is a worthy project that needs assistance, consider applying to the WMGA.*

Refreshments: Andi & Kim Pierson

Educational Program: Joyce Johnston & Mary Vogel... *Grape cuttings & starts.* **Door Prize:** none bestowed.

Adjournment... 8:30pm. **Next Meeting:** In Cody on April 04, 2016 @ 7 pm in the EOC Room of the Park County Courthouse.

Extension Musings... Joyce Johnston

The article below is from the **GRIT Magazine**.
A magazine I thought was defunct... Not So!



MAKE A MILK JUG MINI GREENHOUSE

Winter sowers, and gardeners in general, are typically a frugal lot. We're always looking for ways to reuse or repurpose throwaway items. One-gallon plastic jugs make perfect candidates for winter sowing containers. The plastic is soft, easily cut, and a decent size for a good crop of winter-sown seedlings. Follow the steps below to make your own one-piece winter sowing mini greenhouses.



- 1** Rescue a clear plastic jug from the recycling bin. Choose one made of translucent clear plastic, such as an iced tea or water jug. Many actual milk jugs are made of opaque white or yellow plastic, which will block sunlight, and are not a good choice.
- 2** Wash the jug thoroughly and let it dry. Discard the cap.
- 3** Using a sharp knife or sharp tipped scissors, punch a drainage slit in the center of the bottom edge of each side panel. Take care using sharp instruments, and always cut away from yourself.

4 Mark a line around the center of the jug (line will be horizontal), using a permanent marker. This is your line to cut the jug in half.

5 Starting at the label, cut around the jug along the line. Stop cutting at the other side of the label. If there isn't a label, leave two inches uncut. This will serve as a hinge.

6 Turn the jug over and apply a piece of duct tape to the bottom for a label.

7 Write the variety and sowing date on the label with a permanent marker. You can also make a plant marker to put inside the container.

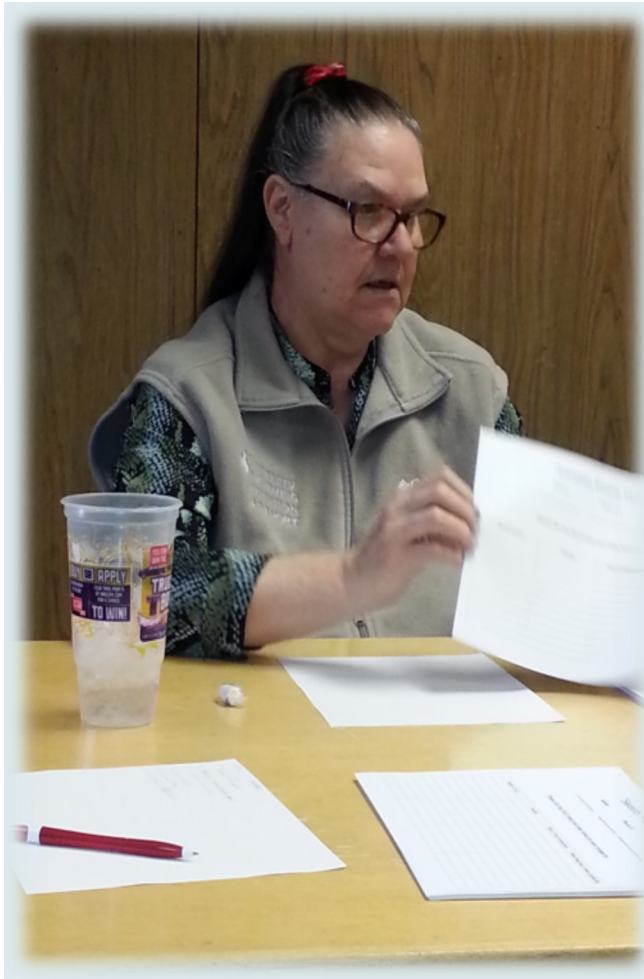
8 Fill the container with soil to within an inch of the cut, then sow seeds, and water them in.

9 Close the jug, and secure with a small strip of tape as a latch. Using a longer piece of duct tape, seal the entire cut line with two layers of duct tape.

10 Set it outside for the winter. After your seedlings have been transplanted, you can cut the top free to use as an impromptu cloche or frost cap.



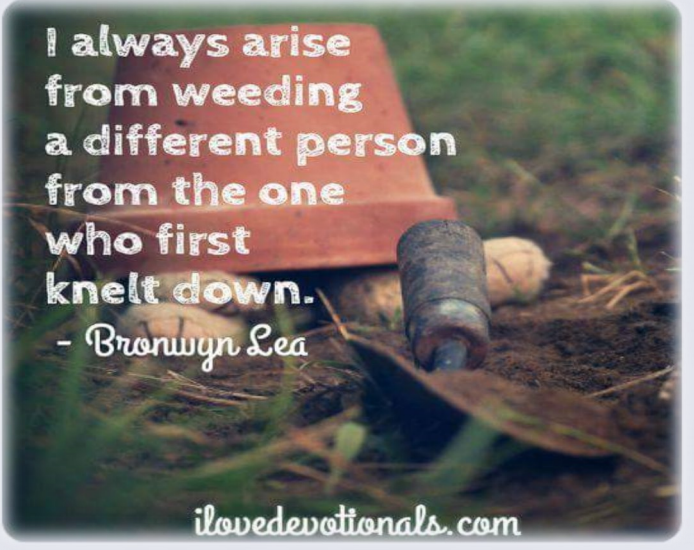
Brown Bag Pics



Garden Humor from Margaret Atwood & Bronwyn Lea



"IN THE SPRING,
AT THE END OF THE DAY,
YOU SHOULD SMELL LIKE DIRT."
- MARGARET ATWOOD



I always arise
from weeding
a different person
from the one
who first
knelt down.
- Bronwyn Lea

Breaking the Ice... getting to know our members

Kim Pierson

Master Gardener since 2015



1. When did you start gardening and what inspired you?

Gardening has always been a family affair in my parent's household as far back as my memory will allow. My inspiration came from what my mother would call a "bottomless pit". I would graze as a child in the garden for hours and that habit never left me.

2. What do you like most about being a Master Gardener?

I believe I like the bottomless pit of information and ongoing education when it comes to plant life in general. Sharing and growing with all the surprises and small losses of experiments gone wrong keeps me starting something new.

3. What was your funniest or fondest gardening experience?

Some of my fondest and funniest memories were of gardens gone wrong. Having your two year old daughter help you plant a spring garden and discovering she planted all your reserve seed somewhere in the acre plot so we watered it all to see what would pop up; boy did it pop up. And I will never forget the smell of naturally great soil.

4. What is your gardening motto?

I'll never have enough pockets.

5. What is your favorite plant and why?

All perennials... they are a reminder that not all gardening takes a lot of work.

6. What gardening publication or other garden resource do you value most?

I value Youtube and Google. I cannot find a substitute so far.

7. What is the one gardening tool you couldn't live without?

My favorite tool is a sharp hoe... a misplaced plants worst enemy.



Importance of Volunteer Service... Park County Master Gardeners

Aiding Park County Horticulture & the University of Wyoming

Redoubles number of contacts... better service to the public

Expands 'pool of resources'... increased manpower

Increases the number of 'work' hours to address questions and/or make yard calls

Permits the Horticulturalist to work one-on-one with more clients

Allows more time for development of educational materials and programs

Extends the Horticulture season... extra, available resources

Master Gardening: Try something new this spring

by Vi Stailey For the York Daily Record

Spring has finally arrived, and excitement about planting the garden is high. Or are you bored with the same old carrots, beets, lettuce and onions?

You may want to try some new varieties or completely different vegetables you never grew before.

You could start with different colors that can apply to almost all of the vegetables. There are multicolor "rainbow" carrots, and "carnival blend" beets that will brighten your salads. There is blue and black sweet corn. Both are very sweet. The multicolor sweet corn, "Painted Hill" germinates in cold soil and can be planted before the last frost.

Bright lights Swiss chard looks like an ornamental. Burgundy beans and purple cauliflower both turn green when cooked. Purple cauliflower has more resistance to insects and disease.

Access the following site for more details: Gardener to Gardener [<mailto:nga@garden.org>]

“Digging For Victory” submitted by Rita Lewis

This slogan was used to promote a campaign for Britain food production during World War II. Julie Summers is the author of the book "Home Fries", which was made into a short series and shown on PBS. It is a true story of the Woman Institute, an organization similar to Land Grant Universities Extension Woman's Clubs. The Institute was popular throughout Europe until 1939. The **Women's Institute** (WI) was formed in 1915 to revitalize rural communities and encourage **women** to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then the organization's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary **women's** organization in the **UK**.

After the start of the War, the WI, as it was referred to, proceeded to can and knit Great Britain into survival by home canning tons of fruits and knitting every scrap of wool available. They took in strangers during the Blitz and still managed to run a household. During the war, all fruits, vegetables, livestock - chickens, pigs and otherwise consumable goods were the property of the government. A pig could not be butchered without a permit. The owners could not have scrap or a jar of the food they canned or processed. They, like everyone else, had to buy it back with rations stamps.

This book is a very good read. It tells of a time gone by, a time when one could still survive living off the land.

Member Birthdays

March

Rhonda Faulkner

Bob Prchal



It is scientifically proven that people who have more birthdays live longer



2016 Educational Opportunities

Adult Gardening Workshops @ Thomas the Apostle Center

~ Gardening and Care for Creation ~

Theme: 21st Century Gardening in the North American Steppe Series

Date	Workshop	Cost
Saturday, May 7 9 am to 12 pm	Partnered with PCMG. Workshops: "Birds of the Steppe", with Ellie Wiser & "Building a Bird House", with Sandra Frost.	\$25 Pre-registration required
Saturday, June 11 9 am to 12 pm	"Design With Nature" Susan Tweit, writer and plant biologist	\$25 Pre-registration required
Saturday, July 23 9 am to 12 pm	"A Kitchen Gardener's Grocery List: Varieties for Inspired Cuisine" Carol O'Meara, Entomologist from Boulder	\$25 lunch included
Saturday, August 20 9 am to 12 pm	"Inspired by Nature: Making Western Gardens that Mirror the Beauty of Our Prairies, Chapar- rals, and Deserts" Lauren Springer Ogden, garden designer and horticulturist.	\$25 lunch included
Saturday, Septem- ber 10 9 am to 12 pm -	"Annuals for Weather Resilient Color" Marcia Tatroe, gardener and lecturer	\$25 lunch included
Saturday, October 22 10 am to 12 pm	"Cooking With Lentils" Ronda McLean	
Friday and Saturday, October 28 & 29 Times TBA later	"Lentil Underground" Liz Carlisle and Dave Oien.	

Bitterroot submitted by Rita Lewis

Montana Bitterroot

Lewis and Clark are credited with the "discovery" of the bitterroot plant (*Lewisia rediviva*) in the Montana valley which was eventually named after it. It was known as *Spetlum* to the Native American peoples and had been an important part of their diet for unknown generations. The tribe's spring migrations were timed to coincide with the blooming of the **bitterroot flower** and often scouts would be sent out to alert the tribe to the readiness of the plant for harvesting.

Indian women dug, cleaned and boiled the root of the plant and then mixed it with meat or berries. Hunting expeditions and war parties often carried patties made from a mixture of pulverized root, deer fat and moss. At trading centers a sackful of bitterroot commanded a high price and could often be traded for a horse. Lewis reported that once digested it caused "wind".

The species name *rediviva* refers to the hardiness of the plant. A bitterroot can live for over a year without water and is usually found growing in gravelly, dry soil. It is low-growing perennial with a fleshy taproot and has a branched base. In May and June a single flower will appear on each stem ranging in color from white to a deep pink or rose. When mature the bitterroot flower produces egg-shaped capsules which contain 6-20 nearly round seeds. Bitterroot is hard to domestic out of its natural environment and does not transplant very well.

In 1895 the Montana Legislature sanctioned the symbol of the Bitterroot and on February 27, 1895 it became the official State Flower of Montana.

~ National Park Service/GOV ~



The Sage Gardener

Volume 12, Issue 3

March 2016

2016 Officers

President... *Sandy Frost*
Vice President... *Kendra Morris*
Secretary... *Teri Boyd*
Treasurer... *Rhonda Faulkner*



'Newsletter of the Park County
Master Gardeners'

~~ Content cannot be altered or
changed ~~

Newsletter Articles should be submitted by
the 15th of each month to Bob Prchal

rjprchal@tritnet.net

Committee Chairs



Newsletter... *Bob Prchal*
Scrapbook/Historian... *Cathy Swartz*
Park County Fair... *Bob Prchal*

Cody Garden Tour... *Suzanne Larsen*
Park County Delegates... *Bob Prchal*

Change of Address/Phone/"e" Mail... *Rachel Olsen (Powell)*
or *Rachel Vardiman (Cody)*



REMEMBER... *Keep it pithy!*

Jeremiah Vardiman

Extension Educator

655 EAST 5TH
POWELL, WYOMING 82435

~~

(307) 754-8836

Bobbie Holder

Horticulturalist

1002 SHERIDAN AVENUE
CODY, WYOMING 82414

~~

(307) 527-8560

Joyce Johnston

Horticulturalist

655 5TH STREET
POWELL, WYOMING 82435

~~

(307) 754-8836

Issued in furtherance of Extension work, Acts of May

8th and June 30th, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Glen Whipple, Director, UW Extension, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.