



April , 2008 Newsletter

Last month we learned the how's and why's of raised bed gardening. Thank you, Ken, for the informative program.

This month is a little different. We are sponsoring a lecture at the library by Les Koch from the Wyoming State Forestry Division. The bark beetles are here and he'll tell us what to do to try to save our trees. This will be at 6:30 in the Cottonwood Room on April 14. On April 16, our usual meeting date, we'll meet at 6:30 at the fire station on Bent and 19th for a very short business meeting (mostly dealing with the upcoming plant sale) followed by a work party to assemble our journals! Journals will be available for purchase for \$20 at the end of the meeting—just in time for starting spring records.

The next two month's programs should be interesting. In May, Dr. Dan Young, the Country Doctor, is scheduled to speak on herbs and what they do for our health. He is a local naturopath who prescribes herbs in his practice. In June, OSHA will send a speaker about gardening safely.

Don't forget about the **hoop house** program and demonstration May 2 through 4. The lecture is on Friday at the Kiwanis Community House in Lions Park at 6:30 PM. Construction will be at Wanda Manley's and requires a fee to attend.

Our new **Directory** has been printed. We've found some mistakes and will have a correction page to give out at the meeting. If you have noticed any errors, please let us know before Wednesday's meeting so we can include those corrections.

We've noticed the number of names in the directory far exceeds the number of members in good standing. To be in "good standing" you have to do and turn in your hours each year. Life sometimes gets in the way, and we want to understand. If you forget or have other issues that prevent your completing your 10 hours we'll include you name for up to three years. If after three years you are not in "good standing", we'll stop publishing your name. However, if you decide to become active again, we can re-instate you if you'll talk with Catherine and complete your hours for that year.

The State Master Gardener Conference in Cody will be April 25 - 27. Those attending will give a report at the May meeting.

How are your seedlings doing? If you are growing plants for the plant sale and need labels, they'll be provided as long as you let me know what you are growing. It is really gratifying watching those seedlings pop up until you run out of space. If your house is like mine, every available window is crowded with plants and I could use about a dozen more windows!

Time for volunteering to help Catherine with phone calls and house calls is fast approaching. We'd like to see if we can get the members who are experienced to do a training session for those of us who are interested in helping. Watch your emails for this. We'd like to organize teams or small groups to go on yard calls. A sign up sheet will be available at the next meeting for those interested.

Attached you'll find a copy of the **Minutes** from the last meeting. Please be prepared to vote to correct or accept them. If you know a member who does not have email, please share your **newsletter** with them and encourage them to bring a self addressed, stamped envelop to the next meeting.

Gardening tip: A good way to dry your gardening gloves is to remove to bottom of two tall plastic or waxed paper cups with scissors and slip the gloves over the narrow top and place them on a baking rack. If you'll cut a notch on the mouth of the cups before putting the gloves on them you'll increase air circulation and speed drying even more.

President's thoughts: With the coming of spring the pace of life seems to be picking up. The meadowlarks and bluebirds have arrived and there is a new critter in the yard. The garden is starting to wake as evidenced by the crocus and tulips peeking through the snow. One of my favorite things about gardening is the sense of satisfaction from the visible difference that comes with getting the garden in order, although it takes me longer than it did a few years ago. My grandmother, an avid gardener, was hospitalized one spring after breaking her hip and begged us to please bring her a box of dirt just so she could get her hands in it. I didn't understand at the time, but certainly do now. How does one describe the feeling of connectedness with nature one gets from working with growing things? As Master Gardeners we can share that feeling and help foster a sense of stewardship by our involvement in our community.