

Laramie County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

All the dirt that's fit to print!

From the Editor's Desk

This is our first attempt at a newsletter for the Laramie County Master Gardeners. Nothing fancy, just a collection of information and articles which were submitted by members. We will publish as we acquire enough articles to justify the effort. We have collected material and information from various sources for educational purposes and included source information and URLs when available. We caution the further use of any material from this newsletter before you have researched the copyrights and received information from the authors for the use of the material. Right now we are planning on a quarterly newsletter (March, June, September and December) more often if necessary and special editions when requested. We hope you enjoy this first issue – please feel free to contact us at n7tfm@yahoo.com.

Just a reminder – Be sure to purchase all your plants for the Laramie County Fair before April 1, 2012. You must own the plants 6 months to show at the fair.

From the President's Desk

It is nice to be back home! David and I spent the month of February on a Road Trip. Meandering down to

Florida and looking at Nature's work along the way. I learned a great deal about the Tillandsia plant. This is what I always called an air plant. There are many varieties with different colored blossoms. I brought back enough to make table decorations for the State MG conference. Can't wait to show you some of the ones I have.

We went to Bok Tower Botanical Gardens in New Wales, Fl. The gardens were gorgeous but the exciting thing when I showed our Cheyenne

Botanic Gardens membership card at the gate, we got in free!! We saved enough to pay for our CBG membership next year.

This spring is going to be a busy time for Master Gardeners. Roberta, Barb and the Adult Ed Committee are planning several great speakers. Kim and the Plant Sale committee have been working planning and organizing the Sale. Please plan to volunteer at least one shift on May 19th at the Plant Sale.

The Policies and Procedures committee have the P&P ready to review and vote on. I think they are going to help all of us in keeping to the business of the MG group. Thank you, Mary Ann, Christy and Roberta.

Wendy is lining up all our Programs for the next year. We can thank her for the January program on gourds and the Feb program on bonsai. March program will be Shane Smith, Director of Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, talking on the future of the Gardens.

Thank you Jo and Michelle for all you are doing on the Youth Committee. We are getting several calls from 4-H groups, church groups, and educators wanting speaker to come out and talk to their "kids". I appreciate you stepping up to arrange these talks.

Happy garden planning.

Martha Mullikin

America in Bloom offers free webinar

America in Bloom (AIB) offers a free webinar called "Part One: More Than Just Pretty! AIB Benefits Communities in Diverse Ways," on Wednesday, March 21 from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EST. Dr. Charlie Hall will present the webinar and discuss how AIB extends beyond the expected aesthetic benefits, including how

peoples' lives are changed in terms of the economic, environmental and health/well-being benefits of flowers, shrubs and trees.

Part one of the two-part series covers the economic, environmental and health benefits of plants at large. Part two will be presented on April 18 and will focus on the economic, environmental and health benefits of plants to homeowners.

To learn more and register for the webinar, http://www.greenhousemanagementonline.com/Greenhouse-Management-america-in-bloom-webinar.aspx?List_id=8

Gardening in Cheyenne – Learning to Love Where You're Planted

I'm originally from Louisiana. I moved here in 2001, and shortly thereafter bought my first house. Boy was I excited, it had a nice, good-sized yard that I could garden in (finally, after previously being in several jobs that required so much travel that gardening wasn't feasible). So, off I went, planting all sorts of stuff. I did absolutely no research, after all, I had done a lot of gardening in Louisiana before all the traveling jobs, I thought I knew what I was doing. Hah! What a mess I made that first year! Probably the most memorable failures were the blueberries I planted....the poor things didn't die right away...they just gradually became smaller and smaller, until they shrank away into nothingness...and the Brandywine tomato plants that I put out during a seductive warm spell in mid-May ...of course, we had the inevitable late-spring cold snap, which killed them all deader than a doornail! I then went and got a couple more, and planted them. The plants did OK, but for all of you "in the know", Brandywines need 90-120 days to ripen. We

don't have that here! So, I made lots of fried green tomatoes and pickled tomatoes.

By now, it's sinking in that I can't just go on my merry way and garden the way I did in Louisiana. One day, while reading the newspaper, my roommate sees an article about the Master Gardener Class, which was about to begin, and brings it to my attention. I thought "Great! Just what I need!" I made an appointment with Catherine Wissner, and, as they say, the rest is history. I learned that blueberries need an acidic soil (which we don't have here), and that our growing season is too short for Brandywine tomatoes (unless you give them a head start in Walls-O-Water), the absolute need to do research before planting anything, and many, many other things particular to gardening in Cheyenne.

So, now when people moan and gnash their teeth, saying "you can't grow anything in Cheyenne", I tell them that if a person used to growing figs, pomegranates, bananas, and grapefruits can adjust and grow things here, anyone can! Instead of moaning about what you can't grow, learn to like what grows here! In Cheyenne, I can grow things that I never could in Louisiana – like apples, cherries, peonies, tulips and delphinium, and I spend a lot less on bug repellent, pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides than I did down south. I also do a heck of a lot less mowing and weeding. And there are no fire ants! For me, gardening in Cheyenne is also made a lot more pleasant by the lack of smothering heat and humidity. Down south, I'd have to get up at the crack of dawn, and would only have an hour or two "gardening window" before it would get so hot that I was forced back indoors to cool off under the air conditioning. In Cheyenne, I can garden all day if that's what I want to do. So, all-in-all, I'm much happier gardening in Cheyenne.

Kathy Shreve

MG since 2002

Drive by and see my front garden at 3109 Snyder Avenue! The tulips will be blooming beginning the first of May!

Cheyenne – High Plains Audubon Society

The March edition of the Flyer is now available online at

<http://home.lonetree.com/audubon/12MarCHP/ASnewsletter.pdf>.

Please read the newsletter for information about field trips and other events, birding reports and how to make your windows safe during spring migration.

41st Annual Denver Rose Society Symposium on March 24, 2012, 9:30am to 12:30am

Plan to attend this seminar to prepare for a successful growing season. Also available will be:

- Consulting Rosarian advice
- Handouts and resources
- Mail-order rose catalogues
- Soil sampling kits
- Mile-Hi Rose Feed
- *Growing Roses in Colorado* book
- Free gift for every new membership sign up
- Great door prizes
- Bare root roses for sale
- Treasure Table collectibles, books & other rose related items for sale
- Refreshments

The Symposium is **FREE** to attend with paid admission to the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Plant Hardiness Zone Map Update

The Plant Hardiness Zone Map has been a popular USDA item over the years, this is the first update since 1990, and is a joint effort by USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Oregon State University's (OSU) PRISM Climate Group. USDA will no longer have copies available as in the past, but anyone may download the map free of charge and print copies as needed.

URL to access map:

<http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>

To read more about the Map and other new features, visit the USDA Newsroom to read the full release.

Suggestions for this newsletter's name:

"The Bee's Knees"

"Get Down & Dirty Gazette"

2012 Wyoming Master Gardener Association Conference.

This year it is being hosted by Campbell County Master Gardeners in Gillette, on April 27-29, 2012, 29 at the Gillette College Technical Center for more information go to www.wyomingmastergardeners.org.

Lots of good speakers and lots of good people!

If you come, bring your wildest mug for coffee and drinks. There will be a contest for mugs (coffee not faces).

Upcoming Master Gardener Programs (2012)

Wednesday, March 21 - "Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Plans & Politics" ... Shane Smith, Director

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Tentative:

Wednesday, April 18 - "Blue Ribbon Displays: Prepping Plants & Produce for County or State Fairs or..." Sandy Dennis & Sue Carlson, Laramie County Master Gardeners

Wednesday, May 16 - "Walk around the Capitol Building" (guide to be decided)

Saturday, May 5 or Wed., May 9 - David Whiting, CSU horticulture specialist & Colorado Master Gardener Coordinator, for a MG session and public program including perennials for Zone 4)

Saturday, June 2 - "What's Happening at the High Plains Arboretum"—tour and talk (guide to be decided)

July (no program, possible MG garden visits)

Wednesday, August, 22 - MG picnic & plant swap (note change of regular meeting date).

Sunday, September 9 - Fall Garden Walk, contact Kathy Shreve at 514-0268 to help.

Wednesday, September 19 - Composting.

October ? Graduation and Annual Meeting (to be determined).

Growing Ginger Root Isn't Difficult

Ginger is a tropical plant. Ginger has rhizomes, and the rhizomes have roots. The edible parts are the rhizomes

What ginger plants like and dislike:

Ginger loves a sheltered spot, filtered sunlight, warm weather, humidity, and rich, moist soil. What ginger can't stand is frost, direct sun, strong winds, and soggy, waterlogged soil.

Planting Ginger Root

The easiest way to get started growing ginger root is to get a few fresh rhizomes from someone who does grow ginger, at the time when the plant re-shoots anyway (early spring). Otherwise just buy some at the shops at that time. Make sure you select fresh, plump rhizomes. Look for pieces with well developed "eyes" or growth buds. (The buds look like little horns at the end of a piece or "finger")

Some people recommend soaking the rhizomes in water over night. That's not a bad idea, since shop bought ginger might have been treated with a growth retardant.

It has also been recommended to sit rhizomes in water until they sprout roots. Doing this your ginger plant will suffer transplant shock.

Your plant will be much happier if the roots are in the ground and can breathe right from the start. If the ground is moist and warm they will root very easily.

Whether you grow your ginger root in a pot or in the ground, you do need to start with. It needs to be rich enough to feed your ginger (you can always add some fertilizer; it needs to hold enough moisture so it doesn't dry out, but it needs to be free draining so the ginger roots don't become water logged.

Good compost is of course ideal. I use a mix of one part of my best compost with one part of my sandy garden soil. The compost supplies the nutrition and holds water, and the sand/loam makes sure the mix drains freely.

The best planting time is late winter/early spring (late dry season/early wet season, in the true tropics). Make sure you select a spot where the plants get plenty of light but no direct sun, and where they are protected from wind.

You can cut or break up the ginger rhizomes in little pieces with a couple of growing buds each. Or just plant the whole thing. Plant your ginger root 2 to 4 inches deep, with the growing buds facing up.

Start ginger in a large shallow pot that contains one-part sand to one-part potting soil. I generally use a 14" pot filled three quarters full with soil. Lay rooting pieces horizontally, placing them two or three inches apart around the center of the pot. Cover with one inch of soil. Ginger likes to grow in dappled light to light shade. While sprouting, make sure to keep the roots uniformly moist.

When sprouts appear you will see small portions of root poking through the soil. As the root is visible, it will be easier to harvest small segments as the plants mature. Avoid harvesting ginger for a season. This allows the plants to get a good start in life.

Once you have a thriving set of shoots, place the plants in a shady spot out of doors for a few hours a day after the overnight temperature rises above 50 degrees F. Increase the time outside over a four day period, and then place the pot in a shady permanent location. The three things to remember are that ginger needs shade, regular water, and won't tolerate freezing temperatures.

How much space?

Growing ginger doesn't take up much room at all. Every rhizome you plant will first only grow a few leaves, in the one spot. Over time it will become a dense clump and very slowly get bigger, but only if it isn't harvested. The rhizomes underground also don't seem to mind if they become a bit crowded. Ginger only grows to about two to three feet in height.

A 14 inch pot easily holds three average rhizomes; a rectangular styrofoam box holds about nine to a dozen. If planting them in the ground plant them about six to eight inches apart.

How much water?

Ginger needs a lot of moisture while actively growing. The soil should never dry out. Don't overwater, though, because the water that drains away will take nutrients with it.

Ginger loves humidity. If you have problems with dry air then regular spraying and misting might help. Dry air can cause problems with spider mites. But that's rather a problem for people who try to grow ginger out of its range and indoors. A sheltered, moist spot in a warm climate will provide enough humidity.

If you are growing ginger in the ground mulch it thickly. (Ginger is a slow growing plant and easily overgrown by others.)

How much and which plant food?

If you are growing ginger in good, rich soil it shouldn't need anything extra. Put in fresh compost mix every year and never add any extra fertilizer.

If you don't have good soil, or if you are growing ginger in some standard bought potting mix, then you have to feed it regularly. You will also have to feed it if you are growing ginger in an area that gets torrential summer rains (many tropical regions do). Such rains leach all the goodness from the soil.

Work in some organic slow release fertilizer at planting time. After that you can use some liquid fertilizer every few weeks.

When to harvest ginger root?

If you are growing ginger root in the garden you can start stealing little bits of it once it is about four months old. Just dig carefully at the side of a clump. (This "green ginger" does have a lot less flavor than the mature stuff, though.)

The best time to harvest ginger is any time after the leaves have died down. Usually it takes eight to ten months to get to that point.

You can now dig up the whole plant. This the best reason to grow your ginger in tubs, it makes the harvesting so easy. You don't have to dig, just tip out the whole plant.

Break up the rhizomes, select a few nice ones with good growing buds for replanting (you can replant them straight away), and keep the rest for the kitchen.

When does ginger flower?

A clump needs to be about two years old to flower. So if you want to see your ginger flower leave it in the ground, and just dig very carefully at the edges of it to harvest bits here and there. The flowers of culinary ginger are green and insignificant.

There are some spectacular flowering gingers. If you are after great flowers get some of those. They are grown exactly like the culinary ginger, just skip the harvest. There's also a pretty variegated ginger, with white and green striped leaves. All the ornamental varieties are evergreen in the tropics.

<http://www.tropicalpermaculture.com/growing-ginger.html>

<http://theherbgardener.blogspot.com/2008/03/keeping-and-harvesting-ginger.html>

Gardening Sayings

- Abandon your post, and nature will sneak in and steal you blind!
- A beautiful garden is a work of heart
- A garden is a friend you can visit anytime
- A good gardener always plants 3 seeds...one for the bugs, one for the weather and one for himself.
- All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today All things grow with love
- Always remember the beauty of the garden, for there is peace
- An addiction to gardening is not all bad when you consider all the other choices in life
- Aroma therapy... dirt, flowers, garden!
- A rose has thorns only for those who would gather it
- A rose lives here with an old thorn!
- As is the gardener, so is the garden
- A thing of beauty is a joy forever
- A Weed is but an unloved Flower
Beauty blooms in the garden as it does in the heart
- Between these weeds, flowers grow
- Beware! Mosquitoes!
- Beware of Snap Dragons
- Bless my bloomers!
- Bloom, Damn it!
- Born to garden - forced to work
- Bring on the sunshine!
- Compost . . . because a rind is a terrible thing to waste
- Despite the gardener's best intentions, nature will improvise.
- Don't hurry, don't worry. Don't grumble that roses have thorns... be thankful that thorns have roses!
- Don't wear perfume in the garden - unless you want to be pollinated by bees.
- Every thought is a seed. If you plant crab apples don't count on harvesting Golden Delicious. Early to bed, early to rise,

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- Each fairy breath of summer, as it blows with loveliness, inspires the blushing rose Earth laughs in flowers Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature
- Flowers feed the soul Flowers make life lovelier for thee, the earth puts forth sweet flowers! Fortunate are they to whom gardening is a joy. Friends are like flowers in the garden of life
- Gardens are not made by sitting on the shade
- Gardeners have the sunniest smiles!
- Gardeners know that trees grow on money.
- Garden Goddess. . . Hard at work!
- Garden of weedin'
- Gardeners are like doctors . . . they both bury their mistakes
- Gardening: A labor that begins with daybreak and ends with backbreak.
- Gardening: a leisure-time activity involving lots of time and little leisure
- Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years.
- Gardening is cheaper than therapy and you get tomatoes.
- Gardening just another day at the plant
- Gardening often begins with daybreak and ends with back break!
- Gardening tills the soul
- Give your weeds an inch and they'll take your yard
- God blesses the hands that work in a garden.
- God's in charge of flowers and seeds and I'm in charge of all the weeds. God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done. Going to seed without a pot to peat in! Grow where you're planted
- Have patience... nothing grows quickly except weeds!
- Harvest the seeds of love Hearts that love are always in bloom
- Herbs add spice to your life.
- Herbs make good scents.
- He who plants a garden plants happiness He who plants a tree loves others besides himself Hi hoe, hi hoe. A gardening I grow.
- How does my garden grow?
- I didn't plant this
- I dig gardening!
- If dandelions were hard to grow, they would be most welcome on the best of lawns.
- I fought the lawn and the lawn won!
- I have a rock garden. Last week three of them died.
- I'm not aging, I just need to be repotted
- I plant the seed, you make it grow. It's been so dry the trees have been whistling for the dogs!
- I used to love my garden, but now that love is dead, for I found my bachelor buttons, in my black-eyed Susan's bed.
- Life began in a garden
- Life is a flower of which love is the honey.
- Like bunnies, prolific!
- Like life, few gardens have only flowers Love blooms where kindness is planted Love grows here
- Make the world a happier place here and there.
- Many eyes go through the meadows, but few see the flowers.
- May all your weeds be wildflowers Moms Flowers.....Dads Weeds Mom's garden, Dad's weeds.
- My garden grows with love My garden, My heaven
- My garden peaked last week - sorry you missed it My husband said if I buy any more perennials he would leave me - - - gosh I'm going to miss that man!
- Never enough thyme!
- Nothing is more the child of art than a garden
- One for the rock, one for the crow, one to die, and one to grow. - English saying
- One day I will burst my bud of calm and blossom into hysteria

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- One for the blackbird, one for the crow, one for the cutworm, and one to grow.
- Old gardeners never die . . . they just go to pot Old gardeners never die . . . they just go to seed. Old gardeners never die . . . they just spade away One good thing about rutabagas is that they provide something for turnips to taste better than.... One is nearer to God in a garden than anywhere else on Earth
- Patience in gardening is a necessity, hardly a virtue.
- Plant smiles; grow giggles; harvest love
- Scatter seeds of happiness
- Scatter seeds of kindness where you may go
- Shhh! Bulbs are resting!
- Should I weed the lawn or say it's a garden?
- Sprinkle seeds of kindness everywhere. So be sure to stop and smell the flowers Some people like to make a little garden out of life Spring is Nature's way of saying "let's party!" Sunlight fades, stars appear, garden fairies gather here
- The difference between a flower and a weed is a judgment.
- The garden is a mirror of the heart the garden is the poor man's apothecary.
- The grass may look greener on the other side but it still has to be mowed!
- The only thing I grow in my garden is tired.
- The philosopher who said that work well done never needs doing over never weeded a garden.
- The poetry of the earth is never dead
- The rustle of the wind reminds us a Fairy is near The seed is hope; the flower is joy
- There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues.
- There is always music amongst the trees in the garden, but our hearts must be still to hear it
- Tickle the earth with a hoe; it will laugh a harvest
- Though an old man I am but a young gardener
- To be overcome by the fragrance of flowers is a delectable form of defeat
- To everything there is a season To grow a little garden is the labor of the ages To plant a garden is to believe in the future
- Tread softly. Your feet are killing me! (On a sign near planted seeds)
- We come from the earth, we return to the earth, and in between we garden
- Weeds -- All you can pick -- FREE!
- Weeds for sale - pick your own
- Weeds happen, come rain or shine!
- Weed it and Reap
- When heaven falls to Earth, it becomes a Garden
- When the world wearies and society ceases to satisfy there is always the garden
- When We Love - We Grow Winter, spring, summer, fall. Lord, thank you for them all.
- Where but in a garden do summer hours pass so quickly?
- Windchimes in your yard will serenade garden creatures... squirrels, fairies and angels.
- With silver bells and cockle shells..... and fertilizer, you idiot
- Work like hell and fertilize!
- You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the earth.
- You can bury a lot of troubles, digging in the dirt
- You have to eat a lot of parsley to be an old sage
- You're only here for a short visit.
- You send the rain, I work the hoe.

How to Make Evergreen Balm

Evergreen trees used in herbalism tend to be "warming" energetically and are excellent at

stimulating healing and relieving pain in part because of the way in which the volatile oils increase local circulation.

Almost all of my pain liniments and salves contain some amount of the magic of conifers. This warming power is especially effective for treating cold symptoms which may manifest as stiff, achy muscles often characterized by dull, chronic pain. Likewise, this warming action can help speed the healing of chronically dry or cracked skin on the hands, elbows, knees and feet.

Additionally, stronger scented conifers can be useful as a chest rub during colds with sinus congestion or chronic coughs. The scent of most evergreens is both energizing and relaxing, promoting a sunny sense of wellbeing through their citrusy aromatics, which can help alleviate the sadness that may accompany winter for some.

Examples of excellent Evergreen trees for medicine:

- * Fir (*Abies* spp.)
- * Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga* spp.)
- * Pine (*Pinus* spp.), Spruce (*Picea* spp.)
- * Hemlock (*Tsuga* spp.)
- * Cypress (*Cupressus* spp.)

Note: Avoid potentially toxic or irritating evergreens such as Yew or Stinking Juniper (*Juniperus sabina*), the genera listed above are generally safe excepting individual sensitivities. Also avoid any trees that have been sprayed with pesticides.

Step by Step Evergreen Balm Recipe

This is a two step recipe, first we will infuse herbs into a carrier oil, and then we add beeswax to the strained oil to create a solid balm.

Step One: Evergreen Infused Oil

Ingredients:

- * Appr. 3 Cups recently dried Evergreen Needles (of just one species or a blend of your favorites)
- * 3 TB of recently dried roughly ground Juniper berries (optional)
- * 1-3 TB freshly grated Orange peel (optional)
- * High quality carrier Oil (Extra Virgin Olive, Almond, Grapeseed, Jojoba etc.) - note that the milder smelling the carrier oil the more you will be able to smell the Evergreen scent. Olive oil is more strongly scented and will obscure the Evergreen fragrance to some degree but is also pleasant smelling in its own right.

Equipment

- * 1 Quart glass jar with airtight lid

Instructions

1. Roughly chop evergreen needles (a cleaver works well for this)
2. Place needles in quart jar until jar is about 2/3 full without being packed down, a little less if also adding Orange peel and/or Juniper berries.
3. Add Orange peel and berries, if including these
4. Fill jar with oil
5. Stir with butterknife, chopstick or similar to release any air bubbles
6. Allow to infuse for 2-4 weeks, preferably in a warm place, such as in a woodstove warmer or even in a paper bag (to protect the plant matter from the sun) in a closed up car in the sun

7. Decant by straining out the plant matter, and reserving the oil

8. The oil should be fragrant and with many confers, also very sweet smelling.

Step 2: Evergreen Balm

Ingredients

* 3 Cups Infused Oil (approximately, as it will depend on which Evergreen you used as to how much oil is absorbed and how much can be expressed back out)

* 4 Ounces Unrefined grated Beeswax (less if you have less than 3 cups of oil)

Equipment

* 1 Quart glass jar with airtight lid

* Double boiler

* Glass or other containers with airtight lids to hold your salve

Instructions

1. Heat water for double boiler to a slow boil.

2. Pour oil into top pan/bowl of double boiler

3. Allow to warm

4. Add beeswax

5. Stir until all beeswax is melted

6. Remove oil from heat, being sure to dry the bottom of the container

7. Pour into salve containers

8. Allow to cool before capping and storing in a cool, dark place

One of the great things about this Evergreen Balm is that almost all conifers contain

constituents that slow the growth of bacteria and help prevent oxidation, both of which increase the lifespan of your salve without having to add any preservatives.

Overview of Uses

1. A great warming massage ointment for sore, achy muscles. You can also just skip the salve making step and use the infused oil as a massage oil

2. Speed healing on dry chapped or cracked skin

3. A mild chest rub for chronic coughs or chest congestion

4. An aromatherapy balm that is uplifting and cheering, I've actually had several people tell me they were my Evergreen Balm as a solid perfume

Advanced Step

Once you're comfortable with this process, you can also add Evergreen resins when you infuse your oil. Be sure to collect mindfully and only take runoff, not the resin actually covering the wound that it's being exuded from. These resins will enhance the existing actions of the Evergreen needles and make the oil even more aromatic. Pines often produce large amounts of resins, sniff the ones near you and see what you like best.

Thank you

Becky Mathisen for the Aloe plants given away as door prizes at our February meeting.

Susie Heller for the gourds given away as door prizes at our February meeting.

Martha Mullikin for the door prizes for our January and March meetings and for table decorations for the State Convention.

Jo Miyamoto for the address book given as a door prize at our February meeting.

Shane Smith for the use of the Children's Discovery Center at the Cheyenne Botanic Garden for our meetings.

Thanks to Jessica Friis for her presentation on Bonsai at the February meeting.

Jonah Bank and Pizzazz for boxed tea for our meetings.

And, all of you who have contributed "dirt" to this newsletter.

CHEYENNE BONSAI CLUB

All meetings will be held in the classroom of the Paul Smith Children's Village

Saturday, March 10 @9 am

Topic: Tool Care & Maintenance, Victoria Kunau

Saturday, April 14 @9 am

Topic: Bonsai Forms, Karl Kaszuba & Jessica Friis

Saturday, May 19 @9 am

Topic: Cascade Style, Carol Ripka

Summer Events Times & Dates TBA:

Bonsai workshop, Bonsai show, trip to Curt Gowdy to collect soil, trip to collect trees with Douglas Bonsai Society, trip to Denver Botanic Gardens bonsai show, visit Bob Schick's bonsai collection in Cheyenne

Cheyenne Bonsai Club Contact information:

Jessica Friis

Jessica@botallic.org

Work: (307) 637-6349

Cell: (307) 287-1953

Nursery Events Regionally

Ft Collins Nursery

2121 East Mulberry · Fort Collins, CO 80524
970.482.97.1984; 1-866-384-7516

- Monday through Saturday: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

[Ornamental and Shade Tree Pruning Workshop](#)

March 31, 1:00- 3:00 pm \$15-\$18

Watch Fort Collins City Forester, Tim Buchanan, in action as he demonstrates proper pruning techniques for ornamental and shade trees. You'll also learn how pruning affects the health and growth of your trees. Class will be held entirely outside so please dress for the weather.

[Conifers for the Rock Garden and Small Garden](#)

-April 14, 10:00 – 11:30am

Cost \$12.00 -\$15.00, At the Gardens on Spring Creek Conifers (pines, spruces, junipers) bring four-season interest to the landscape but not all landscapes can accommodate their large size. In this class, you'll discover many varieties of dwarf conifers suitable for rock gardens and smaller gardens. You'll also learn about their growing requirements, origins, and how they are produced.

Instructor: Kirk Fieseler, Laporte Avenue Nursery

Fossil Creek Nursery

7029 S. College Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80525
970-226-4924rt C

Monday through Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday 10:00am to 4

[Making the neighbors green with envy](#)- Mar 24 10:00am

Lots of tips on how to have the greenest lawn.

No fee but reservations are recommended.
(970)226-4924b

[Creating Curb Appeal](#) - Mar 31, 10:00 am

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Selling your house, or does your landscape just need a face lift? Little things that you can do to spruce up your curb appeal. Speaker: Jill White

[Stop! Don't Chop!](#) – Apr 7, 10:00 am

Pruning promotes healthy, vigorous plants. Learn how and when to prune your trees and shrubs!

[Summer Blooming Bulbs](#) – Apr 7, 2:00 pm

Come learn how to get extra summer color by planting summer blooming bulbs and which bulbs work best in what areas. Speaker: Jill White

[Landscape Remodel](#) – Apr 14, 2:00 pm

If your landscape is getting tired and is in need of a facelift, consider spending some time with us looking at some case studies of what has been done to some existing landscapes to update them

[Designer Days: a benefit for the American Cancer Society](#) – Apr 28, 9:00 am

Fight cancer and get great ideas for your yard! What could be better? Do you have a problem area in your yard, or have you simply run out of ideas?

[Gardener's Expo](#) – Apr 28, 10:00 am

You are invited to join us for our 9th annual Gardener's Expo. Learn about exciting new gardening trends, ideas and old and new products from company sales representatives.

[Enchanted Container Gardening-May 5, 2:00pm](#)

Whether a fairy lives in your container garden or not, we will teach you about some cool plants we carry that will work well for your enchanted garden. Speaker: Jill White

[Creative Gardening](#) – May 12, 10:00am

Come and learn the tricks to creating wonderful works of art in a container that can be enjoyed all summer long. Speaker: Jill White

Bath Garden Center & Nursery

2000 E. Prospect Road, Fort Collins CO 80525
970-484-5022, 1-800-748-0882. Fax: 970-484-3718

Mon-Fri 8-7pm; Saturday 8-6pm; Sunday 9-5pm

Email: bgc@bathgardencenter.com

Sara Bath: sbath@bathgardencenter.com

[Make Your Own Body Scrub - March 25](#)

Reservations are required for each skin care class. [Please RSVP.](#)

[Fairy Garden Festival](#)

March 24-25, noon-3pm

The second annual Fairy Festival! Drop in to make your own fairy garden, learn fairy folklore and enjoy tiny treats at the fairy tea party. Build your own fairy garden for \$35-45. We supply everything you need to get started: Container, soil, two plants, an accessory piece and materials to decorate with. We have a great selection of miniature garden accessories to finish your garden.

[Edible Landscaping](#)

March 31, 11am

Make your landscape beautiful AND edible! Colorado has many edible shrubs and small trees that will fit into urban landscapes. Join Sherry Fuller to learn what shrubs do best and tips for creating a beautiful landscape that you can turn into jams, jellies and homemade pies!

[Beekeeping \\$60](#)

March 31, noon-3pm

Keeping bees is a noble hobby. For your efforts in keeping the bee population healthy, you're rewarded with delicious honey and a perfectly pollinated garden. Learn the basics of beekeeping from local beekeepers. Please RSVP.

[Bats in the Garden](#)

April 7, 11am

Sure, bats are a little creepy but they're misunderstood and they are beneficial for your garden. Bats feast on moths, spiders and

mosquitoes and improve the eco-system in your backyard. Join our friend Michelle Rogers to learn how to attract bats, provide them the right shelter and other essential knowledge about bats.

[Native Plants and Xeric Gardens](#)

April 7, noon

Colorado boasts some beautiful, hardy plants that thrive in harsh conditions. Using native plants is economical, and they usually thrive in clay soil. Learn how to incorporate these low-maintenance plants into your existing landscape. Many people assume that xeric gardens are less attractive, but it's just not true! Join Sherry Fuller to learn about Colorado's best and most beautiful native species.

[Invite Beneficial Insects to Your Garden](#)

April 21, 11am

What can you plant to entice beneficial insects to your garden? What pest control options won't harm the natural insect populations? Join Spencer Bath to learn all about beneficial insects and not so beneficial insects.

Potato recipe getting rid of Fungus gnats – by THE BUG DOCTOR

In our quest for the latest technology and precision pesticide application mankind will spare no expense or effort to come up with a fail proof method or device to rid us of unwanted pests. Sometimes we need to lean back just a bit and listen to the wisdom and time tested truths that our older generation would love to impart if we would only take time to listen. This little gem comes from a sweet little old lady from some 20 years ago. To look at her you might think she was a bag lady or living on the streets but she had wisdom in a number of things and she imparted some useful pest control tips I still use to this day.

Fungus gnats can be quite bothersome although they are basically harmless. Some of an exterminators worst calls are for gnats and for the do it yourself pest control person it can

be as equally maddening. A quick sweep of the web and you can get confused about which pest you have especially if you are trying to identify teeny tiny gnats. [Without the correct identification](#) most people try all sorts of different methods before they finally stumble upon the right one that eliminates the problem. I believe sometimes the gnats basically 'run their course' and disappear naturally but we coincide the sudden vanishing with our pest control method and from then on are convinced we have the answer.

Life Cycle Thankfully the adult Fungus gnat only lives about a week but in that short time she may lay 100 to 150 eggs. These are laid in strings with about 40 eggs per and begin to hatch about 4 days later. The larvae (maggots) are the biggest problem even though we seldom see them. They live for about 14 days and eat the heck out of your plants root system and then move up the stem. From there they move into the pupae stage which lasts about 4 days. The adult emerges and the cycle begins again. Control The most obvious control is prevention and that is as simple as not over watering your plants. If you develop a case of Fungus gnats the first thing you should do (after you move the plants outdoors) is to reduce watering. Sometimes you can have good luck with sprinkling Diatomaceous earth on the soil and the tiny sharp shards will cut the larvae thus eventually kill them. They feed in the top layers of the soil so you may need to mix it in slightly. Yellow sticky cards can reduce the adult population somewhat but won't cure the problem. Pesticides aren't really recommended because you need to cut off the life cycle and filling may make you feel like you've done something but it's hardly worth it to kill a few adult gnats.

Potato Control This brings us to the use of a potato. The larvae just can't seem to resist the sight of a freshly cut potato laying on top of the soil. They will move to it very quickly and begin feeding like hungry rats in a dumpster. Simply cut medium thick chunks or slices of a potato and place it on the soil of your potted plant. In 3

or 4 days remove the slice and put in another. Repeat this process until you find no more larvae in your tasty potato trap.

Years ago [Dan Quayle got in trouble because he couldn't spell the word potato](#) and insisted on adding an 'E' to it. It was a sixth grader who set him straight which would seem an unlikely source to teach this highly educated man. In today's world with all our sophisticated equipment and products to solve our pest problems perhaps we should also look to a seldom used source, our seasoned citizens who've walked ahead of us all this time.

<http://pestcemetery.com/potato-recipe-rid-fungus-gnats/>

Top 10 Endangered Trees

<http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php>

When you think of something being endangered, you probably automatically think of animals. In the entire world, there are about 5,000 endangered species of animals, and despite the importance of protecting these endangered animals; there is also an importance in protecting endangered trees all over the world.

Arbor Day has just passed and this is a good time for a reminder that there are trees in every country that are slowly becoming extinct. This is often due to deforestation and the fact that the wood of most of these trees is used for making lumber as well as furniture, flooring, and even the handles on knives.

While you might not think about it every day, trees are especially important. For one, trees are able to produce oxygen. It is said that one matured tree can produce enough oxygen for ten people to breathe for one year. Trees are also good for cleaning soil as well as the air. Carbon dioxide is a huge problem in today's world, but trees are able to absorb and hold onto carbon dioxide as well as sulfur dioxide and even nitrogen dioxide.

Perhaps this list will inspire you to add a tree to your backyard, to participate in a community tree project, or to sponsor tree planting through an organization like Oxfam Unwrapped. Here are ten trees that are close to extinction:

10. Loulu

If you've ever been to the Hawaiian Islands, you've possibly seen one of these trees during your visit. The 25 different variations of this tree are found on each island, some growing as large as 60 feet tall. Each island has its own species and every species is distinct, not only in size but where they grow and the color palm it provides.

The trees only have one trunk and have various branches that grow palms on the end. There are young Loulu trees in many home gardens – you can grow one of these trees in a pot until they start to mature; however, there are only about 300 Loulu trees in the wild. The Loulu tree has been living on the Hawaii Islands for around 40,000 years. The Polynesians who used it for making spears and thatching first brought it there. The trees flourished until the ancient Hawaiians arrived, bringing pigs and other animals with them that either ate the seeds or ruined the roots of young trees.

Thankfully, to slow and hopefully turn around the decline of these trees, the Oahu Army Natural Resource Program has began collecting and growing seeds, allowing them to mature and then planting them at a time when the tree is sure to survive.

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9cSejKc>

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9c2HPqv>

9. Hinton's Oak (Encino of Hinton)

You'll find this tree in Mexico, mainly the southeast corner where there are three known species that thrive in the dry desert areas. The neat thing about the Hinton's Oak tree is that the spring foliage is a bright red color that eventually turns to a dark green before they fall. The bark of the tree is extremely dark,

which sets a contrast to the red leaves. The trees can grow as large as 49 feet and are extremely important to many in Mexico, as the wood of the tree is made to use handles for many utensils, such as knives.

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9cYilPn>

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9ceaRa1>

8. St. Helena Gumwood

The St. Helena gumwood is definitely unique. In fact, it's so unique that St. Helena Island chose it to be their national tree. The tree grows with a crooked trunk, but despite this it is able to support an umbrella-like canopy with an endless amount of branches. During the winter and into the end of the spring months, each branch produces white dangling flowers.

Accompanied by the flowers are leaves that can be up to 5 inches long. Not only are these leaves somewhat large, but they are also hairy and can be a green color while others have more of a grey tone to them. In St. Helena, the population of this tree was once so large that it covered tropical forests all over.

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9cqU7go>

7. African Blackwood (Mpingo)

In Swahili, the population of the African Blackwood continues to diminish. The name comes from the color of its heartwood which is a color closely resembling black. The tree is said to grow in areas where most other trees or plants couldn't, as it prefers infertile and rocky soil. The Mpingo is also very slow growing, taking between 70-200 years to grow to a mature size and many only grow to be able 9 feet tall. It is the national tree of Tanzania even though the tree can be found in about 26 different African countries, including Ethiopia, Angola, Senegal, and many others. This tree is great for those who do agricultural work as it is known to improve the fertility of the soil as well as the soil's stability. The Blackwood is a great

source of food for various herbivores as well as livestock as these animals will eat its leaves.

Despite being a very hardy tree (most of the mature trees are even able to survive a fire), the population of the African Blackwood has been on the decline.

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9cwhTHp>

6. Monkey Puzzle

Just by the name, you can probably tell that this is a pretty unique type of tree. Represented as the national tree of Chile, the Monkey Puzzle can be seen all over Europe, especially in botanical gardens. Sometimes called the living fossil, the Monkey Puzzle can live thousands of years. In Chile, the tree is known as Pehuén to the Pehuenche people. These people have a large history with the tree and often need it to provide a great part of their diet. The Monkey Puzzle tree provides nuts that people as well as animals often eat and are said to be very similar to pine nuts. The tree grows to about 131 feet tall but has a very slender trunk. The branches are often described as being thick and reptilian and the tree as a whole prefers to grow somewhere with a lot of rain, and cold temperatures aren't a bother.

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9d5ndD6>

5. Honduras Rosewood

You can find the Honduras rosewood in Belize, Southern Mexico, and Guatemala. They are on the endangered list due to the heavy use of its lumber for various products. The timber produced with this wood is said to be some of the best but surprisingly, there isn't too much information known about the tree. The wood that is taken from the tree is often of very high quality and the color is what really attracts people. The wood is usually a red purple color with streaks of black. The wood is so unique that people from all over vie to own some of it.

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9dBp9Vt>

4. Clanwilliam Cedar

Often characterized as a majestic tree, the clanwilliam cedar can be found throughout the Western Cape Province of South Africa, especially in the Cederberg Mountains. The trees are extremely tall, growing up to 82 feet in height and they like to take things slow: some of these trees can live to be up to 1,000 years old, and it takes almost 30 years for a tree to produce seeds. The tree has foliage that is needle-shaped and is close together. The foliage of ten produces small cones at the end of each small twig during the autumn months.

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9dHT1Fc>

3. African Baobab Tree

If you've ever seen *The Lion King*, you've seen a Baobab Tree. It's the one Rafiki makes his home. The African Baobab tree is another on the list that has a long history. It is said that some of the trees in existence today have been around for at least 1,000 years. You will find these massive trees, often growing up to 82 feet in height, in the Blue Nile as well as Kordofan and Darfur. Not only is the African Baobab tall, its trunk is also pretty large, measuring in at an average of 32 feet in diameter but others can be as wide as 91 feet. The tree also has fruit, which is also seen in *The Lion King*, ranging from 3-17 inches that has a dry powdery pulp inside of it. The tree's fruit is used for various things such as medicine and food.

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9dN89hm>

2. Dragon Tree

This tree probably has the coolest history on the list, but you'll only find the Dragon Tree in Morocco, Madeira, the Cape Verde Islands, and on five of the seven Canary Islands. Tall and slender, the tree has prickly leaves with white-green flowers as well as brown berries that are recovered in a red sweet substance. The history behind this tree goes back for centuries. It is said that in Ancient Rome, the tree was used as a colorant that would cover iron tools. Many

times the colorant was used as a varnish. The Dragon Tree also has history in various Greek myths. The most well known is one that tells the story of Hercules and the Apples of Hesperides. Landon, the hundred-headed dragon is killed, who was said to be the guardian of Hesperides so that Hercules could bring back the three golden apples. When the dragon was killed, it is said that various Dragon Trees sprung up from Landon's blood, which then flowed across the land, causing more trees to grow. Though the tree has so much history, that history may soon be cut short due to the declining number in population.

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9dTmM00>

1. Bois Dentelle

The Bois Dentelle is a truly beautiful tree; sadly there are only two of these trees in existence today (both in Mauritius). This tree is not huge like others on this list; instead, the Bois Dentelle is pretty small, but the flowers that it provides are one of a kind. The flowers are in the shapes of a bell but the petals are lacy. Imagine a piece of cloth that is frayed at the end and you'll see what these flowers look like. They are extremely distinct and only blossom between January and March. The white flowers hang off of long branches and are often in clusters.

Read more: <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-endangered-trees.php#ixzz1p9dZMjtd>
