



Yellowstone Master Gardeners
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Send your submissions for the newsletter to ymastergardener@gmail.com by the 15th of June for submission in the next edition

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Yellowstone Master Gardener Newsletter



Volume 4 Issue 2

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Getting to Know Our Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Sherri Deaver

Sherri Deaver was born a long distance away from Montana in Ferriday, Louisiana. She grew up with her family, mom, dad, and two brothers traveling through many states, because Dad worked for Chevron. When asked how many states, her reply was



that "she attended five different high schools in four states". Enough said. .. In high school, being bored, thinking she might want to write science fiction, she saw an article in Time about how to be "cool." (You needed long hair, a guitar and a degree in anthropology. .) Her quest for the degree started at the University of Wyoming, then on to the University of Mississippi, then the University of Arkansas where she got her BA. According to Sherri, getting a BA in anthropology is "like signing up for pre-unemployment."

(continued on page 4)

Master Gardener Ann Guthals

To me, one of the best things about the Master Gardener program is getting to know other people who love gardening. So here is a little information to help you know me better. My first experience gardening was when I was a very young girl living in



southern California. Growing up I spent as much time as possible being outdoors and when I was four, my mom let me have a patch in the backyard to grow radishes. I have been fascinated ever since with planting seeds and watching the miracle of plant growth take place. In 1968 I married Joel and we moved to Montana, where I taught science in junior high. After Joel finished his time in the Air Force, we moved to Missoula to go to grad school (me) and law school (Joel). (continued on page 5)

See Page 8 for a list of upcoming events.

Swarms, Swarms and more

Bee Swarms – By Amy Grandpre

It's been a busy spring for honey bees this year. And many a homeowner has called our office for help with getting rid of their bee swarm.

As intimidating as one of these balls of 10,000+ bees may be, the good news is when they are swarming, they are really not as defensive as one would expect. In the swarm stage there is no brood (children), and no home to defend, so not much reason to sting you.



The swarm is the colony's way of reproducing itself. As the longer days of spring march on, more and more eggs are laid by the queen, which provide the work force needed to gather nectar and pollen for the

enlarging colony. But after a while the hive gets too crowded and this stimulates the swarming process.

Usually the first swarms are the largest and consist of the "old" queen and most of the field workers. The fun thing about these queens is, to begin with, they are way too heavy to fly. The cure, a few weeks prior to departure, the worker bees put her on a diet...she loses weight and can again fly.

The swarm is a very temporary gathering, that usually lasts a couple days or so...if that long. The swarm is waiting for the scouts to find their new home, and once found, the swarm is led to the new location. This is the time the "waggle dance" is used to communicate to the swarm the distance and direction to go to the new home location.

The sad news about bee swarms are the ones that set up between home walls or other inconvenient voids. Inconvenient for two reasons:

is now their home. These bees are difficult to impossible to collect without tearing up a wall or other structure to get them.

As sad as this is, it is perfectly legal to kill bees that have set up in such places. (Truly the swarm stage is the nicest for bee collecting... for both bees and the collector.)

Once one of these undesirable colonies is sadly destroyed....the work has just begun, as next the honey, pollen, brood and dead bees need to be removed. And "Why?" you ask. The honey will melt, may ferment; the dead brood rots and smells; and flies, beetles and scavengers will become interested in feasting on the undefended liquid gold inside. The removal of such colonies may also mean some reconstruction of the building area they inhabited...so removing such a colony is better done sooner than later.

If you end up with a swarm, enjoy this most miraculous process, knowing it will quickly pass. If you'd like to make a beekeeper's day, you can find a list of collectors by state listed online at: <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Bees/pdf/swarms.pdf> Or you can call our local Bee Inspector – Laurie Newman at 652-3616 or 431-9126.

“

Homeowners are planting flowers in their yards thinking they're helping bees—and they're basically planting poison plants.

— Erin MacGregor-Forbes
An urban beekeeper in Maine

To find out more about the plight of bees go to:

<http://earthjustice.org/features/the-perfect-crime>

LIFE IN THE HIVE

- Presentation by Sheri Kisch

Saturday, April 25th at 2:00

Billings Public Library – Community Room

You will not want to miss this informative presentation about the inner workings of the hive and what good friends the honeybees are to all of us who like to eat!

Sheri Kisch has been a hobbyist beekeeper for 32 years in the Laurel area. She first started out wanting bees for the honey. She figured that if she had a ready supply of honey she would be more inclined to use it in baking and cooking, which she did. But then Sheri realized how intelligent bees were and the interest and wonder grew from there. Having them close to the garden didn't hurt either.

Sheri was one of the original members of the Eastern Montana Beekeepers Association in the 80's and has held every position on the board many times through its nineteen years of existence -President six of those years. Sheri was also instrumental in starting our area's new Yellowstone Valley Beekeepers Club in 2012. Sheri has been a member of Master Gardeners since 2008, is an excellent speaker, and has a wealth of knowledge about bees.

Here's the dirt!

By Donna Canino

How does rain get that great earthy sweet smell?

There are several factors that contribute to the smell of rain. Here are two of the most common reasons why. Actinomyces are bacteria that like to grow in warm and moist soil. When the soil becomes dry the actinomyces produce spores in the soil. A similar effect happens with the volatile oils from plants. During dry conditions plants will secrete oils onto rocks and the earth's surface. The pressure from the rain sends the spores as well as the oils up into the air releasing their scents similar to a aerosol mist.

Gardening Tips

-submitted by Elaine Allard

- **Plant all hardy crops as soon as the weather breaks, from severe to mild temperatures.**
- **If severe weather returns be prepared to protect plants from killer frost.**
- **Rotate vegetables to different areas of the garden to keep pest down.**
- **Deep water trees & shrubs. Remember trees have an extensive root system so you need to water out to the drip line.**
- **Apply dormant oil spray when temperatures get above 40 degrees and freezing temperatures are not expected for 24 to 48 hours**
- **For a more complete list of Spring gardening tips –go to Grapevine on Yellowstone Master Gardener's web site www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/horticulture/grapevine.asp**

(Sherri Deaver –continued from page 1)



Sherri and Deva

While at UA, she met and then married her husband, Ken. I guess only anthropologist “get” other anthropologists. They have been married for 47 years. They both got PhDs in Anthropology at Washington State University.

She taught Anthropology at Ohio State University for five years. During that time Sherri had a friend teaching at Montana State University, and would come out and teach for him in the summer while he was doing fieldwork. Sherri and Ken liked what they saw and found work at a private company in Billings doing anthropological fieldwork. Eventually, they started their own business, Ethnoscience, which they ran for 23 years before selling to their employees about ten years ago. They did mostly private and some government work that included archaeological survey: systematically looking at a project area to determine if any evidence of past human activity (e.g., tipi rings, historic houses etc.) would be damaged by the proposed project (e.g., road construction, coal mining, Tongue River Railroad etc.). Ethnoscience also consulted with living peoples to determine if they had concerns about proposed projects. They talked with folks about the respectful way to deal with burials, concerns about plants and other environmental factors, treaty rights and

concerns of other groups (eg, Basques Hutterites etc). Commonly, living peoples have concerns about potential damage to plants, animals, water and other aspects of the environment. Sherri found that many groups in Montana, the Dakotas, Wyoming and Idaho had concerns about plant and animal life as well as other aspects of the environment. She spent much of her research time consulting with people about how they identify plants and why they are important. This particular focus of anthropology is called Ethnobotany/Ethnobiology. (Ethno = people).

After retiring from Ethnoscience, Sherri had time to garden. Sherri enjoys fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers. She joined Master Gardeners in 2004 and has since been active at Special K from March to June for the last ten years. She has also helped with the Vista Volunteer Gardens. In her spare time she likes to carve on rocks, make origami boxes and making stepping stones from burned timber (juniper). She learned square foot gardening was her only hope of having a vegetable garden in the gravel berm of the alley between her house and the irrigation ditch. Quite a variety of alliums are peaking out already and anything blue is welcomed in her yard. Early on, she volunteered along with many other Master Gardeners, to test the planters made by the Floating Island people in Shepherd. She still uses hers to grow parsnips.

We are very lucky to have such a well-traveled and educated person in the Master Garden program to learn so many new things about



Sherri's rock garden.

Ann Guthals—continued from p. 1)

I completed a master's in zoology at the University of Montana while we lived there. We then moved to Billings where I worked part-time while having two children and raising them up. I finally got back to gardening here, with a vegetable garden in the backyard of our first house.

In 1979 we built our present house and I was delighted to finally have a large area to garden in. After a couple of years, we built raised beds and several years later added a deer fence. We named our road Deer Park as we, at that time, had scads of deer (not as many now), so the deer fence eventually became a necessity.

Starting in the late 60s, I became increasingly alarmed at the damage to the environment. I have tried to come up with solutions to our environmental problems, including analyzing how I could help. When my children were in high school, I became involved in the food co-op and eventually became the manager for many years. I felt helping people to eat locally and organically would reach as many people as possible to help heal the earth.

I left the co-op in 2006 and discovered the Master Gardener program in 2007. I learned a lot from taking the classes twice. I helped start the Association and I volunteer at Home on the Range, Blue Creek School Garden, and writing/editing/



Ann Guthals' amazing garden

typesetting the newsletter. I have enjoyed getting to know other gardeners and learning new techniques to try in my garden. I consider my garden an ongoing experiment and the classes helped me to develop a more flexible attitude toward trying new things there. In addition to vegetable gardening, I also enjoy taking care of and propagating house plants. I still love the out-of-doors and animals (including my dog, cat and 12 chickens). When I retire and have more time, I have plans for a native plant garden, more raised beds, and learning how to garden in times of unpredictable weather. And hopefully getting to know more gardeners in Billings!



“The Sun, with all the planets revolving around it, and depending on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as though it had nothing else in the Universe to do.” -Galileo Galilee

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Roy Wahl has set up a special Yell. Co. M.G. Association account with Amazon. By using the portal above, and then typing in Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association, .5% of purchases made through this portal will be donated to the

Association. You can even have an app link to connect you instantly to the sign in page. So please use this link when making Amazon purchases, and know by doing so that you are also supporting the Master Gardener Association.And pass it on! 😊

Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association is now on Facebook.
“Like us” and find out what is going on and contribute to our community
<https://www.facebook.com/YCMGA>

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." --Greek proverb



The Master Gardener trip this year was to the Philadelphia Flower Show and Longwood Gardens. The trip was organized by Toby Day and Dara Palmer. Twenty from Montana were able to attend. Five Yellowstone County Master Gardeners enjoyed the trip: Amy Grandpre, Sharon Wetsch, Sheri Kisch, Rosemary Power, and Mary McLane.

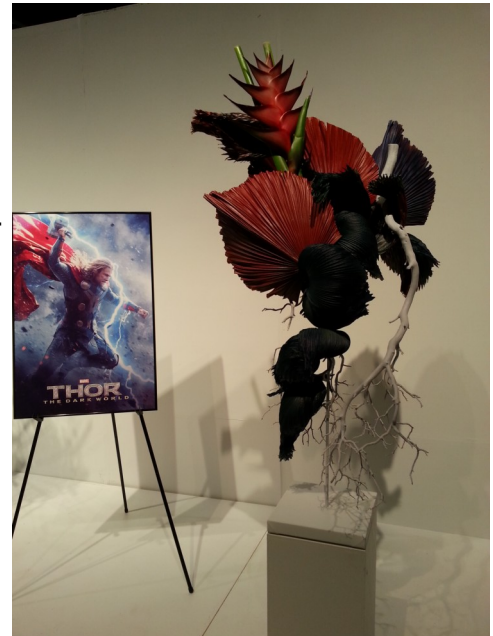
The show has been in existence for 186 years and is sponsored by the Philadelphia Horticultural Society (with its 64,000 members and 5000 volunteers) as a fund raiser for the 50 acres of high-

profile landscapes in Philadelphia. The show runs annually for ten days and features competitions in horticulture, floral design, landscapes, plant societies, and educational. Many groups were involved who were not in competition. The show is held in the huge convention center hall and has areas for presentations for floral design, gardening, and cooking. So much was going on that one could not take it all in...even in three days!



The 5-hour tour of Longwood Gardens, which was created by Pierre du Pont, about an hour from downtown Philadelphia, was a highlight. Even though there was snow on the outside gardens and trees, the four acres of conservatories which house 20 rooms of plants were full of blooming flowers, especially with the Orchid Extravaganza going on, water features, a Children's Garden and an expansive variety of plants from around the world. It was so

nice to see daffodils and the blooming nectarine trees espaliered in the Estate Fruit House.. - *Mary McLane*



Cabbage Salad

Shred green and red cabbage and carrots, and thinly slice celery (amounts are up to the cook, though I'd go lightest on red cabbage as it's strong). Add some shelled pistachios. Use your favorite oil and vinegar dressing. Toss to coat. Refrigerate till used. (Can add other things, like raisins or dried cranberries or chopped apple--it's fun to experiment).

*Recipe submitted by
Ann Guthals*

Send your favorite seasonal recipes using garden produce for submission to the newsletter at ymastergardener@gmail.com by June 15th.

Another fresh new year is here .

..

Another year to live!

To banish worry, doubt, and fear,

To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me

To live each day with zest . . .

To daily grow and try to be

My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity

Once more to right some

wrongs,

To pray for peace, to plant a

tree,

And sing more joyful songs!

- William Arthur Ward

Submitted by Gail Tesinsky



Recipe submitted by Gail Tesinsky

FOR SALE—TRADE—EXCHANGE

I HAVE A 3' X 3' bed of Vinca Minor ground cover that needs a new home. It's evergreen with purple flowers in the Spring. I also have a 3' x 3' bed of Boston Ivy that needs to be moved. Contact Sheri at itsdlaw@tctwest.net.



<http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/horticulture/mastergard.asp>

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Extension - Yard and
Garden: <http://gardenguide.montana.edu/>

<http://www.facebook.com/msuextension>



Tentative Calendar of Events

(watch for emails on updates and more details on events)

April

25th – Life in the Hive – bee talk by Sheri Kisch at Billings Public Library

May

1st – Plant exchange and Social get-together at Metra (bring plants & snacks)
8th – Volunteers needed to help with City Arbor Day Activities at Riverfront Park
17th – Geranium Fest at ZooMontana

June

11TH – Bridger Plant Materials Field Day
17th – Master Gardener Gathering at DanWalt Gardens
27th – Billings Area Pond Tour to benefit ZooMontana

July

17th & 18th – Flower Show
26 – Tour of City Trees

August

16th – Tree Identification at ZooMontana
Late August – Field Trip to visit Heritage Fruit Orchard in Grass Range

Sale on Aspen trees

-submitted by Bob Wicks

The Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association is having a sale on Aspen trees. These are nice bare root trees and are 18 to 24 inches tall. We are asking \$5.00 a piece or 5 for \$20.00. This is a great way to support your program as all the money raised will go right back into Master Gardener projects. Also this is a tax donation to a non-profit. The trees will be here the first part of April which is a great time to plant trees. Please contact Bob Wicks at bobwix@hotmail.com or Amy Grandpre and we will make sure your trees are reserved. Thank you for supporting your program.



Plant a tree for your tomorrow
It's your tree that clears the air
Plant a tree, trees for America
Plant a tree today for all the world to share

Taste the breeze, it's life inside you
Make a promise to the Earth
Plant a tree, now is the time to
Recognize a tree for all that it is worth

Plant a tree for your tomorrow
It's your tree that clears the air
Plant a tree, trees for America
Plant a tree today for all the world to share

Grow a shady place to rest in
Make a place for birds to sing
Plant a forest for the future
For the breath of life begins with every spring

Plant a tree for your tomorrow
It's your tree that clears the air
Plant a tree, trees for America
Plant a tree today for all the world to share

-John Denver