



The Sage Gardener



From the Editor... *Bob Prchal*



**WE ARE A
COMMUNITY**



The 2016
Joint Conference was a
success because of the
'committed, giving'
Master Gardeners
&
Farmers Market
members in the
individual Counties

Volume 12, Issue 4

April 2016

Meetings & Events

- **April 04**
MG Mtg. in Cody
@ 7:00 pm
- **April 23**
Cody Arbor Day
@ Cody Auditorium
9:am to Noon
- **April 29**
Powell Arbor Day
@ Centennial Hall,
Park County Fairgrounds
12: noon to 3 pm
- **May 03**
MG Mtg. in Powell
@ 7:00 pm
- **May 07**
Powell Plant Sale
@ the Fairgrounds
- **May 13**
WMGA Mtg. in Douglas
@ 10:00 am to 3 pm

Individual Thanks to the Park County Master Gardeners who took time out of their schedules to support the Joint Master Gardener/Farmers Market Conference in Riverton

Conference Attendees... Sandy Frost, Mary Vogel, Ronda McLean, Donna Haman, Linda Pettengill, Joyce Johnston, Deb Hayes, Kathy Clarkson, Rhonda Faulkner and Bob Prchal

Silent Auction items... Mary Vogel, Rita Lewis, Ronda McLean, JoAnne Arzillo, Joyce Johnston, Teri Boyd and Bob Prchal

Banquet Centerpiece... Denise Fink

Seed Exchange... Suzanne Larsen, Joyce Johnston and Bob Prchal

Door Prize Gifts... Linda Pettengill, Mary Vogel, Rita Lewis, Nancy Ryan, Donna Haman, Suzanne Larsen, Teri Boyd, Bob Prchal and Joyce Johnston

Forgotten Thanks... to any person/member I may have omitted!

A Special Thanks to...

Rachel Olson for all her assistance and support... she is invaluable to our Master Gardener efforts!



Meeting Minutes... submitted by Teri Boyd



President Sandy Frost convened the April 04, 2016 meeting to order @ 7 pm in the EOC Room of the Park County Courthouse.

Attendance... Sandy Frost, Teri Boyd, Nancy Ryan, Mary Vogel, Donna Haman, Denise Fink, Karen Anderson, Rita Lewis, Darlene Manning, Kathy Clarkson, Rhonda Faulkner, Suzanne Larsen, Ronda McLean, and Bob Prchal. **Guest:** Jeremiah Vardiman.

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

Old Business...

- See Committee reports.

Committee Reports and/or Announcements...

- **Bob Prchal** asked the members to contribute newsletter articles. **Suzanne Larsen** is working on article content. In addition, she stated that a maintenance day is being scheduled for Canal Park and finally, six (6) Gardens are committed 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. **Denise Fink** requested speakers for the Fall Cody Speaker Series in October and November.

New Business...

- **Member Recognitions: 10 Year Service Certificate:** Ronda McLean.
- **PCMG Delegate:** Sandy Frost volunteered to be the second delegate representing Park County.
- **Steve Hollingsworth, Pawnee Irrigation, Evergreen Landscapes:** Provide an overview of various drip systems that are options for the Powell Community Garden raised beds.
- **Conference feedback for the Newsletter:** Sandy Frost suggested/recommended that all Conference participants write a two sentence review of their Conference experience.
- **Jeremiah Vardiman:** Discussed the "Make Park County Proud" campaign. An intro & outreach opportunity for individuals or organizations via social media. Also requested mentoring volunteers following the conclusion of Horticulture 101 training and provided a web browser 'How To' for the Master Gardener Reporting system.
- **Master Gardener Clothing:** Suzanne is taking orders, please see her if there is a need.
- **Cody/Powell Farmers Markets:** Kathy Clarkson asked Master Gardeners to consider doing weekly seminars.
- **Powell Arboretum Tree Plantings:** Takes place on Saturdays in April 16. MG's will supervised the Boy Scouts involvement.

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: Donna Haman & Darlene Manning

Educational Program: Landis Webber, WY State Engineer's Office... *Wyoming Water.* **Door Prize:** none bestowed.

Adjournment... 8:45pm. **Next Meeting:** In Powell on May 02, 2016 @ 7:00 pm at the Park County Fairgrounds in the Extension meeting room.

Extension Musings... Joyce Johnston

You can protect tomatoes from pests with companion plants ... those vegetables, herbs, or flowers planted nearby that offer a special benefit to tomatoes. Companion plants behave a lot like good friends.

We all know one of the benefits of good friends: they stick up for you when bullies threaten you, often protecting you from getting hurt.

Companion plants do that for tomatoes. Tomato plants are among the favorite menu items for certain insects, including aphids, whiteflies, and different types of beetles. Once these pests flit into your garden and discover your luscious, healthy tomato plants, suddenly it's Feast Time. But companion plants act as natural defenders against these tomato pests, either by repelling harmful insects or attracting helpful insects (to eat the harmful ones.)

Try these companion plants to protect your tomatoes from pests:

- * **Basil: repels flies, mosquitoes; attracts bees**
- * **Borage: attracts bees and wasps**
- * **Cabbage: repels whiteflies, moths**
- * **Chives: repel many insects**
- * **Collard greens: repels flea beetles**
- * **Geraniums: repel cabbage worm, Japanese beetles**
- * **Marigolds: repel tomato worm, asparagus beetles, flea beetles, whiteflies, aphids**
- * **Mint: repels white cabbage moths, ants, rodents, flea beetles, fleas, aphids**
- * **Nasturtiums: repel whiteflies and aphids**
- * **Parsley: attracts hoverflies**

Find out more tips about choosing companion plants to protect tomatoes <http://www.tomatodirt.com/protect-tomatoes-from-pests.html>

Growing tomatoes in containers successfully has a lot to do with preparation and making good choices ahead of time.

Before you get starting planting tomatoes in pots... as you're thinking about and planning your container tomatoes... you can take steps to make sure your container gardening is as healthy as possible.

1. Choose the largest container possible. The more space your tomato has to grow in, the healthier it will be.
2. Choose varieties specifically for containers. The best types of tomatoes to grow in containers are bush varieties, dwarf varieties, short-season varieties, and determinate varieties – for obvious reasons: they don't get as big as other types of tomatoes, they mature faster, and they finish growing at a certain point in the season.
3. Choose a healthy potting mix Tomatoes grown in containers need a loose, well-drained soil with lots of organic matter.
4. Choose a sunny spot. Tomatoes need at least 6-8 hours of full sun a day.
5. Choose easy access to a water source. Whether you set your tomato pots near your garden hose or you have a convenient way to water them with a pitcher or watering can, make sure you have easy access to a water source. You will use it! Find out more tips for getting ready for planting tomatoes in pots <http://www.tomatodirt.com/planting-tomatoes-in-pots.html>



Powell Community Garden... Drip irrigation installation**New Website** from Rachel Vardiman

Just an FYI... the Master Gardener newsletters are being uploaded to our new website. Not sure how many of you have had a chance to look at it yet, but here is the address:

<http://wyoextension.org/parkcounty/horticulture/park-county-master-gardeners/>

We have a lot of potential here, so let us know if you have thoughts on the webpage.

~ ~ *Rachel Vardiman*

Breaking the Ice... getting to know our members

Linda Pettengill
Master Gardener since
2004



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

I have always been an outdoor person. My chores as a kid involved working “yard maintenance” rather than doing inside household work. I had always been a city dweller so it was manicured lawns and colored flower beds when helping relatives and friends. My country relatives in the Geneva Nebraska area always had us visit to get the feel of the rural life.

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

As a Master Gardener, you can justify not doing housework. Just kidding, but it does allow an excuse to run outdoors and escape. With the program, it has offered an opportunity to become acquainted with people of like interest. The ability to associate with a diverse group of gardening enthusiasts and to gather the knowledge that is shared is invaluable

3. What was your funniest or fondest gardening experience?

When my aunt from Washington D.C. was visiting, she complimented me on having such a green thumb. I enlightened her to the fact that there was also a “little plants” graveyard. Therefore, I did not have a 100% success rate.

4. What is your gardening motto?

Gardening tills the soul.

5. What is your favorite plant and why?

My paternal grandmother had the whole east side of their home lined with peonies. It was just beautiful when in bloom. I was able to transplant some of them into our home in Powell. They are special plants that I adore due to this connection.

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

I enjoy the Jerry Baker’s books. I love Sunset “Western Garden Book”.

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

I suppose it is not really a gardening tool but my hands... with gloves on of course.



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

Smart Phone Apps for Gardeners... forwarded from Karen Panter

Some relevant apps to get your Spring started:

- The [Homegrown with Bonnie's Plants app](#)
- The [Garden Time app](#) from Burpee
- [GrowIt!](#)TM is here to help you out with container flowers.
- [Suntory Combo Designer](#) helps you become an awesome gardener!
- A pollinator app

Apply to Diane Blazek, National Garden Bureau ngb@aas-ngb.org
for more information and apps

Tips... From Joyce Johnston

Lighten those heavy pots



Fill pot half full with foam packing peanuts

To lighten large pots, fill the pot one-third to one-half full with foam packing peanuts. They not only make the pot lighter but also provide space for drainage. Fit a round piece of landscape fabric between the soil and the foam to keep the materials separate. You can use a light potting mix that contains plenty of vermiculite and peat moss to make the pot even lighter. Some packing peanuts dissolve in water; be sure to test yours before putting them in the pot.

Member Birthdays

April

Denise Fink

Suzanne Larsen



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.	

2016 Master Gardener Conference Pics





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April 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 & Sandy Frost*

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

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

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

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