



The Sage Gardener

Park County Master Gardener Newsletter



From the President... Dan Wasp



Taking Advantage of Microclimates

Volume 10, Issue 7

July 2013

Across the basin's high desert region, extreme variability and unpredictability in climate, is the norm. Native plant's adaptation depends on extremes of temperature, precipitation, sunlight, wind, and other factors such as soil depth and length of growing season. Why do so many different species thrive under such extremes? The answer is "Microclimates". A microclimate is a locality or area where factors such as topography, prevailing winds, amount of available moisture, etc., influence the survival of adaptable species.

Forthcoming

Meetings & Events

These same extremes impact our landscapes. Depending on the size and location of your property, you may have several microclimates, such as a south facing wall, hills and hollows, outcroppings, or windbreaks. These factors influence what you can grow. They may even create a higher hardiness zone. Taking advantage of these microclimates will afford you the opportunity to broaden the selection of plant species that you will be able to grow.

You can also create your own microclimates. I prefer to call them microhabitats. Being an avid gardener and hiker of the high peaks, I became very interested in



alpine plants. It was only natural that I create an alpine microhabitat as part of my garden. Selecting a location that receives morning sun, replacing the native soil with a gritty well-draining mix, creating a berm implanted with various size boulders, and providing the appropriate moisture, I was successfully able to create an alpine microhabitat. After research and experimentation I have been able to grow several challenging species. One species difficult to grow, *Saxifraga x anglica* 'Carbourne', a hybrid from a cross of native species from the Himalayas and Pyrenees, bloomed after the second winter.

Photo caption: *Saxifraga x anglica* 'Carbourne'

- **August 5**
MG meeting @ Kendra Morris's home
- **September 9**
MG meeting/Plant Exchange & BBQ @ Sariah & Valerie's home
- **March 14 — 16**
2014 WMGA /FMA State Conference in Sheridan @ Sheridan Community College



Meeting Minutes... submitted by Jan Jackson

Dan Wasp, President convened the July 01, 2013 meeting to order @ 7:04 p.m. in Cody at the at the EOC Room of he Park County Courthouse.



Attendance... Dan Wasp, Bob Prchal, Karen Anderson, Donna Haman, Mary Vogel, Teri Boyd, Jo Anne Arzillo, Linda Pettengill, Ronda McLean, Suzanne Larsen, Darlene Manning, Mickey Waddell, Desire Agard, Rhonda Faulkner and Jan Jackson. **Guest:** Jackie Van Noy.

Approval of Minutes... The May and June minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report... The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- None.

Committee Reports and/or Announcements

- **Cody Garden Tour:** A final update for the July 20 tour was provided. Garden and luncheon attendants were requested as well as more salads were needed.
- **Park County Fair:** A signup sheet was passed around seeking more 'booth' participation. A raffle was discussed and the membership voted to hold a raffle at the Fair. Items would include: silk scarf, fairy garden, succulent garden, and a blanket. Jan will provide the raffle box and tickets (\$1.00/ticket or 6 tickets/\$5.00).
- **2014 WMGA Conference:** It will be March 14-16 in Sheridan at the College. The Conference will be a joint Conference with the Wyoming State Farmers Market Association.
- **Nominating Committee:** Officer elections will be in October. Cheryl Wright was appointed committee chair. Please contact Cheryl if you are interested in serving on the committee.

Reminders

- **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.*
- **Background Checks:** All members who work with kid's need to undergo a background check. See Julie or Colleen @ the Extension offices for details and paperwork.
- **Volunteer Support Activities:** when activities are planned, please respect ALL requests for assistance by responding **yea or nay**. Let's respect and help the event organizer (s).
- **Next Meeting:** @ 7:00 p.m. on August 05, 2013 @ the home of Kendra Morris. See 'e' mails for directions.
- **Refreshments:** Karen Anderson. **Educational Program:** Grasses by Kaye Soulek and Kendra Morris

Adjournment... @ 7:53 p.m. **Education/Workshop...** Aaron Danforth, certified arborist discussed trees for our area.

Extension Musings... Joyce Johnston and Ann Hinckley

This month you should be mulching, taking out the weeds that got by the mulch, and watering, watering, watering.

Tomato Dirt suggests you check your tomatoes for:

Chopped stems—collars around the stems can ward off cutworms.

[Use sections of towel rolls slit and placed around the stem.]



Missing or chopped leaves may be tomato hornworm. Check the undersides of leaves and put any you find in a solution of soapy water.

Aphids can cause wilted or dropped leaves. Get rid of them by spraying with a strong jet of water several days in a row.

If your tomato plant is tall, extremely dark green and overflowing with leafy growth it may be a sign of too much nitrogen in your fertilizer. Phosphorus encourages flowering and fruiting and tomatoes need a fertilizer with a higher ratio of potassium (the P in N-P-K).

Lower leaves on newly-planted tomatoes may naturally yellow and drop in response to transplant shock. But keep your eye on plants. Yellowing leaves could be a sign of blight or a fungus. An application of Joyce's formula of 1 Cup antiseptic mouthwash, 1 Cup liquid soap, 20 gallons of water can control these problems.

Notes from the Regional Gardening News

Control Miller Moths: The yearly flight of miller moths from the dry plains to greener and blossoming meadows begins now. The moths are in search of nectar from wildflowers. Unfortunately, they often get indoors, creating quite a stir. Should they find their way into your house, trap them by hanging a securely fastened light bulb over a dishpan of soapy water. They'll be attracted to the light and will then drop into the water and die.

Protect your plants from flea beetles: After you've set your vegetable transplants outdoors in the garden, flea beetles have an open invitation to start feeding on the leaves. Flea beetle damage looks like shotgun holes in the leaves of tiny seedlings such as eggplant and broccoli. To control these pests, place a floating row cover over susceptible vegetables. The row cover excludes pests but allows plants to get sunlight and moisture.

Lilacs: Once the blooms have faded, deadhead old lilac flowers. This will prevent seedlings from popping up here and there. As soon as the blossoms fade, it's time to prune your lilac bushes. This will help you maintain their height and spread. It's also a good time to thin out the old wood to stimulate new growth and more vigor. Remove as much as 40 percent of the old stems, cutting down to ground level.

Information from the grafting demonstration can be found in the Powell Extension Office, in case you forgot some aspect of the process.

There has been evidence that a disease of blue spruce is coming into our area. Rhizosphaera needle cast occurs in spring but symptoms are not visible until late fall or the following summer. Second year needles turn yellow and then purplish brown before dropping from the tree. Remove needles from under the tree and destroy them. Check with Joyce if you find these symptoms in your trees.

Canal Park Montage



MG Meeting



Heart Mountain Garden



2013 Garden Tour Montage



2013 Garden Tour Montage



2013 Master Gardener Trainee's & Mentors

Trainee	Mentor
<i>Cathy Swartz</i>	<i>Darlene Manning</i>
<i>Desire & John Aagard</i>	<i>Cheryl Wright</i>
<i>Ann Trosper</i>	<i>Suzanne Larsen</i>
<i>Caleb & Scott Brown</i>	<i>Bob Prchal</i>
<i>Susan Profit</i>	<i>Rhonda McLean</i>

Park County Fair Montage



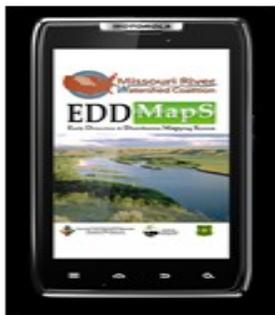
Recycling Tidbit



Did you know those clear plastic containers you buy lettuce or other foods in can be used as mini-greenhouses, or taken to the recycling rather than filling up landfill?



Noxious Weed Alert... from Park County Weed & Pest



**Use Your Smartphone or
iPhone to Report
Noxious Weed
Infestations!
FREE APP!**

<http://apps.bugwood.org/mrwc.html>



Help Defend Our Favorite Places



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'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@tritel.net

REMEMBER... Keep it pithy!



2013 Officers



President... *Dan Wasp*

Vice President... *Karen Anderson*

Secretary... *Jan Jackson*

Treasurer... *Mickey Waddell*

WMGA Delegates... *Donna Haman & Rita Lewis*



Committee Chairs

Newsletter... *Bob Prchal*

Cody Garden Tour... *Darlene Manning*

Historian... *Jo Anne Arzillo*

Greenhouse... *Bob Prchal*

Scholarships... *Nancy Ryan*

Park County Fair... *Bob Prchal*

Change of Address/Phone/"e" Mail... *Julie Miner*

Sandra M. Frost

University Extension Educator

Master Gardener Advisor

655 5th Street

Powell, Wyoming 82435

(307) 754-8836

Bobbi 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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Dr. Glen Whipple, Director, University of Wyoming Extension, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

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