

Yellowstone Master Gardeners
P.O. Box 35021
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We want hear from you !
-Send your submissions for
newsletter to
ymastergardener@gmail.com by
December 15th for the next
issue.

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Volume 3, Issue 4

October—November—December 2014

Judy Martin ~ Master Gardeners ~ Sue Carter

I had the pleasure of speaking with Judy Martin, a Level 2 Master Gardener. Judy was born April 30, 1943 in Maplewood, New Jersey. Her Father's work took the family to New York, Indiana and eventually to Holland, Michigan.



Holland, Michigan is famous for their Tulip festival held mid-May every year since 1929. Judy enjoyed living in Holland as a youth all the way through high school until she left to attend the University of Central Michigan. She graduated with a

degree in Sociology and a minor in Political Science.

After she was married and living near the country side in Marilyn, Baltimore she had her first garden. Eventually she took a job at a nursery, from there her desire to learn Botany grew as well as wanting to work in a lab. Judy raised two daughters and when they were all grown up and busy experiencing their own lives, her sister and brother-in-law invited her to move to Billings, Montana in 2003.

2002 was a good year to start Master Gardener classes. Dr. Bob Gough came from Bozeman to teach classes at the Yellowstone County Court-house. Bob would also teach at two or three other towns before returning home. Sue Carter always had an interest in gardening and creating a beautiful yard, so she and her friend, Bev Young signed up for classes.



Sue had a great introduction to gardening through her father's garden and grandparents' truck garden on Garden Avenue in Billings. She remembers vividly the huge rows and rows of peonies and tulips that her grandmother tended. Of course, canning and preserving was part of their year.

Sue grew up in Billings and met her husband, Marvin Carter while he was going to college in town. When Marv accepted the position of principal of Graff Elementary, they moved to Laurel

Master Gardener Picnic
Sunday—October 19, 2014—1:30 p.m.

The Master Gardener Picnic is currently scheduled for Sunday, October 19, 2014 at the Zoo

Inclement weather location—the Sage Center at the Metra.

Further details to be included in a postcard mailing to all!

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!

Zone 4 Magazine's Fall Ornamental Conference



Chico Hot Springs, nestled at the base of the Emigrant Peak, was the perfect venue for Zone 4 Magazine's Fall Ornamental Conference. It was held on September 9-10, 2014. Master Gardeners, landscapers, and gardening enthusiasts were participants of this 2nd annual fall event. The 100 attendees spent two days immersed in a variety of informative gardening sessions. Our Amy Grandpre, Mary McLane, and Joan Miller attended the event. The majority of the group stayed at Chico and took advantage of the hot spring pools and the

legendary Chico cuisine.

The speakers were informative, humorous, and down-to-earth! David Salman from High Country Gardens in Santa Fe, NM presented Eight Principles of Eco-friendly Xeriscaping and Plants and Plant Combinations for Year-Round Gardening Interest. Belva Lotzer from Tizer Gardens entertained everyone after a sumptuous dinner put on by Chico. Other speakers included Ann Bolt from the Idaho Botanical Garden, Scott Skogerboe from Cheyenne Station, and Pat



Hayward from Plant Select. Some of the short sessions speakers included Cheryl Moore-Gough, Jerry Cashman, and our own Toby Day. Topics included in the short sessions were drying food, pruning, mulching, dividing ornamentals, and making a lavender facial scrub.



Mary Swanson from Pray, Montana opened up her beautiful home and garden for a tour. Tuli Fisher from Bozeman did an interesting blacksmithing demonstration on handmade garden tools.

Zone 4 Live sponsors included Cashman Nursery & Landscaping in Bozeman, MT, Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa in Pray, MT, Frontier Rustic Designs in Norris, MT, High Country Gardens in Santa Fe, NM, MD Nursery & Landscaping in Driggs, ID, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, and the University of Montana, School of Extended Studies (UM's Online Beekeeping Certificate Program). All the participants received a "goodie bag" filled with great items from these sponsors.



If you receive the magazine, Zone 4, please note that the magazine's name will be changed to Rocky Mountain Gardening in its spring 2015 edition. It is a wonderful magazine...and even though the name will be changing, it will still bring delightful, quality gardening articles to your door!

We fully appreciate Andra and Dan Spurr, Publisher and Editor, for their hard work and efforts to bring this conference to fruition.

We look forward to future conferences and hope that more of the Yellowstone County Master Gardeners are able to attend their events.

Report and Photos Submitted by: Joan Miller

Judy Martin, cont.

After moving to Billings Judy's gardening really started to take off. The first community group she got involved with was the Master Gardeners in 2004.

One of her first projects in the Master Gardener program was to work alongside of Larry Walby at the Passages Garden project when it first started. Judy went on to volunteer at the Zoo's sensory gardens and work at Village Gardens.

One day at a meeting she was presented with a Bonsai from Wally McLane. Judy fell in love with the art of Bonsai as it gives her great joy. With her newfound passion for Bonsai she joined the local Bonsai Society in Billings. I asked Judy if she had any advice for anyone interested in the Art of Bonsai. She said it was good to have a lot of patience and a good eye because you could Bonsai almost anything but it would take patience to see the results. She also added that gardening, in general is a good way to stay in sync with nature. After a while you do not need to know all of the facts. If you know the basics of how a plant starts out or germinates from seed than you do not need to know all of the details, you can figure out how to care for that plant.

Judy experienced some health issues so she cut back on her volunteering but continued to read books on botany and kept up with her bonsai's. Judy told me that she has been working on a project at home for some time now. She made a growing unit in her laundry room, when she was still living in her condominium, to start ponderosa pine seedlings. She has had great success with her ponderosa seedlings and it is her wish to donate them to the Zoo when they are ready.

With Judy's current lack of outdoor gardening space Judy said that she will continue to volunteer at the sensory gardens when she can and to germinate seeds that she has collected and donate the plants or give them out to friends.

Thank you Judy for sharing your story with us as well all of your involvement with Master Gardeners' program.

Interview submitted by: Donna Canino

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>

Sue Carter, cont.

friendships. Sue feels that the best part is visiting with fellow gardeners, learning what works or not for them, different varieties they have grown, and problems they have solved. Just sharing their time and information is invaluable.



Sue is always interested in trying new varieties of vegetables and flowers. If they don't prosper in one area, move them to another spot. Her tulips usually disappear before Spring thanks to the neighborhood squirrels, "and they were so beautiful at the Wooden Shoe Farm in Oregon".

Any spare hours are spent helping with the Monday morning crew at Zoo Montana, the gardens at the Laurel Senior Citizen Center and working with the Laurel Tree Board, always with a great deal on their agenda.

Sue, we appreciate all the community hours, information and wisdom you have invested over the years.

Interview and photos submitted by Sheri Kisch

Fall Checklist

- ◆ The biggest case of winter kill is drought rather than cold. Give garden perennials, trees and shrubs a good deep soaking before the ground freezes.
- ◆ Prune dead wood and diseased or broken branches.
- ◆ Wrap the trunks of young trees that have smooth dark bark to prevent sunscald.
- ◆ Be sure that all plants that need winter mulch are protected.
- ◆ Save fallen leaves to add to garden directly or to compost.
- ◆ Do not compost diseased refuse - dispose of it.
- ◆ For a more complete list of fall 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

Master Gardener of the Year

....Congratulations to Sharon Wetsch

- * Sharon Wetsch, has been with the Yellowstone County Master Gardener program since 2011.
- * She is a very active participant who truly comes the furthest....all the way from Forsyth, MT, in Rosebud County (two counties away), about an hour and a half away.
- * She graciously coordinates monthly meetings, picnics and tours and is wonderful with covering all the details involved. Last winter she thought up and coordinated a Christmas Lights Bus Tour...which came with beverages and brown bags full of special cookies and snacks. She also was a main coordinator in our first ever Christmas Moss Mansion tour...where Master Gardeners had the Moss Mansion for an evening of food, wine and of course touring...was lovely and so special.
- * She has a huge heart for appreciating those participants who give so much to our program. One of the ways she helps us celebrate these accomplishments is by purchasing plants to honor these Master Gardeners, which are then donated for planting at the Zoo or other selected sites.
- * She's always thinking of ideas to try to make our group something extra special to belong to, and came up with an idea for getting local discounts for Master Gardener Association members.
- * She is an enthusiastic, charter member of the Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association (YCMGA), serving as Vice President. She's been there since day one in the forming of our Association...with all the challenges and trials one faces when pursuing Association status.
- * She's always got her eye out for deals to share with our Master Gardeners: such as a fertilizer deal from Danley Garden's, she secured a great deal on wall-of-waters for our chapter, found and shared a great deal on weed mat, which we will be utilizing for our new demonstration area at the METRA.
- * She's always on the lookout for individuals she meets that would be interested in and benefit from our Master Gardener program, and gets them properly invited.
- * This spring she jumped right in to help and coordinate helpers to get the Food Bank's huge garden area planted.
- * She's coordinated the Master Gardener class series at Pine Hills Juvenile Detention Boys School in Miles City.
- * And most impressive is after years of my trying to get a program started at the Billings Women's Prison, Sharon has successfully accomplished it...and through several trials and tribulations I might add. She's hung in there and made a huge difference in these women's lives, by sharing the Master Gardener Course which will impact them the rest of their lives.
- * She's a great example of a person who truly believes in the Master Gardener program and does all she can to share it.



Submitted by: Amy Grandpre

MURRAY'S GARDEN TIPS - FOR FALL CLEANUP

- ◆ Label your plants well. Use a light and wet durable label.
- ◆ After the big frost, it is cleanup time. If you find the plant's label among the stems and leaves, then you know the plant may make reusable seed. Among the blackened leaves may be the "perfect fruit" for seed-reaping. Do not toss them out. Look for pockets of seeds from the older ripened fruit, bugs and all, that may have been missed by the harvest or the frosts' bite. The favorite tomato or flower comes to mind. Save the seeds for next year. Label and sustain them for the next year. Submitted by: Murry Lyda

- ⇒ Here is a Great tip from Dan Jellison of the DanWalt gardens here in Billings MT. Let a Zone 5 perennial plant that you have planted this season go to seed then take that seed and replant it. The new plant now has a very good chance at surviving as a Zone 4. Although the DanWalt gardens have many such plants from this process, Dan says it may not always work. Give it a try and see how it works for you!
 - ⇒ Are you plagued with pesky Earwigs? Making a few simple Earwig traps may help reduce the amount in your garden or flower beds. All you will need is a small lightweight plastic pot filled with straw placed upside down on the top of a stick near the plant. The Earwigs will crawl up into the straw and nest overnight. In the morning you will need to dispose of the earwigs.
 - ⇒ One Acre of Christmas trees can produce the daily oxygen requirements for eighteen people. They are also a good source of removing dust and pollen in the air.
- Submitted by: Donna Canino

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

**FOR SALE—
TRADE—
EXCHANGE**

I have a 3' X 3' bed of Vinca Minor ground cover that needs a new home. It's ever-green 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

Metra Square Foot Garden Contest

Congratulations to the winners, excellent job....well done!



First Place: Pat Morrison and Joann Glasser....\$50



Second Place: Rick Shotwell....\$25



Third Place: Cindy Roesler and Rick Shotwell....\$10

If Master Gardeners are interested in participating, we do the Square Foot Garden Contest every year. Let Amy know if you'd like a chance to compete.

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/>

"You expected to be sad in the fall. Part of you died each year when the leaves fell from the trees and their branches were bare against the wind and the cold, wintery light. But you knew there would always be the spring, as you knew the river would flow again after it was frozen. When the cold rains kept on and killed the spring, it was as though a young person died for no reason." — Ernest Hemingway, A Moveable Feast

METRA Education and Demonstration Garden



Finally there has been a bit of progress with the METRA Education and Demonstration Garden. (The actual name will be determined down the road.) You might recall, the METRA gave the Yellowstone County Master Gardeners Association (YCMGA) a plot of land for our garden project. Since then we have signed an agreement with the METRA; solved the insurance question; and had the area checked for underground electric lines and water pipes.

For a while things, ground to a halt. The holdup in moving forward has been the lack of funds. Numerous request for grants have been unsuccessful. Then our guardian angel, Amy Grandpre, was able to use some of her funds and make a deal with the garden folks at the Zoo. We got their unused hoop house (high tunnel) for a song. Of course, it was a pile in a back lot where it had resided for a couple of years. Bob Wicks, Mert Murdock, Amy Grandpre, Teresa Bessette, Mike Irvin, Murry Lyda, Jeff Schaezle, and I loaded it on Mert's trailer while dodging the wasps. All of us were wondering what we had done buying this mess of pipes. Randy Miller, the former owner of the hoop house, was also present and assured us that all would be well.



On the 15th of September most of the same group gathered at the METRA and unloaded the parts. Mert and Amy directed the sorting of the pipes and bolts into some reasonable groupings. Randy took over and directed the work. Eight hours later we had the darn thing up and looking good with only a few missing parts.



The plastic covering will come later as well as attaching solid anchors. Boots Mordeaux saved the day by showing up with water and snacks and Elaine Allard "snuck" in and out taking pictures. Amy

"Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile."

[Indian Summer]" — William Cullen Bryant

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

- [L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables](#)



sprung for lunch. Heck of a good time all in all.

I encourage other Associates of the Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association to take a part in making this a one of a kind garden and education area a reality. There is no other such project in Montana at this time.

Mike Irvine (wife, Gloria, is a Master Gardener) is a retired EXXON employee and will receive funds for his volunteer work with us. This EXXON money is earmarked for a fence to define the garden area.



Vikki Fosjord is the lead on construction of children's learning area. Yes, we have a couple of years ahead of us before completing the garden. GAD, then the maintenance begins.

Submitted by: Corry Mordeaux

Photos by : Elaine Allard and Corry Mordeaux

The Third Unit with the Billings Public Library,
Children's Librarians and the Master Gardeners
Wednesday - October 15, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

- ◆ Lessons on Plant Cuttings, Terrariums, Ecosystems & Water Cycle.
- ◆ How do plants transpire?
- ◆ How do you care for a Terrarium?
- ◆ Difference between living and non living thing.

Co-coordinators: Elaine Allard & Tracy L. Livingston



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

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Yellowstone Master Gardeners

"Diphylleia grayi" (Skeleton flower) ~
The petals turn transparent with the rain

- ⇒ Diphylleia grayi (Umbrella Leaf)
- ⇒ Diphylleia grayi is a little-known relative of the more popular may apple (Podophyllum) and fairy wing (epimedium). Diphylleia grayi is native to moist wooded mountainsides in colder regions of China and Japan, where you'll find the large fuzzy green, umbrella-like, bold foliage topped by small clusters of white, mayapple-like flowers in late spring. In late summer, the stalks of eye-catching cobalt blue fruit replace the faded flowers. Diphylleia grayi does not like hot summer temperatures.



- ⇒ Zone: 4 - 9



- ⇒ Natural Range: Japan; Honshu, Hokkaido and China; Yunnan province
- ⇒ Soil: Moist, humus rich, well drained
- ⇒ Light: Part shade, Shade
- ⇒ Attributes: Deciduous, 12" - 24" tall. Clusters of white blooms in spring. Dark purple fruit in late summer. Large pubescent

lobed umbrella - like foliage.

- ⇒ Propagation Methods: By dividing rhizomes, tubers, corms or bulbs (including offsets). From seed; direct sow outdoors in fall. From seed; winter sow in vented containers, coldframe or unheated greenhouse.



- ⇒ Notes: Closely allied to Podophyllum, with rhizomes appearing very similar. In the wild D. grayi grows in wooded mountain regions. This is



another great shade foliage plant that sets off finely textured companions nearby.

- ⇒ Companion plants: Trillium, ferns, podophyllum, Epimedium, Rhododendrons, Mahonia, Erythronium

Submitted by: Tracy L. Livingston