

# THE SAGE GARDENER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2011

## RANDOM THOUGHTS..... BOB PRCHAL



I want to take this opportunity to applaud *Sariah Bates, Valerie Bates and Kendra Morris* for successfully completing their internship requirements.

....welcome to our Master Gardener County and State organization....

A big Shout-out & Best wishes to the 2012 Officers. It is exciting to have a new, committed group of leaders who will help us carry on with our many community service initiatives, as well as encourage and expand our Master Gardener youth education focus.



Thanks again for all your efforts.....

We continue to make a difference!

## 'Upcoming' Meetings & Events

- **November 07** General MG membership Mtg. @ 7:00pm in Cody.
- **November 09:** Brown Bag Seminar; Dan Wasp: Creating Alpine to Xeric plant communities @ Noon in the Powell Library.
- **November 16:** Brown Bag Seminar; Sandra Frost: Be prepared for Winter driving @ Noon in the Powell Library.
- **December 05** General MG membership Mtg. @ 7:00pm in Powell.
- **January 02** General MG membership Mtg. @ 7:00pm in Cody.
- **February 04** NW Area MG Training Workshop @ Days Inn in Thermopolis
- **February 06** General MG membership Mtg. @ 7:00pm in Powell



## MEETING MINUTES...KAREN ANDERSON

Karen Anderson convened the 1st meeting of the new calendar year in Powell @ 7:00 p.m. in the Extension Office Conference Room, Park County Fairgrounds.



### Attendance



Bob Prchal, Ann Hinckley, Joyce Johnston, Rita Lewis, JoAnne Arzillo, Darlene Manning, Cheryl Wright, Jan Jackson, Rhonda Faulkner, Teri Boyd, Kaye Rhoads, Suzanne Larsen, Mary Vogel, Nancy Ryan and Karen Anderson.

### Approval of Minutes

The September minutes were accepted and approved without discussion.

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented as of September 2011. The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved as presented.

### Old Business

- Volunteer hours need to be finalized and are over-due. Get them to Donna Haman or Bob Prchal ASAP.
- The 2012 Winter NW Area Training Workshop will be held on February 4, 2012 in Thermopolis @ the Days Inn.
- The Boys & Girls Club, Cody High School and the Park County Master Gardeners 'Plant Science Education' project is being planned and organized.
- The Cody Fall Festival attracted many visitors. PCMG's sold candy apples and answered numerous gardening questions.

### New Business

- PCMG officers Dan Wasp, Karen Anderson and Darlene Manning will meet to formulate a 2012 budget and present it to the membership prior to the new calendar year.
- Northwest College's PCMG workshops will be held during the 1st or 2nd week of January. PCMG volunteers are being asked to volunteer and teach classes.
- **New 2012 officers: President: Dan Wasp; Vice President: Karen Anderson; Secretary: Jan Jackson; Treasurer: Darlene Manning**
- The following Interns have completed their 'Certification' requirements: **Kendra Morris; Sariah Bates; and Valerie Bates.**

### Announcements

- The winner of the 'Newsletter Challenge' was Donna Haman. The answer was **Purple Loosestrife.**
- **NOTE: PLEASE BRING YOUR NAME TAGS AND WEAR THEM!**

### Reminders

- **NOTE:** If any members are not receiving the Newsletter please check **YOUR** "e" mail address. If it has changed provide your new email address to Julie @ the Cooperative Extension Office. Her email address is: **jalley1@uwyo.edu.**
- The next meeting will be @ 7:00 p.m. on November 7th in Cody @ 7:00 p.m. in the EOC Room, basement of the Park County Courthouse. **Education program... Unknown @ press-time; Refreshments... Unknown @ press-time**

**Adjournment...** Meeting adjourned @ 8:10 p.m.

**Education/Workshop ...** Karen Anderson presented a program on 'Growing Giant Tomatoes'.

## EXTENSION MUSINGS...JOYCE JOHNSTON AND ANN HINCKLEY



Are you shredding (with your mower or your compost grinder) the plants for the compost pile when you clean up the gardens? When incorporating the Fall leaves in the pile remember to save a sack or two of those leaves to add when you toss your kitchen garbage on the pile this winter after it all freezes. Just empty the kitchen compost pot on the pile and cover lightly with some of those leaves. By the time you need them next spring they will be ready to spread out as mulch or dig in a couple of weeks before you plant. Don't put any diseased plants or weeds that have gone to seed in the pile, however. You can stir in the last mowing of the lawn for some extra nitrogen if you feel the need of some extra nitrogen in your mix. If you used up all of your current pile and need to start fresh, remember to add a little soil and even some manure if you have some handy to give things a jump-start.

An article in Organic Gardening warns about poisons in your compost. Do not use grass clippings from lawns that have been recently treated for weeds. They cite specifically a new herbicide called Imprelis that has been voluntarily suspended from sales by Dupont since problems with tree damage and other non-target plants have arisen. While on the subject of herbicides, don't forget regular vinegar as a herbicide for annual weeds. You can even get Horticultural vinegar if you need something stronger than the regular 5% solution. Vinegar won't harm the compost pile, either.

The latest Zone 4 has a good article on planting bulbs. They should be in the ground some time around the first frost and before the ground freezes. Their experts agree that a soldierly row of bulbs aren't as attractive as they are planted in bunches. One author plants a dozen or so of the same blubs to make a good display. This may be a bit much for your first venture into the field, but a grouping of five or six tulips planted six to eight inches apart can become a large bunch in a few years as the perennial tulips throw off new baby bulbs every year. Winter watering is recommended; aim for an inch of moisture each month. A few inches of organic mulch helps hold in moisture and keep the bulbs from "heaving" with the freeze-thaw cycle we experience in our winters. As soon as you see the bulbs in the Spring, give them a dose of an all-purpose fertilizer. As the blossoms fade, remove them, but leave the leaves until they have died back naturally. They are turning the sunshine into food for next year's crop.

Some gardening tips from John Cretti in the Western Mountains and High Plains issue of the National Gardening Association gives some helpful Fall hints for gardeners:

- Late summer and early fall is the time for yellowjackets and wasps to visit the garden. They feed on windfall apples, other ripening fruits, honeydew excreted from aphids and scale insects, and the hummingbird feeder. Cope with them by placing traps in the garden, use aerosol "wasp and hornet" sprays for nest control, and entertain in areas less prone to their visitation. [Note (not from John Cretti): There is an organic wasp spray called Victor Poison-Free Wasp & Hornet Killer. Home Depot sometimes carries it or you can try [www.victorpest.com](http://www.victorpest.com)]
- Spiders and their webs can be seen in the garden in late summer. Leave these creatures alone as they are a beneficial insect and eat large quantities of pests. Mr. Cretti suggests you transfer any spiders you find indoors out to the garden to do their thing.

*~Happy gardening~*

**Value of "our" Volunteer Service**

**2011 Park County Master Gardeners**

*Importance of Volunteer Time*

**How does it help Park County Horticulture  
&  
The University of Wyoming**

Expands 'pool of resources'..... increased manpower

Redoubles number of public contacts..... increased service to the public

Increases the number of 'work' hours to address questions/yard calls

Permits the Horticulturalist to work one-on-one with more clients

Allows more time for development of educational materials and programs

Extends the Horticulture season



## Value of "our" Volunteer Service..... By the Numbers

Number of Park County Master Gardeners/Interns	
2008	23..... Includes 3 Interns
2009	21..... No training offered
2010	22..... Includes 7 Interns
2011	30..... Includes 9 Interns

Volunteer hours (Chapter Support & Educational Outreach)	
2008	1,570.25 (68.3 hrs/member) NOTE: This also was the year of the State Conference
2009	1,250.75 (59.6 hrs/member)
2010	1,508.00 (68.5 hrs/member)
2011	1,440.00 (48.0 hrs/member)

Continuing Education hours	
2008	531.25 (23.1 hrs/member)
2009	385.50 (18.4 hrs/member)
2010	378.75 (17.2 hrs/member)
2011	325.75 (10.9 hrs/member)

Number of Horticulture Questions addressed & Garden/Yard calls attended	
2008	197*
2009	204... includes 125 @ the Park County Fair
2010	209... includes 111 @ the Park County Fair
2011	491... includes 221 @ the Park County Fair

\*includes Park County Fair

Economic Value to the University of Wyoming	
2008	1,570.25 (68.3 hrs/member) X \$19.75 [national average pay for volunteers] = \$31, 025.28
2009	1,250.75 (59.6 hrs/member) X \$20.85 [national average pay for volunteers] = \$26, 078.14
2010	1,508.00 (68.5 hrs/member) X \$20.85 [national average pay for volunteers] = \$31, 411.80
2011	1,440.00 (48.0 hrs/member) X \$20.85 [national average pay for volunteers] = \$30, 024.00

## EATS AND TREATS... FROM OCT./NOV. 2011 COUNTRY MAGAZINE

### *Rainbow Vegetable Skillet*

**Yields:** 9 servings

**Prep/Total Time:** 30 minutes

#### **Ingredients**

1 medium butternut squash (2 lbs.)

1/4C reduced-fat butter, melted

1 Tbsp. brown sugar

1 Tbsp. chili powder

1 Tbsp. minced cilantro

1 tsp salt

1/2 tsp pepper

1/4 tsp ground cinnamon

1 medium green pepper, cut into 1 in. pieces

1 medium sweet yellow pepper, cut into 1 in. pieces

1 medium red onion, cut into wedges

1 Tbsp. Olive oil

2 C's grape tomatoes, chopped



#### **Directions**

1. Cut squash in half; discard seeds. Place cut side down in a microwave-safe dish; add 1/2 in. water. Microwave, uncovered, on high for 10-12 minutes or until tender.
2. In a small bowl, combine the butter, brown sugar, chili powder, cilantro, salt, pepper, and cinnamon; set aside. When squash is cool enough to handle, peel and discard rind. Cut pulp into 1/2 in. pieces.
3. In a large skillet, sauté peppers and onion in oil until tender. Add tomatoes and squash; heat through. Transfer to a large bowl; add butter mixture and toss to coat.

**Delight Factor:** Um, um good!!

## EATS AND TREATS... FROM OCT./NOV. 2011 COUNTRY MAGAZINE

### *WILD RICE N' SQUASH PILAF*



**Yield:** 10 servings

**Prep/Total Time:** 15 minutes

**Cook Time:** 20 minutes

#### **Ingredients**

1 1/2 C sliced fresh mushrooms	3 C's cooked wild Rice
1 1/2 C finely chopped peeled winter squash	1/2C chicken broth or vegetable broth
2 medium onions, finely chopped	1 Tbsp. reduced-sodium soy sauce
1 small green pepper, chopped	1/2 tsp. dried savory
2 to 3 garlic cloves, minced	1/4 C sliced almonds, toasted
Tbsp olive oil	

#### **Directions**

1. In a large saucepan, sauté the mushrooms, squash, onions and green pepper in oil until crisp-tender. Add garlic; sauté 1 minute.
2. Stir in the rice, broth soy sauce and savory. Cover and cook over medium-low heat for 13-15 minutes or until squash is tender.
3. Stir in almonds.

**Delight Factor:** Um, um good!!

# WHAT AM I ?

Name me \_\_\_\_\_?



The First Master Gardener  
to answer correctly will get a



*Contact Julie Miner for the correct answer*

## TASTY TRIVIA... 2012 FARMERS' ALMANAC

- Thyme, rosemary, sage betony, horehound, hyssop, lavender and savory belong to which family?
- What is the edible portion of cauliflower called?
- What do avocados, eggplant, cucumbers, chilies and tomatoes have in common?
- What very popular 18<sup>th</sup> century beverage was named after a village in Germany, and is still popular today?
- What milk product is the USDA propose as a substitute for meat in school lunches in 1996?

## WYOMING MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION... BOB PRCHAL

### *2012 State Conference in Gillette*

**Location...** *New Technology Center*

**Dates...** *April 27, 28 & 29*

**Theme...** *"Rethinking Gardening"*

**Keynote Speaker...** *Pat Stone*

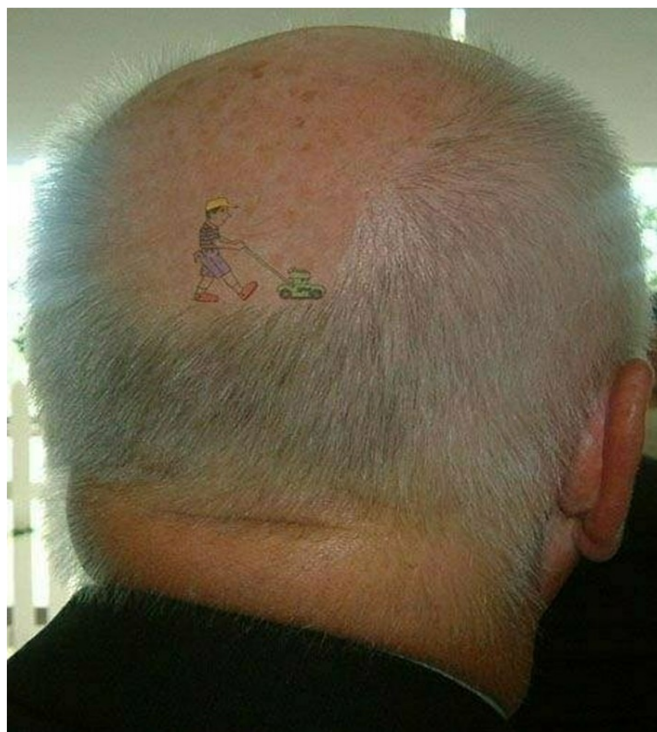


**13 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR LUCK... ON FRIDAY THE 13TH**

1. **K**nock on wood: good spirits live in trees and they will give protection if called upon.
2. **K**eeep your fingers crossed: sign of faith that prevents evil spirits from running good fortune.
3. **F**ind a four-leaf clover: Ancient Druids believed shamrocks helped see evil spirits and allowed one to avoid them.
4. **P**ut you cloths on inside out: baseball caps backwards during games, wearing p j' s inside out might bring a snow day
5. **L**ook at the full moon over you right shoulder: New moon brings inspiration for new projects. Success depends whether the first viewing is over one's right shoulder (good) or left (bad).
6. **S**leep facing south: Facing south brings good health and fortune and aligns the body with proper geographic placements.
7. **B**reak a clear, uncolored glass: Breaking a mirror is 7 years bad luck. Breaking clear glass sends the bad luck to the shards.
8. **W**alk in the rain: Rain is a sign of good luck. Rain is the difference between a prosperous year and a lean one.
9. **S**leep on un- ironed sheets: roughness keeps the bad dreams away.
10. **A**void cracks in the sidewalk: keeps one from tripping and breaking your Mothers back. ( good health in the family).
11. **C**arry an acorn in your pocket: Symbol of fertility and long life.
12. **S**neeze three times before breakfast: 3 is a lucky number; good way to start the day.
13. **P**ick up a penny, piece of coal, a pin or a pencil on the street: claiming such items is good luck. Penny needs to be heads-up.

## GARDEN HUMOR...

### Tattoo of the Year...



### How to handle a problem neighbor...



## 2011 PCMG OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

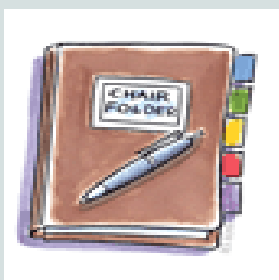


- President... *Dan Wasp*
- Past President... *Terry Marcotte*
- Vice President... *Karen Anderson*
- Secretary... *Karen Anderson / Jan Jackson*
- Treasurer... *Darlene Manning*
- WMGA Delegates... *Rhonda Faulkner & Karen Anderson*



## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Cody Garden Tour... *Darlene Manning*
- Newsletter... *Bob Prchal*
- Historian/Phone Tree... *JoAnne Arzillo*



- Greenhouse... *Bob Prchal*
- Scholarships... *Nancy Ryan & Kelli Maxwell-Benson*
- Member Volunteer Hours... *Donna Haman*
- Park County Fair... *Bob Prchal*
- Change of Address/Phone/Email... *Julie Miner*

### The Sage Gardener

*'Newsletter of the Park County Master Gardeners'*

Newsletter content should be submitted by the 15th of each month to Bob Prchal

[rjprchal@tritnet.net](mailto:rjprchal@tritnet.net)

**REMEMBER..... Keep it pithy!**

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, Cooperative Extension Service, Park County Offices

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Sandra M. Frost	Bobbi Holder	Joyce Johnston
University Extension Educator	Horticulturalist	Horticulturalist
Master Gardener Advisor	1002 Sheridan Avenue	655 5th Street
655 5th Street	Cody, Wyoming 82414	Powell, Wyoming 82435