



The Sage Gardener

Park County Master Gardener Newsletter



From the Vice President... Karen Anderson



A Snapshot of Long Island Flora

Long Island is much more than shopping malls, concrete highways, and crowded suburbs of New York City. There are cool woodlands, slow moving rivers, rich salt marshes, golden meadows, bogs, and rolling seaside dunes. All of which are inhabited by a diversity of flora and fauna. When I take my annual trip back to eastern Long Island, where my love of nature all began, I always look forward to exploring these natural communities. Below I'd like to share a snapshot of Long Island's flora.

The **Day Lily** originally introduced on Long Island as a garden plant by early settlers, since has escaped into the wild and now offers a beautiful show of orange color along many roadsides.



The **Beach Rose**, very common growing along the seaside sand dunes, provides a dense thicket that provides a habitat for many migrating song birds.



The **Pitcher Plant** is an interesting carnivore that grows in boggy areas. The strange-looking, dull red and green globular flower in the photo grows on a separate stem.



In early September beautiful orange, black, and white monarch butterflies have started on their amazing migrations. The Long Island seashore is one of their major flyways, for here the **Seaside Goldenrod** blooms, providing nectar for these tireless travelers.



Even though the natural beauty of Long Island draws me back every year, I'm always anxious to return to my new home in the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

Volume 10, Issue 9

September 2013

Forthcoming

Meetings & Events

- **October 07**
MG meeting in Cody
@ 7:00pm
- **Note:** Training /Brown Bag seminars in this newsletter
- **March 14 — 16**
2014 WMGA /WFMA State Conference in Sheridan @ the Sheridan Community College



Meeting Minutes... submitted by Jan Jackson

Dan Wasp, President convened the September 16, 2013 meeting to order @ 6:10 p.m. at the home of Sariah and Valerie Bates.



Attendance... Dan Wasp, Karen Anderson, Bob Prchal, Donna Haman, Rita Lewis, Nancy Ryan, Jo Anne Arzillo, Linda Pettengill, Suzanne Larsen, Joyce Johnston, Ann Hinckley, Mickey Waddell, Cheryl Wright, Rhonda Faulkner, Sariah Bates, Valerie Bates and Jan Jackson.

Approval of Minutes... The July & August minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report... The Treasurer's report was not submitted.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Plant Exchange & Picnic only.
- The membership will have a 1st look at the 2014 budget at the November meeting. At the December meeting, the membership will again review the budget to see if additional adjustments are needed.

Committee Reports and/or Announcements

- **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 **October 07, 2013** in Cody @ **at the at the EOC Room of he Park County Courthouse.** **Refreshments:** Ann Hinckley & Mickey Waddell. **Educational Program:** "Dirty Little Secrets" by Ann Hinckley & Mickey Waddell.

Adjournment... 6:22 p.m. **Education/Workshop...** Bates Farm Tour... Vegetable Gardens; Dairy & Meat Processing

Extension Musings... Joyce Johnston and Ann Hinckley

The “average“ date for a hard freeze in our area is September 15, but keep an eye out for changes in the weather even earlier. Tender vegetables and flowers can be covered overnight to extend the season a few more weeks. Keep mature fruits picked so the trees continue to produce.



This month can be as busy as Spring. The first part of September is cider making time, and cucumbers need to be pickled. Lilies and daylilies can be transplanted. You can plant blubs such as tulips and daffodils and hardy perennial plants can be planted to get down roots in preparation for next year’s blooms. If you didn’t get your iris divided in August you can do it now. The last part of the month (**September 15 to October 1**) is also time to replant your garlic.

Have you saved any tomato seeds yet? Consider these tips from Tomato Dirt

1. *Save seeds from open-pollinated varieties*
2. *Save seeds from your best tomatoes*
3. *Save seeds from ripe tomatoes*
4. *Save seeds from several tomatoes to have a strong selection.*

Are the ants aerating your soil a little more than is necessary? The Powell Extension office has **diatomaceous earth**. It takes several applications but it will take care of them without harming anything else.

Some notes from the National Gardening Association

Spider mite populations can explode quickly, and it's hard to see the actual mites themselves, so watch for telltale signs of their activity such as tiny webbing and dull, mottled looking leaves or needles. Mites attack a broad range of plants. Evergreens are especially vulnerable when hot and dry summer weather hits. The very best **miticide** is a good hosing down. Use a nozzle that will squirt a hard stream all the way up a tree. Since spider mites can be all over leaves, try to cover every branch and twig with a hard spray of water. Some of the little monsters are crushed by the force of the water, and the others just go away. If you still have mites after all this spraying, try mixing some insecticidal soap with the water to kill the pests. Mites can't stand soap, and your leaves and needles will be less dusty too,

Give your houseplants a bath to keep spider mites and other insects at bay. Put the whole pot in a sink and spray with a mild soapy solution, top and bottom. Wash gently with a cut-off corner of an old sponge. Rinse with tepid water and let drain.

When you've worn out your welcome at the neighbor's and you've filled every parked car within three city blocks with zucchini, it's time to freeze them. Check your favorite zucchini bread recipe for quantities, then process the zucchini as though you were making bread today. Measure the correct amount into a freezer bag. Label and forget it until you need to make quick breads for the holidays.”

Deadheading your annuals and perennials will encourage them to continue blooming on into Fall.

When it's hot, windy, and dry, leaves may not be able to get enough water, especially if there isn't sufficient ground moisture. Leaves will show leaf scorch symptoms of browning on the edges if they aren't getting enough water. The best solution is mulching, regular watering, and applying deep irrigation all summer long.

~ Happy Gardening ~

MG Meeting Montage



Recycling Tidbits from Ann Hinckley



96% less energy is used when making cans from recycled aluminum than when using bauxite.

50% less energy is used when making paper from recycled paper instead of virgin timber... *Natural Resources Defense Council*

Take your corrugated cardboard to a recycling center rather than filling up your garbage can. It helps to keep the recycling centers going and saves your City money when they haul their solid wastes to the landfill.



Importance of Volunteer Time... 2013 Park County Master Gardeners

How does it help Park County Horticulture & The University of Wyoming

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

Expands 'pool of resources'..... increases manpower

Increases the number of 'work' hours to address questions/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

Did You Know ? From Birds & Blooms

1600... A Snowy Owl can eat up to 1,600 lemmings a year. In the birds' summer breeding grounds north of the Arctic Circle, the furry little rodents are sometimes the only food available.

5... In the Harry Potter books and movies, owls act as muses and messengers for young wizards. Their seemingly magical and sometimes creepy qualities make them the perfect mascot for the fantasy tales. Five species that appearing the series are barn, great horned, short-eared, great gray and, of course, snowy.

100... The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is helping barn owls make a comeback in the state. In 1988, only 19 barn owl nests were spotted in Ohio. By 2012, that number had increased to 100.

10... There are 19 North American owl species.

2010... Owls are the stars Hollywood film Legend of the Guardians, which came out in 2010.

270... Several owl species can rotate their heads 270 degrees in each direction. Their eyes are tubular, not circular, so they need to move their heads to see around them.



4... Several universities have adopted owls as the school mascot, including these four:

- ◆ Florida Atlantic
- ◆ Rice
- ◆ Temple
- ◆ Kennesaw State

1/2... Scarce in the United States, the northern hawk owl spends the whole year in northern Canada. It can spot prey up to half a mile away.

Training... Sandy Frost

Welcome to Wyoming

Wednesdays, 7: 00 p.m.

EOC room, basement of the Park County Courthouse, Cody

♦ **October 2... Raising Nice Hay**

Gerry Danko, winner of Wisconsin Hay Show

♦ **October 16... Wyoming Climate**

Sandra Frost, UW Extension Educator - Crops

♦ **October 23... Wyoming Soils**

Sandra Frost, UW Extension Educator - Crops

♦ **October 30... Water 101**

Sandra Frost, UW Extension Educator - Crops

For more information contact: UW Extension at (307) 754-8836 or sfrost1@uwyo.edu.

2013 Master Gardener Trainee's & Mentors

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

Tasty Fall Comfort Food from *undressedskeleton.tumblr.com***Minestrone Soup... in the crockpot**

This soup was absolutely delicious! It was the perfect warm weather soup with all of your fresh cut veggies and colors, it was perfect! It was light and refreshing and I will definitely make this again. It took some time to chop all of the veggies up and it makes a TON of soup, but it was worth it! And guess what? It's gluten free!

Ingredients:

- 2 Cups Frozen Peas (Defrosted)
- 3 Small Yellow Summer Squash
- 1 Cup Snapped Green Beans
- 2 Medium Zucchini
- 5 Medium Celery Stalks
- 1 Red Bell Pepper
- 1 Cup Baby Carrots or 2 Large Carrots
- 1 Large White Onion
- 1 Tbsp Extra Light Virgin Olive Oil
- 1/2 Tbsp Black Pepper
- 1/2 Tsp Sea Salt
- 1 Tbsp Garlic Powder
- 1/8 Cup Fresh Oregano
- 2 Tbsp Minced Garlic
- 1 Tsp Parsley
- 2 Cans Reduced Sodium Kidney Beans
- 1 Can White Kidney Beans
- 2 Cans Diced Tomatoes (Basil, Garlic, Oregano)
- 2 Boxes Organic Vegetable Broth
- 2 Tbsp Light Brown Sugar (My secret ingredient)



Turn crock pot on high, and cover.

Cook 5-6 hours.

Note: Gluten free... use GF veggie broth

Training... Sandy Frost

Brown Bag Seminars

Powell Library

Thursdays 12 noon to 12:50 p.m.

- ◆ **October 3... Herbal wreaths for your home**
Joyce Johnston, UW Horticulturist
- ◆ **October 10... Composting**
Ann Hinckley, Park County Master Gardener
- ◆ **October 17... The Cut Flower Industry**
Sandra Frost, UW Extension Educator
- ◆ **October 24... Houseplant how to**
Kendra Morris, Park County Master Gardener

For more information contact: UW Extension at (307) 754-8836 or sfrost1@uwyo.edu.

Fruit Fly Alert... from Park County Weed & Pest



Spotted Wing Drosophila

Drosophila suzukii

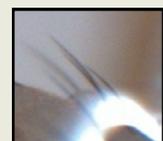
Pest of: a broad range of fruits, including tree fruits, berry fruits and vegetable fruits.

Damage: Females lay eggs in ripening fruit. Larvae hatch in 1 to 2 days. Egg laying produces scars and larval feeding quickly collapses fruit. Secondary pest infection further damages fruit. This fruit fly is from Asia and its first US appearance was in California in 2008. It is now found in many states, including Montana, Utah, Idaho, Colorado and **Wyoming**.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

Adults: Typically about 2-3mm long with bright red eyes, a pale brown thorax, and an abdomen with black horizontal stripes. Similar to other *Drosophila* flies but males have a dark spot along front edge of wing, near wingtip (A). Females have a serrated ovipositor (B).

Larvae: Small, white and cylindrical maggots.





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2013 Officers



- President... *Dan Wasp*
- Vice President... *Karen Anderson*
- Secretary... *Jan Jackson*
- Treasurer... *Mickey Waddell*
- WMGA Delegates... *Donna Haman & Rita Lewis*

**'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!



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*



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