



February, 2008 Newsletter

What a terrific turn out for last month's meeting. If this continues, we'll need to look for a larger room! It was great to see everyone there. We got lots of business taken care of and hopefully won't need such a long meeting again this year.

Thank you, Zoe Seemel, for our new logo. The reaction has been overwhelming positive.

Our bylaws committee (Brenda Swann, Sandy Dennis, and Terry Foley) has worked hard and found a few corrections and amendments to include. These were voted on and passed at the last meeting. Be sure to look over your copy in the back of the membership directory which we're trying to have ready at the meeting on February 20. We'll be working to develop a Policies and Procedures document so the Bylaws won't have to be amended except for major changes.

Thanks again to Bonnie Ross and Dan Snesko for completing our audit. Pam does a really good job of keeping our books balanced.

Jeanette Cartie has agreed to head up the **Education committee**. She'll be setting up our programs, getting the guidelines in place for the tuition assistance we voted to give a UW student, and working on community education. If any of this interests you, please contact her. If you're shy about contacting her, please say "yes" when you're approached to help.

You said you want to continue getting a newsletter. *If you are getting this by USPS, please provide us with a stamped, self-addressed envelope so we can minimize the expense.*

Work continues on the **journal**. Roberta will present quotes for printing and we'll vote on the expenditure. We want these ready for sale at the State MG conference in April in Cody. (If you plan to attend, register before March 1 for the best rates.)

We're sending out the **Minutes** from the last meeting. Our goal is to reduce the amount of time devoted to business. Please be prepared to vote to correct or accept them.

The results of the **interest inventory** have been tabulated. We'll use this information for planning purposes.

Several of this year's interns are interested in having **mentors**. If you'd like to participate, please let me know so I can get you paired with an intern. (If you stood at the last meeting, please contact me, too.)

The Hoop House lecture is going to be at the Community House on May 2. Space is limited for the Saturday workshop, so be sure to pre-register. *Your space isn't secure until you've paid your \$10 fee.* After our March meeting spaces left will be offered to the public and will cost \$25. Please get your money to Catherine if you plan to attend.

The meeting this month will feature a repeat of a really good presentation by Kathy Shreve and Barb Sahl on seed starting. We really need for all members to step up and provide as many plants as possible for the Plant Sale. Now is the time to get your seeds started! A sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with the sale will also be passed around. There are only a couple of business items to address.

Thanks, Kathy, for alerting us to the following website. It is a data base of information about seed starting and plant needs. Check out <http://www.successwithseed.org//content/category/31/43/260/>

President's Thoughts: Please take a few minutes to review our Bylaws when you get your directory. You'll see that we are a non-profit group whose mission is to extend the University to the people of Wyoming via volunteer service in horticulture. It seems there are several types of non-profit organizations. For IRS purposes, we are a 501-c-3 which forbids us from benefiting financially as individuals because of our affiliation with Master Gardener's. That doesn't mean we can't take our knowledge and use it to build a business, but we can't use the term "Master Gardener" in association with that business, for political gain, or for commercial publicity

Being a Master Gardener should be a source of pride for each of us. I'd like to see us work toward more visibility in the community in activities that are educational in nature. This would not only give us more to be proud of but also encourage more people to take the class and join us.

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