



Farming next to the Bridger Range, by Amy Lewis.

Gallatin County MSU Extension Agricultural programs had a noticeable increase in horticulture questions regarding plant, weed and pest identification in spring and summer of 2020. One frequent concern from Gallatin Valley homeowners was the lack of greenery, leafing out and growth in Green Ash trees. Agriculture Agent Josh Bilbao and Gallatin County MSU Extension Summer Intern, Molly Yurdana, went out into the community to investigate. Trees presented with symptoms of frost and freeze damage, a result from a severe and early snowstorm in October 2019. That sudden temperature drop occurred before the trees had reached dormancy, thus interrupting their growth cycle and affecting growth the following spring. Trees had abnormally large leaves, greenery was lopsided to one portion or half of the tree, suckers were emerging from the soil line or mid-trunk or appeared to have no growth. Bilbao and Yurdana hosted a “What’s Wrong with my Trees” educational talk via WebEx and in-person at the Extension office. They presented their observations and research, and provided recommendations on how homeowners should proceed to care for the damaged trees.

Gallatin 4-H Gains New Leadership and Adapts to Circumstances

The Gallatin County 4-H Program started 2020 off with a new 4-H Agent. JaNaie’ Godin had been the Gallatin Extension Administrative Assistant for six years working with 4-H families with enrollment and trainings. Godin has a background in education and plans to use that foundation in educating adult volunteers in youth development and adapting programming to ages and stages and life skills, along with providing youth members educational programs that can be used in their future jobs, houses, and higher education.

As with every organization across Montana, Gallatin County 4-H found ways to adapt to restrictions and guidelines. Many 4-H volunteers quickly adapted with virtual meetings on Zoom, Google Meet Ups, and Webex. Every April, Gallatin County 4-H competes in Public Communication Contests and even during the stay-at-home order, 36 youth competed virtually and give speeches and demonstrations to virtual judges. A week after scores were tallied, we held a virtual award ceremony for all participants and families to announce winners. Judges comments, award ribbons, and prizes were mailed to participants.

As we reflect on 2020 with adapting and finding new ways to deliver traditional events and educational experiences, we see that youth remain resilient and are always willing to be involved because they truly care about what they do in the 4-H program. 4-H volunteers are passionate and continue to provide the best experience for youth, and the story of 4-H success continues for members and their families.

MT DNRC Funds to MSU Extension to Further Innovative Learning Opportunities

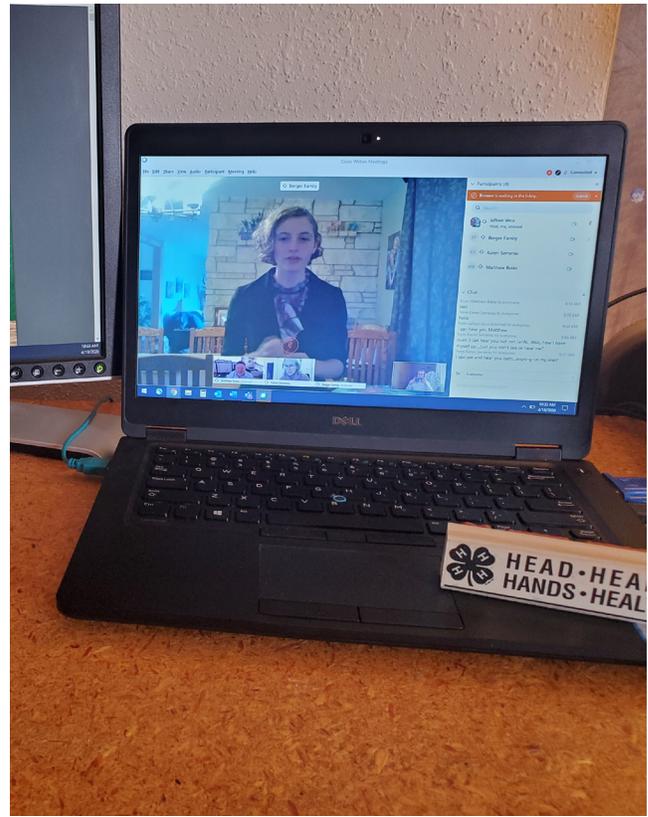
Gallatin County Natural Resources Extension Agent Dominique Woodham has been involved with the Fire Adapted Montana Learning Network since its inception in 2019. In 2020, she was awarded \$14,000 from the Montana Department of Natural Resources to begin work on two projects that will wrap up by early 2021 related to extending wildfire education and outreach materials to Montanans.

The first project, begun in 2020, was the Wildfire Lessons Learned for Agricultural and Rural Communities Project. Woodham visited with agricultural producers, Extension agents, and other rural community members to hear and document their experiences in relation to wildfire. Stories were shared in person, over the phone and via email from people in Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. Participant stories will continue to be collected through the end of the year, with photo booklets containing the stories made available by the spring of 2021. The booklets will be available at various MSU Extension county and reservation offices, as well various USDA Service Centers across the state.

The second project planned is the creation of a “How Montana Prepares for Wildfire” coloring book. The book will touch on wildfire preparedness, response and recovery as it relates to various locations across western and eastern Montana. The illustrations will be new, original drawings created by Woodham. Upon completion, the coloring book will be available online for printing or purchase through MSU Extension Publications.

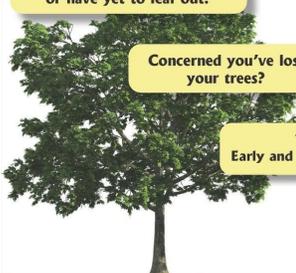
Natural Resources Education Continues Despite COVID Complications

2020 will be looked back upon as “that year.” Plans were made, then changed. Often. Despite this, MSU Extension Natural Resources programming continued with adaptations and accommodations. Site visits to private properties to assess wildfire risk and concerns continued as requested due to being outside and socially-distanced. A natural resources book club to engage community members in the discussion of natural



WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY TREES?

Have your trees been very slow or have yet to leaf out?





Concerned you've lost your trees?

**The Culprit:
Early and Severe October Frost**

A presentation hosted by
Josh Bilbao and Molly Yurdana
of Gallatin County Extension

The effects of the early and severe frost that occurred in October 2019 are starting to show around Gallatin County, especially in our deciduous plant families, and most noticeably in Green Ash trees. Plants can be damaged during their active growth season if temperatures drop below 20 degrees. Symptoms of early frost damage include but are not limited to; twig damage, bark cracking or shakes, and slowed leaf out. Have no fear! Most damage may look severe, but plants will usually recover.

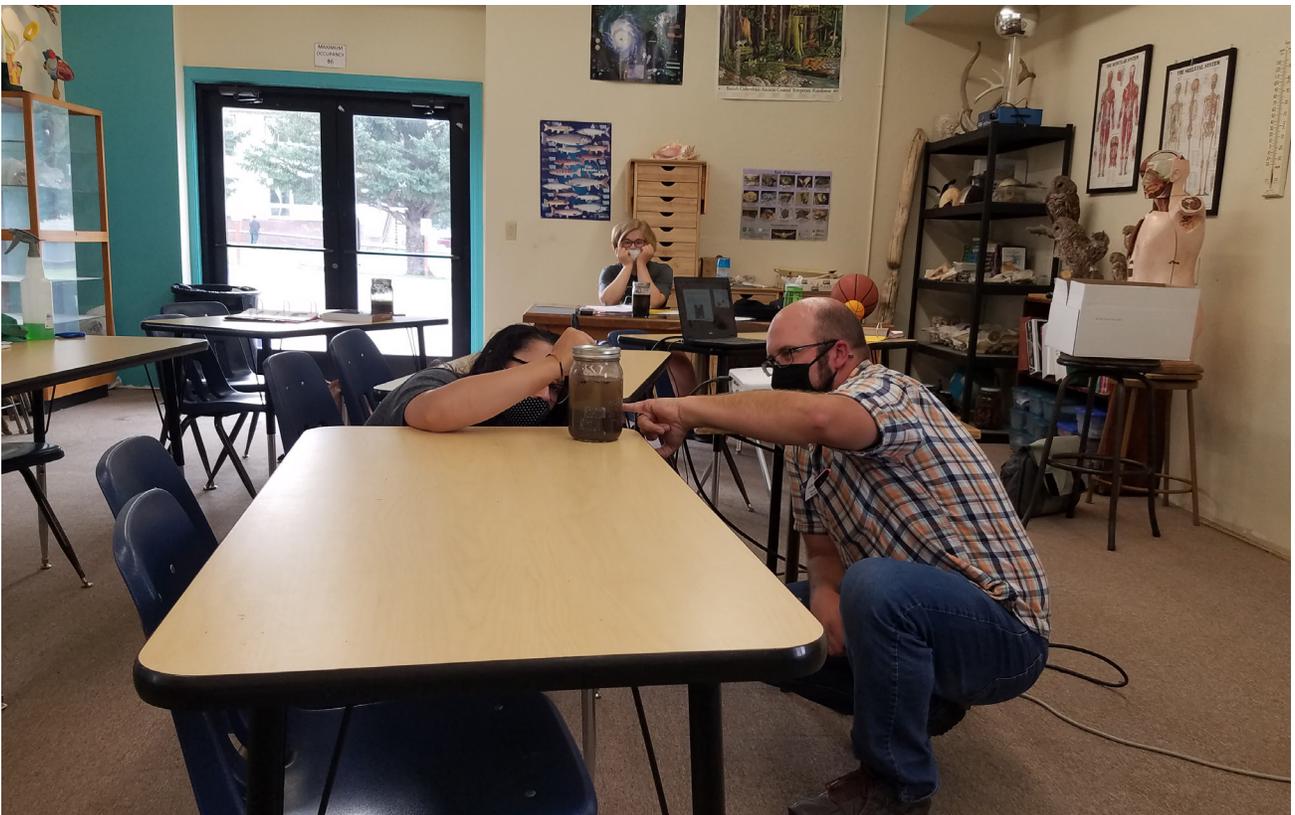
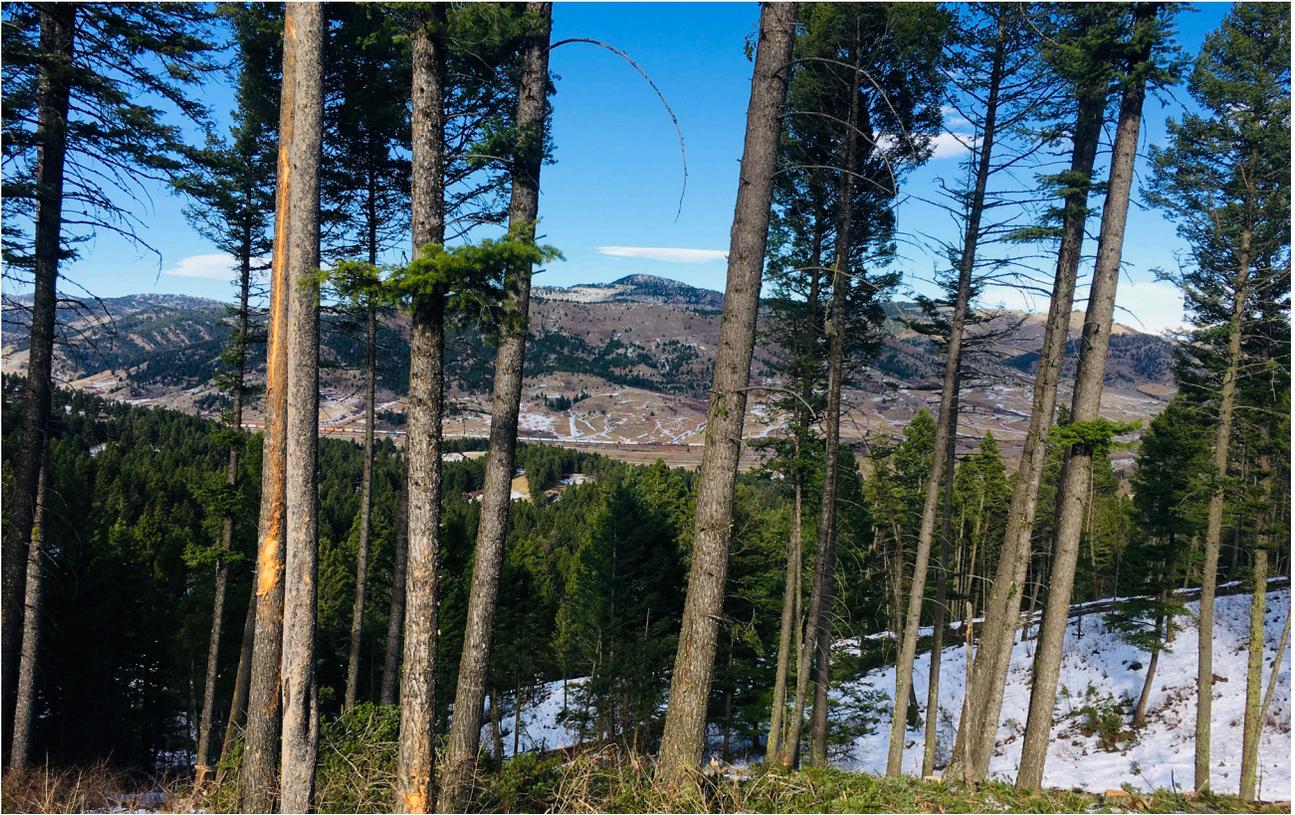
Want to learn more?
Join us **July 7th at 6pm** at the Gallatin County MSU Extension Office
located at 903 N. Black Ave Bozeman, MT 59715

Topics to be covered:

- Identifying the issue
- Growth habits
- What you can do to help
- Watering, fertilizing, and pruning
- Green Ash Trees in Gallatin County
- Preventative Steps for next year

Or Join Virtually!
Via WebEx at:
<https://montana.webex.com/montana/j.php?MTID=mc1e48e6d89882f8252ee4af6107087cb>
Access Code: 120 720 2352
Password: frost2019
Call-ins: +1-855-797-9485

Sourced: Moore-Gough, C. (n.d.). What's Wrong with 'This Tree?' Retrieved June 26, 2020, from <https://nrc.msueextension.org/publications/landscapes/MT120018AG.pdf>



Previous Page: (top) 2020 Virtual Communication Day by JaNaie' Godin; **(bottom)** 'What's Wrong with My Trees?' by Molly Yurdana; **This Page: (top)** Often times, wildfire risk reduction work improves forest health as well as improves scenic views for landowners, by Dominique Woodham; **(bottom)** Josh Bilbao working with students, by Joshua Bilbao

resources management topics after reading three different books was able to continue virtually through Webex meetings. As restrictions eased in June, the Extension Forest Stewardship Workshop was hosted in Bozeman, MT, in person. There was a limit on participant numbers in a location that could host all participants within social distancing guidelines.

A summer school program was served with pollinator and habitat-related activities for kindergarten through fifth grade youth. The lessons and activities were outside, socially-distanced and hands-on. In September, following the Bridger Foothills Fire, Gallatin County MSU Extension hosted MSU Extension Forestry Specialist Peter Kolb, who toured the fire-impacted area and shared detailed information and research to help forest landowners in the canyon to move forward with salvage logging, and reseeded and replanting properties via a presentation on Zoom. Despite the uncertainty in the world, we were able to adapt and continue programming that is relevant to community needs.

Master Gardener Program adjusted to use as school curriculum

Gallatin County MSU Extension was approached by Mt. Ellis Academy, a local high school located on the outskirts of Bozeman, for the opportunity to convert the Master Gardener Program to a student elective course for their 2020 curriculum. High school students would participate in the course for the

16-week semester. The Master Gardener Program is typically an 8-week course when delivered to community members, however with the conversion to high school standards, the program was lengthened, giving students a 2-day/week course that consisted of lecture and lab time. The lecture material was created from the Master Gardener educational material, whereas the lab was spent in the school's community garden and orchard applying classroom concepts in hands-on activities.

Gallatin County Staff



Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA Veteran's Preference Employer and provider of educational outreach.

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