

Yellowstone Master Gardeners
P.O. Box 35021
Billings, MT 59107

We want hear from you !
-Send your submissions for
newsletter to
ynergardener@gmail.com by
March 15th for the next issue.

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Volume 4, Issue 1

January—February—March 2015

Anne Hillman ~ Master Gardeners ~ Tracy L. Livingston

Born in beautiful Pasadena, California, Anne Hillman lived there until she was 15. Her family then moved to Carson City, Nevada, stayed till she was 18 and then moved back to Escondido, California. Somehow in 1986 Anne made her way to Montana, just knew that she had found "home" and has been here ever since.



Anne is married to Roger Hillman who works at St. Vincent Healthcare as an emergency room nurse. They live on a half-acre in Lockwood with their five four-footed children, four cats and one very smart dog. After watching Anne dig carrots, the dog figured that she could dig and eat carrots all by herself, and did.

Being a team member, helping, caring and sharing is how Anne describes her job at the Lockwood Veterinary Service which she has held for the last 24 years.

Spare time is very limited for Anne, but she does like to bead, making necklaces and ear-

Born and raised in Sheridan, Wyoming I've been familiar with the Billings, Montana area since the late 1960s. I moved in 2002, from Cody, WY where I was working for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

I didn't get a chance to take the Master Gardener program until 2006, due to various time constraints, but have loved being involved with the group ever since!



I am working as the Social Media Director for The Extreme History Project and maintaining two of their Facebook pages (Fort Parker: The First Crow Agency and The Extreme History Project's pages) and as an Archivist for the Western Heritage Center.

I am also documenting a 3,700+ artifact collection for a local that will be used as a teaching collection by the Billings Curation Office at the Bureau of Land Management's state office. Love getting to look at, photograph and document artifacts that can date back as far as 10,000 years!

I really have no memory of any relatives gardening, though that would have been a significant

Newsletter Editors Wanted!!

- ◇ The Yellowstone Master Gardener Newsletter Editors would love to have at least three (3) new folks join us as Editors!
- ◇ There is always room for more input!

Winter is a time of promise because there is so little to do — or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so. ~Stanley Crawford, *A Garlic Testament: Seasons on a Small New Mexico Farm*, 1992

One kind word can warm three winter months. ~Japanese Proverb

Philadelphia Flower Show

Master Gardener Travel Package
Brought to you by the Montana State University Extension
Master Gardener Program

Philadelphia Flower Show
Celebrate the Movies-Lights, Camera, Bloom



\$495.00* Double Occupancy/per person
\$695.00* Single Occupancy/per person

*Airfare, transportation to and from the hotel and additional meals/tips are the responsibility of the individual.

DEADLINE to secure reservation: FEBRUARY 1, 2015

Price includes:

- * 3 nights' accommodation at the Holiday Inn Express-Midtown
- * Buffet breakfast daily at hotel
- * Meet and Greet dinner Friday evening
- * 2 day admittance to the Philadelphia Flower Show
- * Saturday transportation to Longwood Gardens
- * Saturday admission to Longwood Gardens

As you might know, the Montana Master Gardener Program offers an opportunity for Master Gardeners, Agents, specialists, and garden club members to experience an opportunity to see gardening talks, meet gardening writers, see great gardening presentations from world renown gardeners, and be inspired by gardening ideas from around the country. In prior years we have visited the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in Seattle which was well received and a real blast! This year we decided to change things up a bit and invite you to the largest flower and garden show in the country – The Philadelphia Flower and Garden Show!

We have set up the trip with hotel room packages, a fancy dinner, tickets to the show, and as an added bonus, a trip to Longwood Gardens!

These trips have been a great success in the past – this one will be equally fantastic!

For more information please contact either Toby Day or Dara Palmer with any questions.

For more info contact: Toby Day - toby.day@montana.edu - 406.994.6523

Dara Palmer - dara.palmer@montana.edu - 406.994.2120

To learn more about the Philadelphia Flower Show visit: <http://theflowershow.com/>

To learn more about Longwood Gardens please visit: <http://longwoodgardens.org/>

Anne Hillman cont.

rings or doing counted crossstitch for indoor activities. If they do get a chance to leave town, she likes to go camping and fishing. Anne has learned to tie her own flies. In the past, Anne has had various jobs from bartending to owning her own pet store.

Anne didn't grow up with a family of gardeners. When they moved to Lockwood and started work on their lawn and garden space, she knew she would need help with the "terrible soil" on their place. When she joined Master Gardeners in 2004, Anne was looking for a learning experience and found that and more. She has enjoyed the camaraderie and sharing of information. One way of dealing with not so terrific soil is to build raised beds and haul in good soil products. A deer fence has also been necessary around the yard and next year there will be a separate "garden fence" to keep the kids out. Her plan is to raise a lot of produce that she can preserve for the winter months.

Anne has kept her gardening talents honed by using an AeroGarden. "The AeroGarden is an indoor garden made by AeroGrow International. The AeroGarden can be used to grow small amounts of vegetables, herbs, salad plants, and flowers. The seeds for these plants come in special seed pods, or consumers can use their own seeds with a custom kit. The plants get artificial sunlight from CFL or LED lights. The AeroGarden comes in several different sizes, accommodating 3, 6, or 7 seed pods at one time. Most AeroGardens have an adjustable light hood that can be used to grow plants that need to grow taller, such as tomatoes. All of the AeroGardens make use of liquid fertilizer that is mixed into the water reservoir. The Garden makes use of hydroponics and uses no soil. Roots soak in nutrient-rich water, which provides plants with nutrients. The AeroGarden comes with plastic domes to put over seed pods to encourage germination; however, these can cause excessive humidity and cause mold if kept on too long."

Anne has helped with the Square Foot Garden at the Metra, the info booths and helping Amy by sending out the many notifications of upcoming meetings and social events by postcard. Anne feels that since joining she now looks at plants, etc. differently. You "see so much more".

Submitted by Sheri Kisch

Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association

Bookmark This page: <http://www.ycmgamt.com>

- * The YCMGA Web Page is packed with information.
- * Calendar of upcoming events,
- * Information on Master Gardener projects and volunteer activities,
- * Information on Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association,
- * Minutes from past YCMGA Board meetings.

Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/YCMGA>

Tracy L. Livingston cont.

undertaking for my Maternal Grandparents who homesteaded outside of Liberal, Kansas. In fact that is how they met as their homesteads were 'next door' to each other! My father's people were railroaders and business people. My mother was instrumental in getting Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center started.

I have very distinct memories of my surrogate parents, Clarence and Peggy Terry's huge garden plot outside of Sheridan, mostly raiding it for pea pods and watching the various plants go through their life cycle. In high school Byron Rawlings' garden was another strong influence, educating me on what would or could grow in Northern Wyoming!

Another woman whose garden so strongly influenced me was my surrogate Grandmother Hazel (Higgie) Higgins' flower garden. She lived in a tiny house, on a miniscule city lot across the street from my parents' first house. What an amazing magical world to wander in – all those beautiful flowers often growing well over my head. The smells, textures and colors were amazing!

Maybe this combination upbringing is why I am so fascinated with the Cottage Garden concept. I love trying to figure out how to inter-plant fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers and smaller fruiting trees and bushes into a typical west side yard.

Since becoming involved with the Master Gardener program, my major emphasis has been the After School Program and a cooperative program with the Billings Public Library, Children's Librarians and the Master Gardeners. This is coordinated with Elaine Allard. Several of our fellow Master Gardeners have been fantastic volunteers on these units.

I am also an administrator for the Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association's Facebook page and an Editor for the Master Gardener Newsletter. I help Amy Grandpre by taking photos of the new folks who are attending the Master Gardener program classes on Friday afternoons. Taking the proverbial 'mug shots'!

Currently, I'm looking at the various plant catalogs, dreaming of Spring and what 'else' can I possibly stuff into my gardening scheme!

Submitted by Tracy L. Livingston

Winter Gardening Tips

- ◆ Time to start planning your garden and flower bed
- ◆ Get seed ordered early
- ◆ Check your trees and shrubs for any damage and take action sooner than later. Are your trees wraps still in place?
- ◆ Check for dryness around trees. Do they need a drink?
- ◆ Start pruning your trees and shrubs while they are still dormant.
- ◆ Checked your stored bulbs for mold and moisture.
- ◆ Houseplants can be headed back or transplanted.
- ◆ For a more complete list of gardening tips go to Grapevine on Yellowstone County Master Gardener's web site www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/horticulture/grapevine.asp

Submitted by: Elaine Allard

WHAT IS THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM?

The Master Gardener Program was started by the Washington State Extension Service in 1972, and is now offered in all 50 states. It has become an enjoyable & useful volunteer activity, offering participants a sense of community spirit, accomplishment and intellectual learning, while providing their community with timely, up-to-date information.

How Does The Program Work?

Participants attend a series of classes, instructing them in the latest, research-based, home horticulture practices. There are 32 hours of class time over a sixteen week period. (For both Lev. 1 & 2)

Class instruction is recorded in DVD format from Bozeman; PowerPoint Presentations are available to view electronically for note taking and review. Cost of the program is \$125 for each Level, and includes a copy of the Montana Master Gardener handbook. Limited scholarships available upon approval.

Volunteer Commitment

In return for the training, participants agree to volunteer time in a horticulture-related community activity. (Level 1 participants must volunteer 20 hours and Level 2 participants 30 hours during year of class participation.) Renewing Master Gardeners in good standing (completing required hours), then volunteer 20 hours yearly to maintain good standing. Placement is based on your knowledge, skills and interests.

Level 1 Master Gardener Course

Spring 2015 - Feb. 2-Mar. 30

Mon. 6:30 ~ 8:30 pm, **or** Fri. 2:00-4:00 pm.

Classes held at MetraPark Yellowstone Room,

Located at base of grandstands.

- ◆ Introduction to MSU Extension and the Master Gardener Program
- ◆ Soils & Fertility
- ◆ Plant Growth & Development I
- ◆ Growing Food From Your Garden
- ◆ Flowers
- ◆ Trees, Shrubs, Vines and Pruning
- ◆ Lawns and Irrigation
- ◆ Yard & Garden Maintenance/Composting
- ◆ Intro to IPM-Integrated Pest Management

*To request applications or for questions, please contact Amy at 256-2821

(Class site and timing may change!)

Here's the Dirt

- ◆ If your New Year's resolution includes doing more gardening and eating better then you should consider growing micro greens. These little greens are 1 to 3 inches in height, take 10 to 14 days to harvest, and can deliver up to 40 times more nutrients than that of a mature plant.
 - ◇ Red cabbage micro greens are one of the top micro greens with 6 times more vitamin C and 40 times more vitamin E.
 - ◇ Red cabbage, garnet amaranth and green daikon radish micro greens are all high in Vitamin C, K, and E.
 - ◇ Cilantro micro greens were found to be the richest in Lutein and Beta Carotene.
 - ◇ Micro green seeds are readily available and simple to grow in doors with natural light.
- ◆ The Volunteer mileage Tax rate for 2014 is fourteen cents a mile for those of you that itemize your taxes. Be sure to keep detailed records and store with your tax return.

Submitted by: Donna Canino

SHREDDED TURKEY SANDWICHES

½ CUP FINELY CHOPPED ONION
1/3 CUP KETCHUP
4 TEASP WHITE VINEGAR
¼ TEASP SALT
2 ½ TEASP WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE
2 KAISER ROLLS, SPLIT

1 TABLESPOON BUTTER
3 TAB. BROWN SUGAR
2 TEASP PREPARED MUSTARD
1/8 TEASP PEPPER
1 CUP SHREDDED COOKED TURKEY

In a small saucepan, sauté the onion in butter. Stir in the ketchup, brown sugar, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and fold in turkey. Cover and warm through, about 5-10 minutes. Serve on rolls.

Submitted by: Sheri Kisch

Seed Germination Database—The following data is provided by Thompson & Morgan - Successful Seed Raising Guide. This guide is out of print.

A seed is an embryo plant and contains within itself virtually all the materials and energy to start off a new plant. To get the most from one's seeds it is needful to understand a little about their needs, so that just the right conditions can be given for successful growth.

<http://www.backyardgardener.com/tm.html>

Nature looks dead in winter because her life is gathered into her heart. She withers the plant down to the root that she may grow it up again fairer and stronger. She calls her family together within her inmost home to prepare them for being scattered abroad upon the face of the earth.
~Hugh Macmillan, "Rejuvenescence," *The Ministry of Nature*, 1871

Send your favorite seasonal recipes using garden produce for submission to the newsletter to ymastergardener@gmail.com by the 15th of the month. March 15, 2015!

Remember, the Yellowstone County Extension Service has moved their



office from the County Courthouse to the Old Chamber Building. Do stop by for a visit!

AMAZON PURCHASES

By using the portal below, 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!

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

Level 2 Master Gardener Course**Spring 2015 - April 3~June 1**

Mon. 6:30 ~ 8:30 pm, or Fri. 2:00-4:00 pm.

Classes held at MetraPark Yellowstone Room

Located at base of grandstands.

- ◆ The Role of Master Gardener in Extension
- ◆ Binomial Nomenclature
- ◆ Fertility, Plant Nutrients
- ◆ Plant Growth and Development 2
- ◆ Entomology, Plant Diseases and Abiotic Disorders
- ◆ Vegetable and Fruit IPM
- ◆ Trees, Shrubs, and Lawn IPM
- ◆ Advanced Pruning and Woody Ornamental Care
- ◆ Propagation
- ◆ Water Conservation

*To request applications or for questions, please contact Amy at 256-2821

Level 3 Master Gardener Course

This is a 3 day, intensive training held at MSU-Bozeman, for renewing Master Gardeners, showing committed dedication to the program. For course cost and tentative schedule details contact Toby Day, Extension Horticulture Associate, in Bozeman at 406.334.6523.

Certification and Testing

Participants that complete either the Level 1 or Level 2 Master Gardener course will receive a certificate of participation. (Must attend 6 of 8 course classes. Makeup classes are available.)

Those wishing to obtain State Certification as a Master Gardener must take both Level 1 and Level 2 state developed exams and obtain a passing score. The State will mail the certification to the successful tester after participant has returned required volunteer hours for the year.

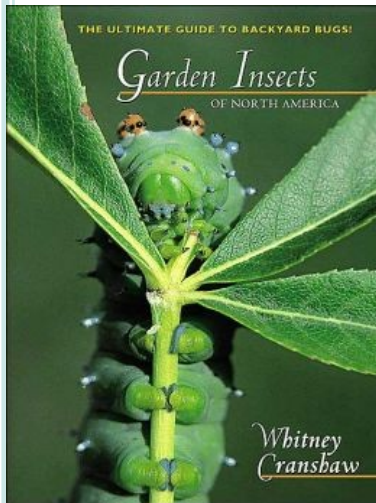
***** VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY— MASTER GARDENER AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM *****
Starts Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Contact: Mary McLane at 669-3329 for more information or to sign up to volunteer!

"It is the life of the crystal, the architect of the flake, the fire of the frost, the soul of the sunbeam. This crisp winter air is full of it. ~John Burroughs, "Winter Sunshine"

“Winter bites with its teeth or lashes with its tail. ~Montenegrin Proverb

Garden Insects: of North America



If you have ever wondered what has been eating on your garden besides yourself, the deer and the rabbits, you could likely find the answer in *The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs, Garden Insects of North America*. This comprehensive and user-friendly guide was written by Whitney Cranshaw, a professor and extension specialist for Colorado State University, who is very well known and respected for his knowledge of insects. Cranshaw's book is full of close-up colored photos and clearly written descriptions of insects as they go through their distinct and different stages of metamorphosis, which are very helpful in identification. Cranshaw stresses that correct identification of the insect is the required first step in diagnoses and control.

Additionally, the book includes information on the life history and habit of these pests which is critical to understanding their potential to cause injury and to identify where in their life cycle we can apply management principles to help get them under control. Cranshaw believes in using Integrated Pest Management (Cultural, Physical, Biological and Chemical) to control insect pests; and before using chemical control making sure the chemical is intended for the specific use and is used correctly. Cranshaw's book also brings awareness to the fact that the overwhelming majority of insects are not harmful to our gardens and yards and many are even beneficial.

(This book is available for check out at the Billings Public Library)

Other books written by Cranshaw: *Pests of the West*
Bagging Big Bugs
Guide to Colorado Insects
Bugs Rule

Book Review by Elaine Allard

In seed-time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy. ~William Blake



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

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Montana State University
Extension - Yard and
Garden:
[http://
gardenguide.montana.edu/](http://gardenguide.montana.edu/)
[http://www.facebook.com/
msuextension](http://www.facebook.com/msuextension)



Winter Bees

Honeybees work together at all times, but especially in winter. They are one of the few insects in the Northern Hemisphere that remain active in freezing weather, and they do it in typical bee fashion: by gathering, sharing, and communicating.

All summer they collect nectar, which they transform into honey in wax-covered cells. As the air turns colder, bees begin to cluster around their queen, who represents the future of the hive. The colder it gets, the tighter they huddle, shrinking to a football-sized mass that slowly eats its way through the carefully stored honey. The bees "shiver" (flex their flight muscles) to generate heat and take turns moving in and out of the warm center cluster to the outer rim, while the queen remains at the heart, ready to resume her egg-laying at the first sign of spring.

WINTER BEES

We are an ancient tribe,
a hardy scum.
Born with eyelash legs
and tinsel wings,
we are nothing on our own.
Together, we are One.

We scaled a million blooms
to reap the summer's glow.
Now, in the merciless cold
we share each morsel of heat,
each honeyed crumb.
We cram to a sizzling ball
to warm our queen, our heart,
our home.

Alone, we would falter and
drop,
a dot on the canvas of snow.
Together, we boil, we teem,
we hum.

Deep in the winter hive,
we burn like a golden sun.

Poem by Joyce Sidman – Illustrated by Rick Allen



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