



# The Sage Gardener

## Park County Master Gardener Newsletter



**From the Editor... Bob Prchal**



### Are you in Yard Shape ?

**Last week I jumped into the yearly undertaking**

⇒ I targeted all my dormant muscles in one day of yard cleanup: *chest, shoulders, arms, forearms, elbows, hands, trunk, abdomen, calves, knees, toes and heels... all those muscles you use in gardening!*



**This week I came to the following conclusions:**

⇒ I should have had a little “Spring Training” before I ventured into my spring cleaning... at least some pre-exercises for a couple of weeks!

⇒ I should not have tried to complete the task in 3-4 days.

⇒ I am old enough to know better!

NEVER A  
FAILURE  
ALWAYS A  
LESSON

**Volume 4, Issue 10**

**April 2014**

**Forthcoming Meetings & Events**

- **April 26**  
Cody Arbor Day @  
**Cody Auditorium**  
9:00 am to Noon
- **May 05**  
MG mtg. in Cody  
@ 7:00pm
- **May 08**  
Apple Grafting Workshop  
@ Powell Research &  
Extension center  
6:00pm to 9:00 pm.  
\$10 fee for workshop



## Meeting Minutes... submitted by Valerie Bates

Karen Anderson, Vice President convened the **April 07, 2014** meeting to order @ 7:00 pm in the Park County Fairground Extension meeting room.



**Attendance...** Karen Anderson, Rhonda Faulkner, Suzanne Larsen, Bob Prchal, JoAnne Arzillo, Linda Pettengill, Rita Lewis, Donna Haman, Cathy Swartz, Darlene Manning, Nancy Ryan, Joyce Johnston, Ann Hinckley, Teri Boyd and Valerie Bates. Guest: Sharon Utter.

**Approval of Minutes...** The February and March minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report...** The February and March Treasurer's report was submitted and approved.

Mickey stated another officer must be added to the bank signature card.

### Old Business

- **Canal Park:** There is still need for additional volunteers. Presentations, preparation... set-up, tear-down, pricing and members providing additional plant were discussed. This is a money making/fundraiser project!
- **Powell Community Garden:** There may be a April 28 planting date. Stay tuned for details and needs.

### New Business

- **Arbor Day:** Preparation and planning was finalized.
- **Name Tags:** Rita Lewis and Cathy Swartz need name tags; Karen will contact Marquis Awards.
- **Education Programs:** Joyce (May) and Mickey (June) switched dates.

### Committee Reports and/or Announcements

- **Plant a Row:** Please consider extra plantings to your 2014 gardening activities so we can contribute to the needy.

### Reminders

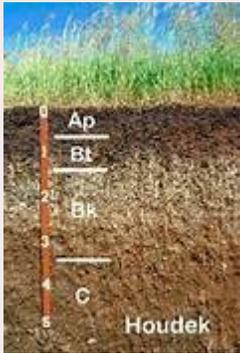
- **WMGA Education Grants:** *Park County Master Gardeners should assess their educational needs and if there is a worthy project that needs assistance, consider applying to the WMGA.*
- **Volunteer Support Activities:** When activities are planned, please respect ALL requests for assistance by responding **yea or nay**. Let's respect and help the event organizer (s).
- **Background Checks:** All members who work with kid's need to undergo a background check. See Rachael Olsen (Powell) or Colleen Renner (Cody) @ the Extension offices for details and paperwork.

**Next Meeting:** In Cody @ 7:00 p.m. May 05, 2014 in the EOC Room of the Park County Courthouse.

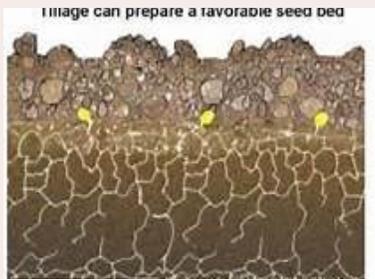
**Refreshments:** Karen Anderson. **Educational Program:** Cactus by Karen Anderson.

**Adjournment...** 7:35 p.m.

## Extension Musings... Joyce Johnston & Ann Hinckley



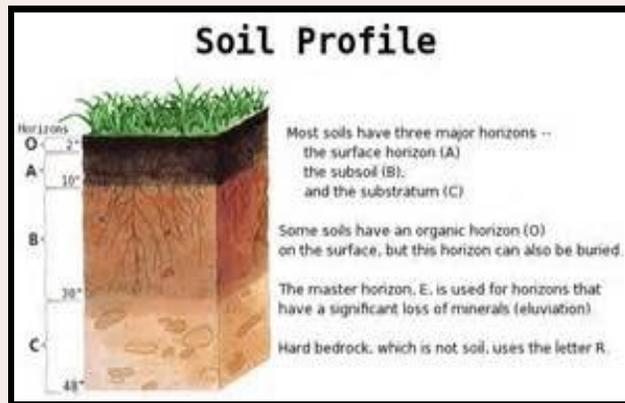
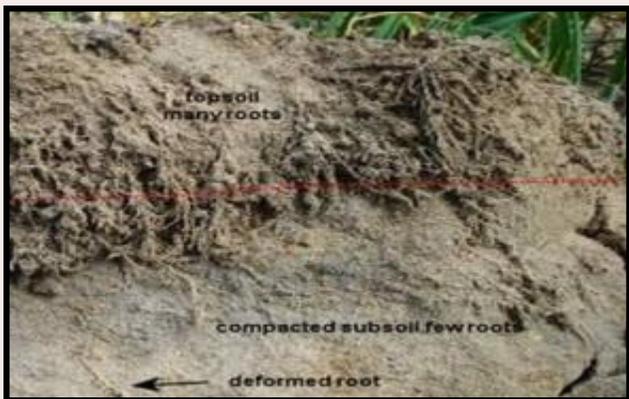
Soil compaction can be caused by many factors but usually it is foot traffic. There are ways to avoid this: design narrow beds or beds and borders that can be reached from both sides, or create a path or place stepping stones in wide beds and borders.



If you have to step into your garden, work when it is dry. When you are working your soil add lots of compost and rotted manure. Spread wood mulch, straw, pine needles or compost where you step. For a temporary measure lay a scrap of lumber like the piece of old fence between the plants.



You can lift the soil with a broad fork or a spading fork to combat compaction. The Garden Gate magazine ends their advice with the suggestion when in your garden watch where you step .



Prose... From Joyce Johnston

Garden... From Country Garden

## My Country Home

My country home is in my soul

And in my heart and mind.

A Childhood dream, a fantasy

I cannot leave behind.

The sounds, the smells, the memories

Of summers on the farm...

New calves, wee piglets, little peeps,

All with their special charm.

Watching seeds break through the soil

As plants with vines and stalks,

Measuring their daily growth

On quiet evening walks.

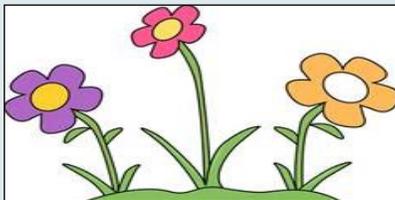
When harvest fills the roadside stands,

Tears well and start to roll,

My country home is in my mind

And in my heart and soul.

*By Jan Streilein*



1. **Place hardscape elements on your outdoor space.** Hardscapes are those aspects that are permanent, including patios, walkways, sheds, fencing and other structures. When choosing materials for hardscapes in a country cottage garden style, consider materials that are well made yet feel and look Old World. Traditionally, a country garden is one made of materials at hand, so brick or crushed limestone for walkways and wooden picket fences feel at home in this style.
2. **Plant trees.** Choose trees based on your growing zone and desired intent.
3. **Place shrubs as desired.**
4. **Add perennials to your beds.**
5. **Plant annuals, herbs and vegetables.**

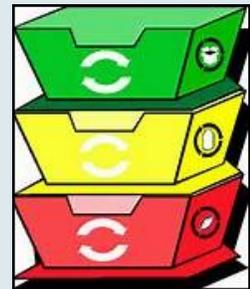


Read more: [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_7668078\\_landscape-country-garden.html#ixzz2xdEgx33t](http://www.ehow.com/how_7668078_landscape-country-garden.html#ixzz2xdEgx33t)

## Aluminum Recycling Facts from Recycling-Revolution.com



- ⇒ **A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can, in as little as 60 days. That's closed loop recycling at its finest!**
- ⇒ **Used aluminum beverage cans are the most recycled item in the U.S., but other types of aluminum, such as siding, gutters, car components, storm window frames, and lawn furniture can also be recycled.**
- ⇒ **Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.**
- ⇒ **More aluminum goes into beverage cans than any other product.**
- ⇒ **Because so many of them are recycled, aluminum cans account for less than 1% of the total U.S. waste stream, according to EPA estimates.**
- ⇒ **An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be a can 500 years from now!**
- ⇒ **There is no limit to the amount of times an aluminum can be recycled.**
- ⇒ **We use over 80, 000, 000, 000 aluminum cans every year.**
- ⇒ **At one time, aluminum was more valuable than gold!**



## Importance of Volunteer Service... 2014 Park County Master Gardeners

### Helping Park County Horticulture & the University of Wyoming

*Redoubles number of 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... extra, available resources*

# 2014 Common Sense Conservation



## Mason Bees... [masonbees.2003@gmail.com](mailto:masonbees.2003@gmail.com) & [kinsmangarden.com](http://kinsmangarden.com)



The Mason bee (*Osmia lignaria*) is a gentle, solitary insect that is a beneficial pollinator of tree fruits, some berries and other crops as well and is found throughout most of North America.

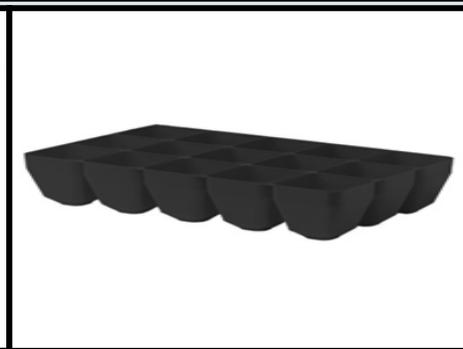
The Mason bee is non-aggressive and will not sting (female mason bees have a stinger, but rarely use it and male Mason bees do not have stingers) unless handled roughly. Quite simply, Mason bees provide a great solution to spring pollination needs; and can be kept by every home with only a little maintenance.

USDA research has shown that each Mason can do the job of 100 honeybees. Plus their hairy bodies carry more pollen to pollinate your blossoms. They also work in lower temperatures than honeybees.

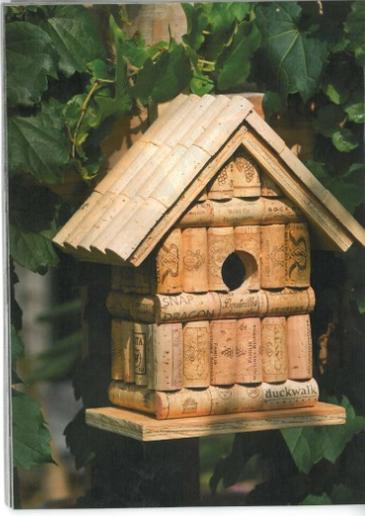
Attract these friendly native American bees to your garden... they'll increase your fruit harvest!



## What are we doing? from Joyce Johnston and Ann Hinckley



## Cork Birdhouse... Submitted by Joyce Johnston from Birds in Bloom



Birds love using these houses as a roosting place during the cold months of Winter and Spring.



These bird houses are completely functional, with a wood frame and real cork siding and shingles. These houses last longer outside if kept out of direct sunlight and birds prefer nesting in the shade. The perch is intentionally omitted to prevent access into the house by larger, predator birds. All of the cork houses are made with

weather-grade adhesive for indoor or outdoor use. The bottom is removable for easy cleaning and there is a “chimney-like” tab at the back for hanging. The approximate measurements of this birdhouse: 6 1/2” L x 4 1/2” W x 10”H. The entrance hole is 1 1/8”, a standard size to accommodate most song birds. What a neat idea for making a birdhouse.

**Step 1.** Buy or build your own birdhouse. Use one with a 1 1/8-inch entrance hole, because it’s a pretty standard opening for most songbirds. It is nice to find one with an overhang to protect the entrance a bit from the elements.

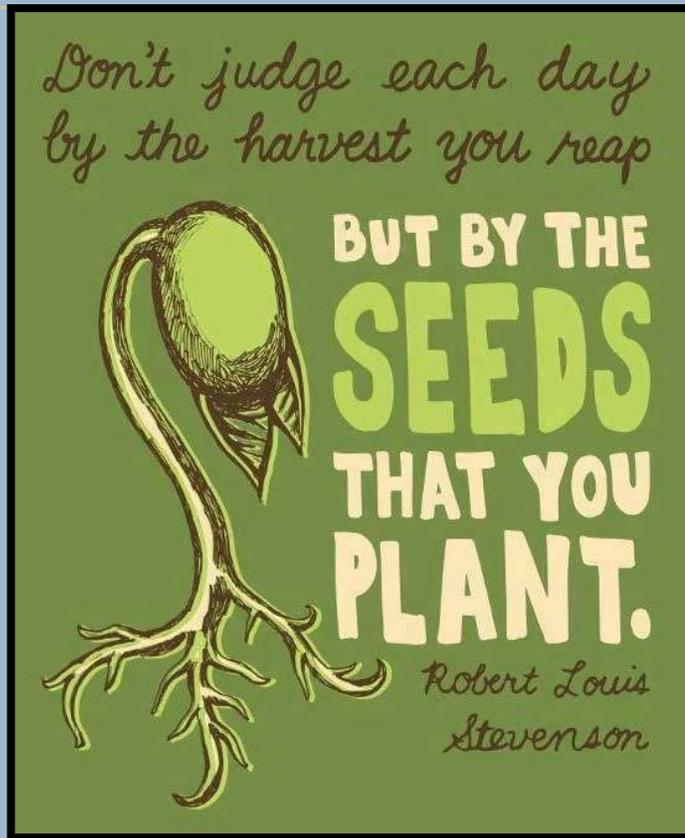
**Step 2.** Cut the corks in half lengthwise with a table band saw or a sharp serrated knife, which will give you a nice, flat gluing surface. If you want to skip cutting the corks, you can use whole ones. You’ll just need more corks and a little more glue per piece.

**Step 3.** Glue the corks on in any pattern you like, trimming with a serrated knife as needed. Either wood or silicone glue will work.

**Step 4.** Use a Dremel tool to round the corks around the entrance hole. If you don’t have a Dremel, a serrated knife will work.



## Signage stuff... *From unknown sources*



## Cut Worm Alert... from UW Assistant Extension Entomologist, Scott Schell 307-766-2508



[http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Banded Woollybear](http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Banded%20Woollybear) The samples submitted are almost entirely black, like this specimen. The last generation of the **Isabella tiger moth** (*P. isabella*) overwinters as half-grown larvae that are active in the daylight on warm days in late winter and early spring. They feed on both grasses and broadleaf plants.



The various “**cutworm species**” are active at night and overcast days in the very early spring and are not hairy. They hide in soil cracks and debris in the daylight

**NOTE:** This is a pest to keep a watch for and to remind clients to scout their crop fields and pastures for.

<http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Cutworms>



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Volume 4, Issue 10

April 2014



## 2014 Officers



President... *Karen Anderson*  
 Vice President... *vacant*  
 Secretary... *Valerie Bates*  
 Treasurer... *Mickey Waddell*  
 WMGA Delegates... *Donna Haman*

'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](mailto:rjprchal@tritel.net)

REMEMBER... Keep it pithy!



## Committee Chairs

Newsletter... *Bob Prchal*  
 Cody Garden Tour... *Suzanne Larsen*  
 Historian... *Jo Anne Arzillo*

Greenhouse... *Bob Prchal*  
 Scholarships... *Nancy Ryan*  
 Park County Fair... *Bob Prchal*  
 Change of Address/Phone/"e" Mail... *Rachael Olsen (Powell)*  
 or *Colleen Renner (Cody)*



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