

# **January, 2009 Newsletter**

I hope you all had a great holiday and are rested and raring to go. With the start of the New Year we'll be starting new project as well as new challenges.

Thanks to all who have responded to the survey. There is a lot of interest in the demonstration garden project at the Botanic Garden. The other two proposed projects have lots of support with hours and some for steering committees. If you haven't sent your response, please do so or you may print it and bring it to the meeting.

Speaking of meetings...our next one is Wednesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> in the Cottonwood Room at the library. Shane Smith will talk to us about the Arboretum, their plans for the future, and how we can be involve. We'll have our business meeting at 6:30 and he'll speak at 7.

Also at this meeting you'll be able to pick up your 2009 directory. We've printed a copy for each member who turned their hours in to Catherine. If your information is not correct, please let us know so it will be next year. Also, our by-laws are printed in the back of the directory. I'm sending you a copy with some proposed changes with this newsletter so you'll be ready to vote. Most of the changes are just for consistency in wording. The only major change is when the nominating committee is to be appointed.

We are going to offer a "Garden School" for the public on Saturday, March 28 from 10 until 1. Kathy Shreve, Roberta Bolton, and I will be presenting some basics for beginners. If you know someone who wants to get started and doesn't know how, this would be a good introduction for them. Of course, you are welcome to attend (but no heckling, please). If you'd like to participate, just let us know. We'd like to see us develop a series of these types of presentations with some becoming more advanced. Hopefully we'll be able to develop a "speaker's file" to be a reference for anyone who is asked to present to other organizations.

The new class has begun with 27 students. We'd like to try the mentoring again. I, personally, didn't do a very good job. We'll have a sign up sheet at the meeting, but please be prepared to commit some of your time to reach out to the new students and make them feel welcome. If you could go to class one night and meet your student it might help break the ice.

We have been asked by the State Steering Committee to consider hosting the State Master Gardening Conference in 2010. I've mentioned this before and I think it is something we should do. If you agree, it is time to get started. We'll take a vote Wednesday. (I heard the State Garden Club Conference was here last summer and it got glowing reviews. Hopefully some of the folks responsible for it will give us some guidance.)

**Be prepared. Roberta needs help with the Plant Sale. It will be the weekend after Mother's Day. She'll have sign up sheet for the different areas of help she needs.**

**The next State MG Steering Committee meeting will be February 13 in Casper. All Master Gardeners are invited to attend and participate in the discussions. Mike will be going and I probably will too. Be warned, we can't get into a car together without the snow falling and blowing blizzard style. So, if you go, be prepared for bad weather.**

**I look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday.**