

## Wyoming State Master Gardener Steering Committee Minutes May 9, 2008 Meeting

The regular meeting of the Wyoming State Master Gardener Steering Committee was called to order by Vice-chair Judy Logue at the Extension Office in Torrington, Wyoming. Representatives of the University of Wyoming, Delegates from Campbell, Goshen, Laramie, Natrona, and Weston Counties were present. A motion to approve the Minutes of the February meeting was made by Kayce Weber, Goshen County, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Esther Taylor, Weston County, motion passed. A motion to approve the Treasurers Report, as presented, was made by Jacky Bailey, Natrona County, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Whitmore, Laramie County, motion passed.

### **COUNTY REPORTS:**

**CAMPBELL COUNTY:** The new Horticultural Program Coordinator, Lori Bates, is onboard and attended the Cody conference. The tree sale was a big success, the final account has not been completed as to how many trees were sold, but hopefully over \$5,000 was realized. Children's Festivals have been the big thing on Lori's activity list this spring and keeping her very busy. The Community Garden has gotten off to a wet but good start with most of the 60 plots filled, some of the gardeners have requested a 2<sup>nd</sup> plot. The MG's have retained 3 plots, leaving them fallow, doing some rejuvenation of the soil by different types of composting. The plots will be labeled and informational papers will be available on the different types of fallow. There were 12 MG's attending the State Conference in Cody having a great time and learning a lot. The Annual Awards banquet was held in April. Circumstances did not allow a training class to be held this year. The Community Garden will be included in the "Garden Walk" this year, this will be in addition to the "Herb Festival".

**GOSHEN COUNTY:** Of the 10 enrolled in the MG training class, 9 completed the classroom instruction and 3 have already completed the 40 volunteer hours. After a year in the planning the Kinsey Soil Seminar welcomed 120 attendees from as far away as Maine. There have been many trials and challenges with our greenhouse this year when the heating source failed. A fundraiser in the form of a 50/50 raffle was held to replace the furnace. Master Gardeners won both ways, Cindy Beckey, a Master Gardener, was the individual winner. As soon as weather permits the garden will be ready for planting, a drip line has been installed on part of it and placed 14 inches deep to allow for cultivation. Master Gardeners again participated in the Trail Elementary Arboretum selection and replanting of trees. Instruction on correct tree planting and care was given to approximately 100 children and teachers. Trees were planted as part of the Arbor Day celebrations. Due to a wind storm the Tree Sale was postponed until May 17<sup>th</sup>, along with the Excess Plant Sale. We had 4 MG's attend the Conference in Cody.

**LARAMIE COUNTY:** A Hoop House Workshop was held May 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> with lecture and demonstrations. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Master Gardeners conducted classes on various subjects for 4H members and leaders to assist in the vegetable and horticultural projects for entry in the county fair. Home Depot

donated seeds that were given out at the classes. The annuals Plant Sale is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Depot Plaza. The Garden Walk is still looking for additional sites. A raffle for a container garden, reflecting each garden site, will be held in conjunction with the event.

**NATRONA COUNTY:** The greenhouse plants and digging crews are on track for the plant sale to be held May 17<sup>th</sup>. Out of 54, only one plot in the Community Garden remains available. Several field trips are in the works, one was held yesterday, May 8<sup>th</sup> to the Johnny Appleseed Commercial Greenhouse, the Denver Botanic Garden trip is leaving this evening, Red Butte Gardens in Salt Lake City was visited in April and the Research Station in Bridger, MT is being looked at in June. The City of Casper conducted a 6 weeks class, "Trees 101", beginnings April 9<sup>th</sup>. Donna Cuin was one of the instructors, out of the 26 attendees, 24 were MG's. The annual tree distribution started last weekend and will continue this weekend. Brian Anderson of the State Forest Service will be conducting a Pine Beetle workshop June 12<sup>th</sup> on Casper Mountain for anyone interested. Again this year MG's will participate in the Tate Museum Garden Tour to be held June 20<sup>th</sup>. We have a very involved trainee class this year. 8 of the 23 trainees have already gotten volunteer hours. The Casper Humane Society has asked for Master Gardeners help in landscape planning and design of their property, 6 members have agreed to meet with them. Ami Jacobs and Sue Grill will be conducting a tour of the ARLC Berm for members of the Salvation Army Group. Potluck dinners at Master Gardener homes are scheduled for the summer meetings.

**WESTON COUNTY:** No training classes have been held due to limited interest. Raina Spence taught a recertification class last fall. Master Gardeners assisted with class in Propagation, Square Foot Gardening and Landscaping for Newcastle Community Education. There were also classes held for inmates of the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp. Inmates created Display Plots that MG's judged for creativity and beauty.

**UNIV OF WYO:** Raina Spence was able to report on several of the MG programs whose delegates were unable to attend: **Albany County** for the 1<sup>st</sup> time has a MG program, Kellie Chichester is the new Educator there are about 10 in the group, some have return hours and they seem really excited about the program. **Big Horn & Washakie Counties** are also putting together a joint training program for MG's, progress is being made in that area also. **Carbon County** lost their Educator in 2004 and was unable to complete their training at that time. Raina will be conducting some classes in June to assist in the continuing education of those still interested in the hope of reactivating that group. **Fremont County** had between 10 and 15 trainees in this year classes that were held from 11 – 2pm. **Johnson & Sheridan Counties:** Local residences have expressed a strong interest in getting a program active in these areas. Discussions are on going to get the Educators more familiar with the different aspect of the MG training and maintaining the program in the hope of getting programs underway for the spring of 2009. **Lincoln County** has 15 new trainees, 2 of that group attended the Cody Conference, and there is promise for that

group. **Platte County**, has begun a group 15 in training with a range of experience, the future looks very bright for their success. **Sweetwater County**, Cora Botello is a part-time assistant, and has really pulled this group together with 8 new trainees putting them back on track for a very active program. **Uninta County** has 8 in their group, with very diverse backgrounds, they should be able to work more closely with the group in Sweetwater County. **Park County** asked to be excused from this meeting in view of the Conference that was held in Cody LAST WEEK, it is well understood that they are worn out, but their work was outstanding and much appreciated by all that attended. They have 6 signed for their upcoming training class.

Raina reported that she had compiled approx. 5,000 on the Extension vehicle in the past 3 months, her budget has been increased to the point she will be allowed to meet with each County Master Gardener Program at least once a year. She reported that she would be attending a weeklong Mediation Workshop to add to her training. She had been to almost all of the states counties in the past 3 months to offer assistance and support in their efforts.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no report on the State Conference held in Cody due to the absence of the Park County Delegates. That report will be available at the October meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Goshen County presented a Grant Application in the amount of \$500.00 to cover construction cost of their raised beds and installation of a drip system in the garden. After lengthy discussion period followed by a on site tour of the project Mike Whitmore, Laramie County, made the motion to approve the Grant and add to the application guidelines the wording “***application for grant funds must be made prior to the start of the project***”, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kayce Weber, Goshen County, motion passed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned, the next meeting to be held in Casper, October 10, at the ARLC building on Fairgrounds Road.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Kirby

2008 Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance as follows:

Campbell County: Patsy Larson, Jan Smith, Donna Atkins, Goshen County: Cindy Becky, Kayce Weber, Alyce Jolovich, Jeri Ogborn, Jerry Simonsen, Laramie County: Mike Whitmore, Natrona County: Jacky Bailey, Judy Logue, Sylvia Kirby, Donna Cuin, Weston County: Esther Taylor, Carol Swanson, Bill Taylor, UW: Raina Spence.