



March, 2008 Newsletter

If you missed the last meeting you missed a wonderful program on seed starting. Barb and Kathy did a great job with really good handouts. The APS units and the three “tinker-toy” green houses were also available along with a huge selection of seeds which were donated by Home Depot. There may be a couple APS units still available. See Kathy if you need to rent one. You can find

a copy of the Power Point presentation at

http://ces.uwyo.edu/Laramie_Horticulture.asp if you didn't get a copy.

Also at the last meeting we voted the funds to print the journal and they'll be available in April.

This month's meeting will be your last opportunity to sign up for the hoop house demonstration May third. (The lecture on the 2nd is free.) Remember, your payment of \$10 is the only way to secure your space. After the meeting, any open seats will be offered to the public and the fee goes to \$25.

Something new for April will be the lecture we're sponsoring on the bark beetle problem. This will be at the Library in the Cottonwood Room on April 14 at 6:30 and will be open to the public free of charge. Les Koch from the Wyoming State Forestry Division will present the program. Our regularly scheduled meeting will be held on the 16th at the fire station, but there will be no program. It will be just a very brief business meeting.

The State Master Gardener Conference in Cody will be April 25 – 27. They've extended the time for reduced registration until March 15, so hurry and register. You can do this online at <http://outreach.uwyo.edu/conferences/mastergardener>. It should be a really good conference.

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.

Attached you'll find a copy of the **Minutes** from the last meeting. Please be prepared to vote to correct or accept them.

Interns have been assigned to their mentors. Thanks to Barb Sahl, Sue Carlson, Richard Franz, Terry Foley, Wanda Manley, Sandy Dennis, Roberta Bolton, Martha Mullikin, and Brenda Swann for stepping up and accepting this role. These folks are going to serve as “go-to” people for the interns and will be encouraging them in their gardening adventures.

The meeting this month will be a presentation by Ken Conover about raised bed gardening. Ken grows prize winning herbs and vegetables, in his well designed raised gardens. Come learn how from a Master Gardener. As usual, the meeting will be at 6:30 at the fire station on Bent and 19th. Also, Maggie Kunze, the new manager

of Grants Farms will tell us of some of the changes she's planning for the up-coming season.

President's Thoughts: I've been really impressed with the willingness of everyone I've asked to help with various projects. This is one giving bunch of people! As with any activity, the more effort one puts into it, the greater the reward. There is certainly plenty to do, with the plant sale and getting all the committees started. Some of our projects only need enough of your time to lay out guidelines while others are much more involved. Please keep your eyes open for a task that fits your time schedule and then, jump right in!

Workshops: I'm hoping we'll be able to set up some workshops—informal, hands-on activities open to members. Usually I think of these as “how to” sessions. I'm looking at a hypertouffa workshop this spring and perhaps something on various methods of propagating plants. If you would be willing to share you knowledge, please let us know. We'll get it set up at a time that's convenient for you. Also, is there a topic you're dying to know more about? Let us know! Thanks.

Did you know: By microwaving bird seed (one minute/pound) you can keep the seed from sprouting when it falls out of the bird feeder. Don't “cook” more than you can use right away because it softens the seed coat making it rot more easily. At this time, there is no proof that this affects the nutritional value of the seed and it sure saves a lot of weeding!