



Gracie and Butch



The Sage Gardener

Park County Master Gardeners

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Park County, Wyoming

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CALENDAR

June 2—Planting Day

Powell Community Garden

**June 4 - Meeting, PC Fairgrounds, Powell,
7pm**

July 2 - Meeting, Cody EOC, 7 pm

July 24-27 - Park County Fair, Powell

Aug 6—Meeting location to be determined

Sept 8—Homesteader Days, Powell

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The Great Pumpkin Notes

New MG Interns !



Wanda Spragg— My significant other is Del Barton the Powell City Arborist. I used to work for the National Park Service in several locations. We love the outdoors, so you can find us hiking, camping, or off on some other outdoor adventure almost every weekend. I am currently studying graphic design.

Clarice Boring, Courtney Sletten, and Charli Childress will be featured soon.



Woody Notes

Rotary International is encouraging all 5,600 clubs in 200 countries to undertake tree planting during 2018. It is the goal of International President Ian Riseley to plant a tree for each of 1.2 million Rotarians world-wide. Can Master Gardeners be a resource for Cody and Powell Rotarians????

The Powell Parks Department just received a report on the number, condition, and value of its urban forest. There are 2,162 municipal trees of 4 inches or more diameter in Powell (includes the golf course). They are valued at \$7,150,000.00.

A Montana report “State of Community Trees in Montana”, a DNR publication that analyzes data on trees in 61 Montana cities and towns, reports that Billings has 8,335 trees in parks and along city streets valued at \$14 million to replace plus more in benefits.

Gracie's Page

Gracie asked her friend Wanda to help put this page together.



What is taking her so long !



I take Wanda hiking on her good days.



I have gardened all day and I am tired!



My grandson Butch
takes a break from
Gardening!

2019 Search for Excellence

There is something exciting that has been added to the [International Master Gardener Conference](#) website! So many have been asking when Search for Excellence (SFE) would be posted...the answer is NOW! See the links below to read all about SFE and how your group project can qualify. Share the news with your fellow Master Gardeners and start working on those applications!

Search for Excellence is the recognition program of the Extension Master Gardener Program. The awards acknowledge exemplary volunteer work throughout the United States, Canada and South Korea. SFE has 7 categories in which MGs can demonstrate outstanding contributions to their communities.

Only one project may be submitted by a group per category. The awards are for group projects, not an individual who does outstanding work.

1. Community Service
2. Demonstration garden (s)
3. Innovative Projects
4. Research (applied scientific methodology)
5. Special Needs Audiences (senior, disabled, hort therapy)
6. Workshop(s) or Presentation(s)
7. Youth

The deadline for SFE applications is JULY 16, 2018.

For details go to:

www.internationalmastergardener.com

Three Gals Road Trip

Joyce Johnston, Mary Vogel and Barb Miller

Fun! Fun! Fun!

Destination was “The Gillette Garden and Landscape Educational Expo” on April 21, 2018 in Gillette, Wyoming.

There defiantly wasn't a problem with finding something to talk about all the way over and back.

After checking into the Arbuckle Lodge (nice place) we made a greenhouse run and found the location of the Expo the next day, off we went to supper. Early to bed with the antelope theater as a welcome, it had been a long beautiful drive over the Big Horn Mountains.



Breakfast was at the lodge, then off to the expo. Registration, buying raffle tickets and checking out the Farmers Market, then off to the first class. “Abiotic vegetable diseases”, Tarmia Blunt, paleontologist out of CSU was the speaker. Questions: What happened to my veggies, I thought I had planted, watered, fertilized and did everything right. Focus was on environmental issues that challenge every vegetable gardener. Second class was ‘Assessing trees for problems’ by Tamia Blunt (paleontologist) and Carol O’Meara (entomologist). Both speakers out of CSU.

Learn the diagnostic process including step- by- step tree assessment. Diagnostic terms and techniques were reviewed along with an overview of common tree disorders. Third class was “Edible Plants of Wyoming Gardens” by Brian Sebade from UW. Learn identification, safety, harvesting and use of common weeds found in backyards and gardens. Possible uses for problem plants you constantly fight.

First session:

The key note speaker was Craig LeHoullier who wrote “Epic Tomatoes”, history, description, selection and focusing on the tomato in terms of varieties.

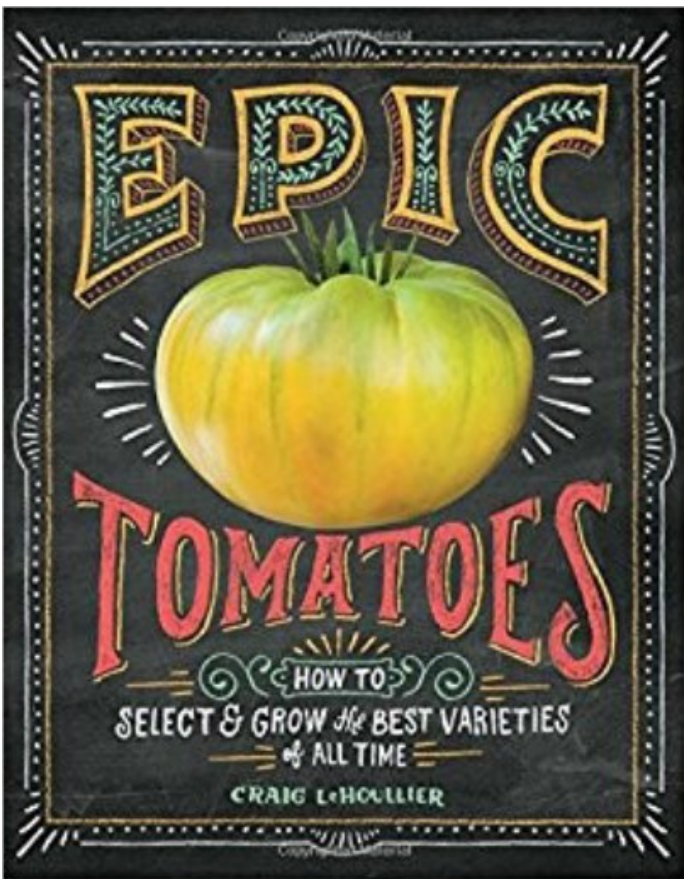
Second session:

The Holy Grail – achieving success with your tomato garden. Learned about tomato growing, culture-tips, tricks, alternative methods for success.



Craig LeHoullier has been on a marathon journey with this fruit for 35 years, growing and evaluating thousands of tomatoes. Craig is the tomato advisor for Seed Savers Exchange. He has trialed more than 1,200 tomato varieties and introduced more than 100 varieties to the trade.

Craig LeHoullier (who many know as "the guy who named Cherokee Purple") lives and gardens in Raleigh, North Carolina. A Rhode Island native, where he caught the gardening passion when very young from his grandfather, Walter, and dad, Wilfred, Craig, has a PhD in chemistry from Dartmouth College. The love of heirloom tomatoes grew from joining the Seed Savers Exchange, an organization for which he continues to serve as adviser for tomatoes, in 1986. In 2005 he added amateur tomato breeding, and continues to co-lead the Dwarf Tomato Breeding project, responsible for creating 90 (and counting) new compact growing varieties for space-challenged gardeners everywhere. His writing career kicked off with a request from Storey Publishing to write a book on tomatoes; *Epic Tomatoes* (2014) and *Growing Vegetables in Straw bales* (2016) soon followed



Blue Orchard Bee (BOB)



Osmia lignaria

By Sandy Frost

Blue Orchard Bees (BOB) are native, highly efficient, solitary bees that rarely sting and are easy to raise on your property. There are 135 species of *Osmia* in North America. What makes BOBs desirable is their willingness to nest in tubes close together and their portability for commercial pollination.

BOBs are solitary bees that nest in small diameter holes. The males mate, eat, sleep, and die. Females, mate and then spend their time building nest cells and laying eggs. Males do not have stingers and female bees are not aggressive. Females live about 20 days. The female gathers a small mud ball between her mandibles and front feet; flies to her cavity of choice; and packs it in to seal the rear entry of the hole. This may take 10 trips with mud. She then visits about 75 flowers in 10 to 15 minutes to collect pollen and nectar. It may take 15 to 35 trips and up to 2625 flower visits to provide food for one egg. One female builds 7 to 20 cells in her lifetime.



BOBs are black with three round body parts. They look like three BBs in a row. They fly when their body temperature reaches 54 F, much cooler than honey bees. For that reason, BOBs are out pollinating earlier in the season and in cooler, wetter weather than honey bees. They also spend more hours per day flying than honey bees. BOBs carry pollen on their lower bellies rather than on their legs as honey bees do. BOBs tend to belly-flop onto flowers! One acre of fruit trees will require 1 to 2 honeybee hives with thousands of bees each. That same one acre will require 250 to 750 female BOBs to do the same job. One mason bee can pollinate as much as 100 honey bees.

Dave Hunter of Crown Bees, Woodinville, Washington and friends around the country are developing populations of BOBs to aid in pollination of crops. This will be important if honey bee populations continue to decline. Today commercial growers still use honeybees because they are a known quantity, they have been managed for millennia, they are viewed as reliable, there is a knowledge base for raising them, and growers can rent them. When growers use BOBs they have to raise them themselves and develop their knowledge base.

Continued

Blue Orchard Bees continued....

BOBs have three requirements: a clay mud, holes of 5/16" diameter and at least 5 inches deep; and early season flowers with pollen and nectar. You can have BOBs in your garden with some pretty simple techniques. BOBs only require 1 to 2 hours **a year** to raise. BOBs are generalist pollinators, which means they are not picky about the flowers they visit. They stay within 300 feet of their nesting sites.

First, plan on a mud puddle for the summer. Plant early season flowers. Select a nest design that works for you. Options include tubes, drilled wooden blocks that come apart for cleaning, and home-made drilled 2"x6" board. Do not use bamboo tubes because they may splinter when you clean out cocoons in the late fall and injure the adults inside the cocoons. The tubes and blocks do not have to be in a cute shelter. In commercial orchards they are placed in metal tubs laid sideways that are 4 ft to 5 ft off the ground where they can be seen and covered when needed.



Empty tubes or blocks need to be cleaned and sterilized to prevent disease next season.

Continued

Blue Orchard Bees continued....

In the spring the cocoons are placed in the garden to hatch out adult bees that have overwintered. In the fall tubes/blocks are emptied of cocoons and cleaned. Cocoons are stored over winter in a refrigerator or cool spot. There are techniques to clean cocoons before storage to kill parasites.

Resources include:

“Our Native Bees” by Paige Embry, in the Cody library 599.799 Embry

“How to Manage the Blue Orchard Bee as an Orchard Pollinator” by Jordi Bosch and Bill Kemp

“The Bee-friendly Garden: design an abundant flower-filled yard that nurtures bees”

By Frey & LeBuhn, 2016.

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation www.Xerces.org

Pollinator Partnership www.pollinator.org

Utah State Extension

A good place to find information and purchase supplies is

Crown Bees of Woodinville, Washington www.crownbees.com

2018 Park County Tomato Variety Trials



Park County Master Gardeners are conducting a tomato variety trial across the county in 2018. Four varieties will be tested in three general locations. Data on flowering, fruit set, maturity date and yield will be collected. The goal is to produce a Master Gardener/Extension publication about tomato growing in Park County.



Nine Master Gardeners in Cody, Powell, and Meeteetse are participating in testing the varieties: North Dakota Earliana, Goliath, Willamette, and a paste tomato, Siberian Pink Honey. These varieties were selected because none of the Master Gardeners had grown them.



WHERE Have We Been Lately?



Powell Arbor Days

April 26-27, 2018

**Cathy Swartz finds out
what they know about
Trees.**

**Linda Pettengill
answers questions on
Friday.**



Where Have We Been Lately!



Denise, Joyce, Mary, Rhonda, and Jackie.

WHERE Have We Been Lately!

Home & Garden Show 2018, Powell



Rhonda
The
Banker !

4-H
Garden
Staff



WHERE Have We Been Lately !

Northern Garden Tour

Kay and Rod Soulek

Owners



Jackie, Anne, Linda, Denise, Della, Nancy, Rhonda, Brian



Where Have We Been Lately?

Planted 15 trees
On Coulter Avenue
Powell

Spring Cleaning at the
Big Horn Canyon
Visitor Center
Demonstration Garden



Henry and Sandy prep
and plant flowers at
Powell Post Office

Sampler Verses

To cultivate a garden is to walk with God.



Remembering is the sweetest flower,
Of all this world's perfuming,
Memory guards it sun or shower,
Friendship keeps it blooming.

The kiss of sun for pardon,
The song of bird for mirth,
One is nearer to God's heart in a garden,
Than anywhere else on Earth.

Bloom where you are planted.



Plant seeds of Kindness,
Gather a harvest of love.



Plant smiles,
Grow Giggles,
Reap happy hearts.



Discover Native Plants

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2018 • 9^{AM} – 4^{PM}

Registration 8:30

**Thomas the Apostle Center
34 Thomas the Apostle Rd.
Cody, WY**

\$25 registration fee includes lunch & plant ID materials.

Register via Eventbrite

<https://tinyurl.com/discovernativeplantscody>

Join us for a one day, interactive program to learn more about native plants, introduced species and their ecology. We will take an outdoor plant walk and spend time learning to identify a subset of species relevant for both public and private land management.

**Contact Bobbie Holder 307-527-8560,
bholder@parkcounty.us with questions**



UW

EXTENSION



FUTURE NOTES . . .

- Both tomato variety trials and the Great Pumpkin Contest are underway.
- Park County Fair youth activity will be making soda bottle terrariums.
- 4-H Youth Garden is going green.
- Kathy is forming the Wapiti Garden Club this summer.

JUNE Ronda McLean, Mary Vogel

Happy Birthday !

JULY Kim Pierson

AUGUST Mickey Waddell

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