

Landscaping for Water Realities on the High Plains

Laramie County Community College, Clay Pathfinder Building, Rooms 108/109
1400 E College Dr. Cheyenne Wyoming 82007

Agenda: Habitat Hero Workshop, February 4, 2023

7:00 Doors open/setup

7:30 Coffee/Registration

8:00 Introduction

8:15 Keynote: **Jim Tolstrup**, Director, High Plains Environmental Center – “**A Prairie Reconciliation**” - Jim will track the historic transformation of the Short Grass Prairie from a landscape carefully managed by indigenous tribes, to first contact with Euro-Americans, to farming and development, and the subsequent loss of habitat. He will explore the ways that we can reconcile the land, wildlife, and people, from large-scale restoration projects to wildlife gardening in our own backyards.

9:45 Break

10:00 **Cheryl Miller**, Hydrologist with USGS – **Groundwater Essentials** - Cheryl will be using a physical model that looks like an ant farm to describe how groundwater flows and how it can be impacted by different types of pollution. She will present information about Laramie County groundwater quality, as well as results from a 25+ year project sampling pesticides in Wyoming’s water.

11:00 **Rex Lockman**, Wildlife and Range Specialist for LCCD - **Native Prairie Islands** – Rex will explain the Native Prairie Island Program (NPIP) and discuss native wildflower seeding for pollinators and grass seeding in Laramie County.

11:45 Lunch (included in registration)

1:00 **Nancy Loomis**, Local Master Gardener – **Urban strategies for caching water in the soil** - Rain gardens, snow gardens and saucer gardening are all techniques for capturing and storing water in the soil. Learn how these strategies reduce the need for supplemental irrigation in the urban landscape. This will be a fun layman’s class and not a scientific dissertation!

1:45 **Zach Hutchinson**, Audubon Rockies – **Habitat Hero Pollinator Monitoring** – Zach will share how to use the newly developed Habitat Hero pollinator monitoring protocols with those who wish to contribute community science data on pollinators visiting native plant gardens.

2:30 Break

2:45 Hands-on and One-on-one --- Winter Sowing/Prairie Seeding program and seeding machine/Ground Water specifics (desk top display)/Jim Tolstrup one on one discussion with Jim.

4:00 Close out/Cleanup

Speakers

Jim Tolstrup is the Executive Director of the High Plains Environmental Center in Loveland, CO, a unique model for preserving native biodiversity in the midst of development. His past work experience includes serving as land steward of Shambhala Mountain Center in Red Feather Lakes, CO and running his own landscape design business in Kennebunkport, Maine where he installed gardens at George and Barbara Bush’s “Summer White House”. Jim holds a Certificate in Gardening Arts from the Landscape Institute of Harvard University and the Arnold Arboretum and has received awards for landscape design from, Plant Select®, American Society of Landscape Architects, Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado, and Denver Water. He teaches widely throughout Colorado, has written

numerous articles on gardening and environmental stewardship, and is the author of “SUBURBITAT: Restoring Nature where we Live, Work, and Play”.

Cheryl Eddy Miller is a Hydrologist with the USGS in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She has a B.S. in Environmental Engineering and M.S. in Agricultural and Chemical Engineering from Colorado State University. Cheryl has had several areas of focus during her career, including sampling and analyzing water-quality from groundwater and surface water, evaluating the interaction of groundwater and surface water, studying techniques to better understand and characterize headwaters streams, and most recently serving as the U.S. Technical Lead for a study that is exploring potential changes to the sharing of water in the Milk River which flows between the United States and Canada.

Rex Lockman is the Wildlife and Range Specialist for Laramie County Conservation District. He has worked for LCCD for 25 years, is a Wyoming native and a graduate from the University of Wyoming. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, snowmobiling, and just being in the outdoors.

Nancy Loomis is a Laramie County Master Gardener. Her primary interest is creating urban landscapes that utilize stormwater runoff as an irrigation resource. She has designed rain gardens, snow gardens and downspout gardens for the past 15 years and is currently experimenting with a new concept, “saucer gardening”.

Zach Hutchinson is the Community Science Coordinator for Audubon Rockies, a regional office of the National Audubon Society. He is also a Community Naturalist and a master bird bander.