



Yellowstone Master Gardeners
wants to hear from you.

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YELLOWSTONE MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER



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Marcella Manuel

- Cindy Roessler

Imagine being a happy, optimistic gardener, even though moose jump your six foot fence the night before! Marcella Manuel exudes hope. She successfully gardens regardless of circumstances. Marcella chose the challenging climate of Roberts, Montana, although growing up in Lewistown's climate set her up for handling tough yard duties. According to her, the joy is in surviving challenges such as snow in June and July, and hail taking out her favorite flower the lupine last year. Thankfully it came back, so never give up.



My favorite story of hers involves a free truckload of cattle manure that she received from a neighbor. The rancher had not sprayed for five years, but the rancher on the property before him had, and Marcella reaped the results, with herbicide contamination on potatoes and tomatoes. Initially accessing the issues as wilt, a test of the plant material shed truth on the matter. With help from the Schutter Diagnostic Lab in Bozeman and Dow Chemical, getting rid of it took eight, I am not kidding, eight years. Aminopyralid kills dicots, not monocots, for those of you who recall Level 2. Air, sunlight, and water helped dissipate it, although scooping out contaminated soil completed the cleansing. This lady has grit.

Cindy Roessler- The Perpetual Gardener .This common thread runs through just about every gardener whom I meet- their first introduction to gardening was through family. Cindy is no exception, and, as is also often the case, it was her mother. She helped her mom and grandmother grow vegetables while growing up in Dickinson, ND, although her mom later grew to adore flowers.



Cindy represents another great source of information for our gardening community. She usually starts her plants from seed, and watching them pop up in spring gives her lots of joy. Another positive she discovers through gardening is sharing ideas with people, especially the network via the MG program. The water lilies in her pond were inspired by Elaine Allard, for example. She winters them and many other plants in her garage. Her range of gardening activities, wow! Cindy uses raised beds and has grown to specialize in flowering perennials, especially hardy hibiscus and delphinium. She has limited her gardening activities, though, by taking out fruit trees, and the lawn remains her husband's turf.

He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life. Mahammad Ali

Continued from Page 1 –Marcella Manuel

She acquires perennials with deep discounts at one of Billings' big box stores when the plants are past their prime, then manages to coax them to long, lovely lives. Plus she grafts to help perpetuate heritage gardens and has helped Toby gather data on heritage orchards across the state.

Both realtors and gardeners must be enthusiastic and optimistic, while knowledge and adaptability lift achievers such as Marcella even higher. She admits that her appreciation for land might not match visions other realtors have. Gardening is her stress relief, and we pondered if a chemical is released from the soil which gives euphoria to gardeners, providing sanctuary unto itself.

Marcella shares her knowledge widely, having taught Adult Ed. gardening classes in Red Lodge, Master Gardener Classes in Joliet, and 4-H members. She has hosted plant exchanges, too. Never one to take all the credit, Marcella cherishes the new County Extension Agent in Carbon County, Nikki Bailey, and acknowledges other MGs in the Red Lodge area, Brittany Moreland and Maggy Hiltner.

Her newest project is trying itoh peony, a cross between a tree peony and an herbaceous peony. She saw some at the Seattle Garden Show, a show about which she raves. Her current advice for new gardeners: start small and try; don't be afraid. She counts her mom, the MG program, DanWalt Gardens and other gardeners as her teachers. What she values most about the MG program, even though it is all great, are activities outside of class. When hearing her speak, it becomes readily obvious that she is a walking encyclopedia of information about gardening. Carbon County and the MG program are lucky to have Marcella as a resource and inspiration! Submitted by Bess Lovec

For Sale – Used canning jars \$4.00 pts/\$8.00 qts call Sheri 628-6110

Continued from page 1 Cindy Roessler

though, by taking out fruit trees, and the lawn remains her husband's turf.

One of her favorite learning aspects of the MG program was discovering the "awesome" Special K Ranch. They have a large operation, and even sell tomatoes to Albertson's, one of those little known facts.

Cindy has been with Valley Credit Union for 37 years, serving as the Chief Risk Officer. Gardening functions as her stress buster, supplying a radical contrast to her work, although her full-time position prevents her from being frequently involved with MG. Nonetheless, she belongs to a Bonsai Society .

As a true gardener, she tries something new every year, this year being non-GMO foxglove. She doesn't give up easily, either. Her heroic attempt to hatch praying mantises initially failed, but she is going to give that another whirl. The challenges of gardening here, from her perspective, the shorter season and lack of enough sunlight, only fuel her fury to succeed. Also she works to find the right amount of iron to compensate for deficiency in maple trees. Her advice to those new to gardening? Patience and avoid overwatering.

As she continues to mature as a gardener, Cindy is noticing more frequently the connections among animals and her yard. Her crab apple trees feed cedar wax wing birds, while the deer prefer water from the pond and the bird seed intended for birds. Hummingbirds frequent her yard for a few weeks every summer, entertaining Cindy. I hope you have a chance to meet her during our growing season!

Submitted by Bess Lovec

Master Gardener Rewards:

Corry Mordeaux receives a check for \$150 for 1600 Volunteer Hours

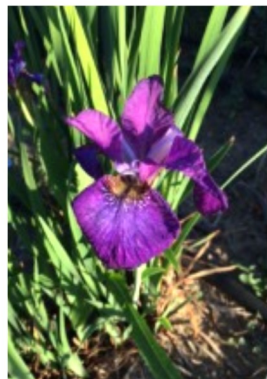
Sharon Wetsch receives a check for \$125 for 1400 Volunteer Hours.

Thank you both for your dedication and hard work through the Master Gardener program.

Field Trip to Delane Langton's Iris Garden

On a dark and stormy afternoon in June, approximately 15 intrepid Master Gardeners and family and friends trekked to a hilltop ridge deep in Emerald Hills to view an amazing garden. Delane Langton has planted and tends hundreds of irises near his house. Delane, his very large "puppy" (170-pound Great Dane), and his little Pug "Iris" greeted the visitors warmly and led us to his iris beds.

While we missed the main bloom by a week, there were plenty of irises still in flower, especially in the large bed behind the house. Delane explained that irises come in mini, medium and large sizes and early, middle and late blooming times. So careful planning can result in an iris garden that blooms throughout the season.



All of Delane's plants are clearly marked as to variety except for his very first bed, which he calls his "orphan" bed because they have no identification. Delane belongs to an iris club that divides their plants every spring and sells the overflow at the first few Farmer's Market sessions in Billings. Delane recommended this sale as an inexpensive way to begin your iris addiction. There are many other places to purchase irises, but the bulbs are much more expensive. If there are leftovers from the Farmer's Market sales, the club adds to the irises growing on the Rims next to the airport road.

Delane demonstrated how to snap the spent iris stalk off at its base and told us that he fertilizes with a low-nitrogen 6-10-10 fertilizer in the spring and a high phosphate fertilizer in the fall. Irises are hardy, deer-resistant, and need little care, other than dividing. He briefly described how to divide plots of irises—for more information on dividing, please contact Delane or Tina of Tina and Daughters Iris Garden.

Delane loves visitors to his gardens and invited Master Gardeners to return next spring, but to come earlier on May 15th and May 30th to catch the two main blooms in his garden. While he encourages gardeners to add irises to their gardens, he warns that it may be the start of an "Iris Virus," an addiction to these lovely blooms that results in adding more and more every year!

Submitted by Ann Guthals



Here's The Dirt!

Canning season is right around the corner and pickles are one of the top items to can each year. There are so many different recipes for canning pickles that it can be very daunting to find the right one. I want to share my grandfather's recipe that I use. It is quick and easy and the best part is you can make 1 quart or 100 it is up to you. I find that for a family of 2 you can buy 10 lbs of pickling cucumbers and that will make it until the next canning season. This recipe can be used to pickle anything carrots, beans, or whatever you like. make it your own and spice it up !

Dill Pickles!

Harvey Dehn

For 1 quart:

1 TBsp. salt(pickling) ½ C vinegar

1 TBsp sugar Dill , several cloves of garlic

After you have fill each jar with cucumbers and the above ingredients, fill up each jar with cold water and seal. Set jars in to a kettle of cold water and let come to a boil. Remove from heat and let cool in water.



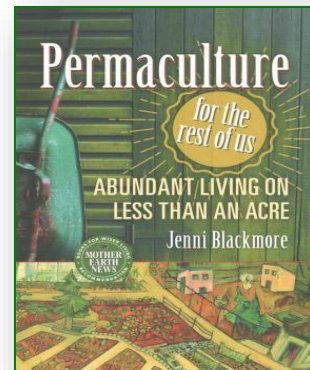
Submitted by Donna Canino

Permaculture for the Rest of Us

Abundant Living on Less Than an Acre

By Jenni Blackmore

I loved reading this book! It is so down-to-earth (appropriate for a gardening book!), practical and funny. It leads you on and on from one garden topic to another with so much helpful information in every paragraph that you don't want it to end. It's the first garden book I've read that reads as easy as a good novel.



This book is written by a woman who moved to a windswept island off of Nova Scotia 25 years ago to make a sustainable farm on poor clay soils facing challenging weather. Sounds like Montana! She learned by doing and along the way became educated in permaculture principles. Permaculture was developed in tropical places but lucky for us Jenni Blackmore is here to apply these principles to places like Montana.

While providing much useful information, the book does not go into depth on any given topic. As such it is very accessible and helpful to a beginning gardener. But the information also validates and reinforces a more experienced gardener's knowledge and provides many suggestions that even master gardeners may not have tried yet. Two I am trying this year are snipping the plants I thin rather than pulling them so as not to disturb the roots of the young plants I want to keep; and rather than trying to plant small lettuce and greens seeds in wet spring soil, broadcast the seeds on the soil, then cover with a thin layer of potting soil (or topsoil).

Jenni looks at her farm as a system, interlocking and logical. She encourages looking at the whole system—the physical components, the interdependent functioning, and the development in time. Her farm is less than an acre but she is able to provide much of the food for her family. She has learned by doing and her knowledge may help the rest of us prevent some errors without having to learn the hard way.

To give you an enticing sample of Jenni's writing, here is her description of the purpose of the book from her introduction: "My purpose here is to write an encouragement manual, an if we can do it then for certain you can kind of book, a book that might save others from getting bogged down by the same mistakes we made and which simplifies and elevates permaculture methodology to its rightful status.... While not wanting it to read like a text book, I do want to supply enough concrete information to facilitate success... Whether it's a speed read during the first heady days of spring planting or leisurely dreaming on a cold winter's afternoon, read on. And enjoy!"

This very enjoyable book is available by order from Barnes and Noble.

Book review submitted by Ann Guthals

Rocky Mountain Gardening Live!

Monday September 19, 2016 Chico Hot Springs Resort, Pray Montana

Registration : **Before** July 15 \$149.00 (includes 2 meals) **After** July 15 \$189.00 (includes 2 meals)

Register today at www.mountaingardening.com or call 406-586-8540

Accommodations: are not included in the price of admission ,and guests will need to make their own arrangements.

Chico Hot Springs 406-333-4933 reservations@chicohotsprings.com , www.chicohotsprings.com

When you call for lodging ,request RMG Garden Design

Grafting Workshop

This Spring I had the opportunity to attend a grafting workshop that was presented by Toby Day, our State Extension Agent, and Laura Finkbeiner, an expert at grafting apple trees. Both did an excellent job of presenting and teaching us how to graft apple trees.

Here is a bit of the information that I gathered from the class. Planting seeds from a specific variety of apple tree does not produce an apple tree with that exact cultivar fruit. Apple trees can only be reproduced "true" to the original cultivar by grafting. Some of Montana's heritage apple tree branches are being grafted to new rootstock to keep the old genetics alive. (See article on Montana Heritage Orchard Program.) With our short growing season, dry conditions and long harsh winters, it is important to have a tree that can withstand these conditions.



One such apple tree that can withstand these conditions originated in Russia and is called Antonovaka. It is often used for the root stock to graft other desirable cultivars of apple to. (such as Goodland, Honey Crisp, and Sweet Sixteen to name a few.) The part that is grafted on to the root stock is called the scion.

There are special knives that are made just for grafting and they are specific to left or right handed individuals. The grafting knife should be cleaned between each cut. (Lysol spray disinfectant or denatured alcohol are good product to use.) A whip graft is made by using your grafting knife to make a single straight slanting cut on both the scion and the stock. Toby and Laura made it look as simple as (apple) pie! But, for us beginners it was really quite scary and took a bit of practice to accomplish. Luckily we all left with all our fingers and no bloodshed.

In order for the graft to take, the cambium of the scion and stock must be lined up and in contact with one another. Grafting tape and wax are used to cover and protect all grafted areas. (Laura had devised a clever and useful way of using her body to keep the wax pliable.) If you ever get a chance to attend a grafting workshop given by Toby Day or Laura Finkbeiner, you should do it. You can also find some good information on grafting at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/fruit/grafting-and-budding-fruit-trees/>

On last note, my grafted apple tree is growing! Aren't plants just amazing!!!

-- Elaine Allard

Free online Book

Rangeland Plants: Wyoming Tough (B-1265) Free for a download or \$8 plus shipping (\$3). It has 75 grasses, grass-like plants, forbs and woody plants plus some non-native plants. Organized by plant type and common name. Four color photos of each, plus physical and diagnostic characteristics, scientific name, growth habit, etc. Look up University of WY Extension. UWE pubs... and download

Weed Killer Recipe

One Gallon vinegar, 2 cups Epsom salt (table salt works as well) , ¼ c Dawn dish soap

Mix this together and let the salt dissolve. Spray generously on leaves of unwanted plants in the morning hours covering all leaves until they drip. Leaves will brown and dry up by tomorrow! Rinse sprayer well so the salt will not corrode the nozzle.

Caution : this will kill everything so be careful.

Submitted by Corinna Sinclair

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

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A Letter to the Editor.....

In 1989, the State of Montana was selling 100 trees for \$10. Who could resist such an offer?

We planted the buffalo berries, *Shepherdia Argentea*; Russian olive, *Elaeagnus Angustifolia*, and cottonwoods, *Populus Angustifolia*, wands into the ground that fall, 1989 or spring of 1990. They were barefoot beauties and about two foot tall!

Out of the 100 trees we planted, do you know how many are alive and thriving today? 1 cottonwood, 13 Russian olives and 10 dioecious buffalo berries (24%). Birds and bees love them. They no doubt prevented erosion, and we must have saved a few energy dollars over the years. I know that Russian olives are considered a noxious weed in riparian areas, but at one time they were thought of as one of the best solutions for our area: drought resistant, tolerating harsh conditions, and offering wildlife habitat, especially for pheasants and grouse.

In our world nothing is all good or all bad. Here's an interesting fact: beavers won't lay a tooth on them. Well, "rarely eaten or used" is how the July 2015 Department of Ag comment went during the public hearing comment section, which is another reason that native species are having a hard time competing with them. The good recommendations are still for buffalo berries "good for wildlife, shelterbelt and hedges", MT Master Gardener Handbook.

WIND BREAK 1989-1999

We planted the saplings in the parched rocky soil as soon as winter blared its last tenacious trumpet. We were newly married and planting 100 prickly trees in a rocky river bed had the fervency of a religious revival.

The fearless, spiny babies grew continuously throughout the baking sun, despite spider mites, lawn mowers, weed eaters and other would-be assassins. We watched them rise up and rejoiced! Mandy and Dave lugged endless, overflowing jugs to the field, day after day after day, like ants dragging battered insects to their waiting colony.

Now the trees are taller than the four of us stacked end-to-end. We seldom rejoice, but the trees diffuse the intense flat winds, not by blocking, but by listening, patiently entangling and releasing.

Submitted by Julie Osslund

SPECIAL ZUCHINNI HOT DISH

4 SMALL ZUCCHINI, SLICED DIAGONALLY

1 LARGE SWEET ONION, THINLY SLICED

2 TOMATOES, SLICED

12 SLICES OF CHEESE

2 GREEN PEPPERS SLICED

2 TABLESPOONS BUTTER

In a shallow buttered dish (2QT) arrange $\frac{1}{2}$ the zucchini around the sides and bottom then $\frac{1}{2}$ of the tomatoes, onion, pepper and 4 slices of cheese. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Dot with butter. Repeat. Dish will be full- cover tightly with foil. Bake in 375 preheated oven for 45-60 min. or until vegetables are tender. Cut remaining 4 cheese slices diagonally in half. Remove dish from oven and arrange slices on top. Return to oven for 2 minutes. Serve

Submitted by Sheri Kisch

MSU Extension offers tech support for gardeners

The life of a Montana gardener is full of questions: Should I remove grass clippings from my lawn? Can I grow tomatoes here? When and how much should I water or fertilize? Can I grow Fuji apples in Montana? Why don't my sweet peas smell sweet? If you have a question about lawn-care, gardening, trees, shrubs or other horticulture topics, Montana State University has resources at the ready. First, MSU Extension provides a free horticulture hotline from 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning May 2. The toll-free number is 1-877-GRO-TIPS ([1-877-476-8477](tel:1-877-476-8477)), or in the Bozeman area, dial 994-7268). An MSU horticulture expert is on-call during those hours to provide answers and resources, whether your question is big or small. The Tuesday and Thursday afternoon call-in service runs through the summer and ends Sept. 26.

Yellowstone Master Gardener Newsletters :

<http://www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/horticulture/mgardeners/Newsletters/index.asp>

MSU Extension's horticulture hotline is open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3pm to 5pm throughout the growing season

Master Gardener Links:

Yard & garden Mont Guides- <http://store.msueextension.org/Departments/Yard-and-Garden.aspx>

Mushroom Identification- <http://diagnostics.montana.edu/mushroom/index.html>

Plant disease diagnostics- <http://diagnostics.montana.edu/plantdisease/index.html>

Montana Frost and freeze - <http://www.mtmastergardener.org/climate.html>

GARDENING CHECKLIST

As you harvest, keep track of what varieties are doing well for you. This is especially true if you are growing more than one variety of a certain vegetable.

Write results down on index cards and store by year in a recipe box. Now you will know exactly what varieties to try new next year, against the best performers you've discovered so far.

If you are having problems with tomatoes, squash or other plants, not setting on fruits, you can give them a hand. You can use a water paint brush, pick up pollen from male flowers, and then spread it to female flowers. With squash, you can pick the male flower, take off the petals to expose the pollen, and then rub noses with female flowers. Female squash flowers always have miniature fruits right behind the bloom. Male flowers just have a straight straw like base, attaching them to the squash plant.

For late summer or fall harvests, plant lettuce in shady areas of the yard, like the north side of the house, or in the garden, like in the shade of the corn patch.

Remember to water trees and shrubs separately from lawn watering. They have a much deeper and larger root system, and need more water than what lawn irrigation provides.

Continue removing spent blooms to encourage more blossoms. If you have some bearded iris that are not flowering as well as they did a few years ago, chances are they need divided and July through August are the best time to do this.

For a more complete list of Summer gardening activities –go to Grapevine on Yellowstone County Master Gardener's web site www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/extension/horticulture/grapevine.asp

Submitted by Elaine Allard