

# MONTANA Gardens



***Former MFGC President and NGC Chaplain Margaret Yaw passed away in January. She will always be remembered for her leadership and dedication to the Gallatin Empire Garden Club, the MFGC, the Rocky Mountain Region and the National Garden Club. MFGC Past President, Phyllis White, designed the beautiful arrangement (above left) for Margaret's funeral service. Margaret's many achievements are highlighted in an article on page 3.***

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# President's Message

The calendar says Spring. Some of you may be wondering where spring is. I stood on our deck looking over our garden and also wondered where Spring might be. I took a walk and found tulips, crocus and daffodils peeking through the ground. To my surprise, I found the early iris blooming.

What a wonderful trip and experience at the Seattle Flower and Garden Show we had. Twenty nine rode the bus and we got acquainted with each other. The show was mind boggling. The garden displays were full of ideas. The vendors had available any garden tool, yard decorations, seeds, bulbs, books, jewelry and clothing you could have wanted. Come to our June convention to see the video of our trip. An added experience was coming home via Leavenworth and Wenatchee. Thank you Seattle travelers for your support of the trip. The adventure was fun.

Our state convention will be in Missoula June 23-25. Plans are being finalized. The theme for the Montana convention is *"Educate, Engage, and Enjoy."* Leadership skills as well as a Standard Flower Show and other activities are planned. Our guest speaker will be Robin Pokorski, NGC Corre-

sponding Secretary, who will enthuse members with leadership skills. Greg Pokorski will do a workshop on parliamentary procedure for clubs. Darlene Skari, RMR Director, will be our guest speaker representing NGC. We will also have a couple of self-guided tours. Many things are happening in Missoula that weekend so please don't forget to make your reservations early. The flower show schedule will soon be on line. The theme is *"Proud to Be an American."* I will have some schedules with me when I visit the Districts.

At this time of the year, your clubs begin to plan and work on your community projects. Remember to keep track of working hours and send them to me.

April found the State Officers traveling to seven district meetings over two weeks. We enjoyed meeting and visiting with you and hearing what clubs are busy doing. Thank you for your wonderful hospitality. The speakers presented outstanding programs. Montana is truly a large state as it is a long way from west to east and north to south.

## LINDA SADLER MFGC PRESIDENT

## MFGC 2015-17 OFFICERS & DISTRICT DIRECTORS

**President:** Linda Sadler  
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[notrees1004@charter.net](mailto:notrees1004@charter.net)

**Western District #2**  
Cheryl Carroll

**Southwestern District #3**  
Diane Ward

**Lewis & Clark District #4**  
Betsy Heckel

**Central District #5**  
Carol Brady

**Northern District #6**  
Donna Arvidson

**Hi-Line District #7**  
Gloria Tilleman

**Yellowstone District #10**  
Rosemary Power

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### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Phyllis White, Norman DeNeal,  
Darlene Skari, Ruth Layton,  
Mary McLane, Mary Olsen,  
Jean Thomas, Marie Jones



### MONTANA Gardens

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### MISSION STATEMENT

The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes education, resources and networking opportunities for its members and Montana youth to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

### SEND ARTICLES TO:

**Patricia Schlaeger, MT Gardens Editor**

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*Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for content and length.*

### Deadline / Issue

July 1, 2016 / Fall 2016

November 1, 2016 / Winter 2016-17

March 1, 2017 / Spring-Summer 2017

**Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (MFGC) is a non-profit organization with a Federal 501(c)(3) status. All monetary contributions are tax deductible.**

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## FRONT COVER STORY:

### IN MEMORIAM **Margaret Yaw**

Gallatin Empire Garden Club member Margaret Yaw, 95, passed away on Sunday, January 17, 2016. Margaret had been in declining health for the past few years and was recently in hospice care. She is survived by her husband, Bob, two sons, and grandchildren. She traveled the world with Bob when he served in the military and had especially colorful stories of her experiences in England and Japan. While living in Japan, she joined an Ikebana design workshop and was hooked on gardening and floral design.

Margaret and Bob settled in Bozeman, Montana where they raised their sons and she discovered the Gallatin Empire Garden Club over 50 years ago. She held many offices and chairmanships in the local club and at the state level, became a Master Flower Show Judge, and was elected President of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs in 1979-1981. Margaret emphasized landscape plantings in city parks and school playgrounds, environmental causes, and support for the Montana State University Arboretum during that period. She was elected Director of the Rocky Mountain Region in 1989-1991. During her years of service at the National Garden Clubs level, she served on the Nominating, Personnel, Mentoring and Publication Committees, as well as the NGC Chaplain. She was honored as an NGC Golden Circle Member for her many years of service. She always promoted scholarship and further education for Montana children, and most recently served as the MFGC Scholarship Chairman. She was an outstanding emissary for Montana and the Rocky Mountain Region. Margaret was a steadfast friend, kind mentor, and outstanding leader—always gracious and generous with her time, skills and advice.

A memorial service was held February 15, 2016, at the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Bozeman. Condolences may be sent to Robert Yaw, 1201 Highland Blvd. Apt. B101, Bozeman, 59715. The family prefers memorials in Margaret's memory to the Gallatin Empire Garden Club, P O Box 921, Bozeman, MT 59771 to be used for scholarship and landscaping in parks.



### **PHYLLIS WHITE RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL CITATION**

National Garden Club, Inc. President Linda Nelson (*above right*) honored Phyllis White (*above left*) with a Presidential Citation for serving as the Editor of *Keeping in Touch* during the 2013-2015 term. The quarterly NGC newsletter is distributed to every garden club president and members of the National Garden Club Board of Directors. The publication is available online at [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) so that all garden club members may stay up to date with the projects promoted by NGC. Phyllis has served on the NGC Board for more than ten years. She is now serving as NGC Facebook and Pinterest Chairman and continues as *Keeping in Touch* Editor under President Sandra Robinson. Phyllis was our MFGC president from 2011-2013.

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#### NOTES FROM LINDA

### **More Garden Club Social Media**

Pinterest is a wonderful way to view colorful pictures and learn gardening information. Click on the round "P" Pinterest access icon (pictured below) on the NGC home page near the Facebook icon. The information is classified on "Boards" such as Floral Design – Table Designs, Underwater, Petite, etc., Pollinators, American Gardens, Succulents, NGC Member Services, Blue Star installations and many others. Pictures are added daily. Click on the pictures for more information and to save it to your own Pinterest account. Follow the Pinterest Boards and be notified of additions. Surf the Boards and then send Phyllis White appropriate pictures with descriptions to be added. We appreciate your interest!

**LINDA SADLER  
MFGC PRESIDENT**



# Be a Shooting Star for Wildflower Conservation

Sue Leferink, MFGC Wildflower Chair

Hiking in the spring can be inspirational. The bees are buzzing and so many colorful wildflowers are in bloom. The magenta shooting star (*Dodecatheon Pulchellum*) is a member of the primrose family and can be found blooming in wet meadows and along streams during spring time. The Blackfoot tribe used an infusion of the roots as a wash for sore eyes and a cool infusion of the leaves for eye drops.

The golden pea (*Thermopsis Montana*) is in the legume family making it an important nitrogen fixer for soil. It is also deer resistant. Its rhizomatous nature makes it a great option for preventing erosion on hill-sides. However it can become weedy if not kept in check by deadheading. This cheery, yellow flower is a favorite of bumblebees.

Beardtongues (*Penstemon*), are popular spring blooming prairie flowers enjoyed by many pollinating insects. There are over 270 species in North America and 36 of these are native to Montana like this lavender, fuzzy tongue *Penstemon*. Some varieties of *Penstemon* are listed as "species of concern" and only found in pockets throughout Montana. Native *Penstemons* come in many sizes (3 to 30 inches tall) and colors, dotting the landscape with white, pink, purple, blue and even occasionally red splashes of color. A *Penstemon* can be recognized by its five petals which are fused into a tube at the base and flared out in two upper and three lower petals. *Penstemon* is one of the easiest wildflowers to grow. It thrives in a variety of soils and the seed pods are easy to collect.

Conservation of wildflowers is vital to maintain biodiversity and help dwindling pollinating insect populations. Here are some ideas for preserving our native plants. When hiking, stay on paths to avoid trampling plants and spreading weeds. Many plants are dormant when not in bloom such as our state flower, the Bitterroot. Stepping on plants crushes the stems and roots as well as compacts the soil, especially in the moist spring time. Weed seeds can also fall off clothing and choke out wildflowers over time. If you are aware of new construction happening in an area which will destroy existing native plants, contact the owners and offer to relocate the plants. Be sure to relocate plants in an area that does not contain hybridized varieties to avoid cross pollinating with a non native species. Seeds can be collected to grow in your own garden. Be sure to obtain permission from the public or private owner before collecting. Take only a small amount so that the existing species can continue to survive in the original area. Lastly, citizen scientists are needed for Project Budburst which is a nation-wide initiative to capture the impacts of our changing climate. This involves selecting one or more native plants in a location you frequent and noting the day the leaves, flower appear and when they change color and then recording these observations online at <http://budburst.org>.

For more information on native plant conservation, check out the Native Plant Society web site at [www.mtnativeplants.org](http://www.mtnativeplants.org).



Captions: (left to right)  
Wild Montana plant exhibit with  
Pretty Shooting Star, Golden Pea,  
and Fuzzytongue Penstemon

# What One Needs to do to Become an Accredited Flower Show Judge

Susan Billmayer, Flower Show School and Credentials Chair

*First, you should have a desire to learn more about horticulture, design, and flower show procedure! Then...*

- \* **You must be an active member of a "National Garden Club" garden club.**
- \* **You must subscribe to *The National Gardener*.**
- \* **You must own and study the *National Garden Club Handbook for Flower Shows*.**
- \* **You must read the books on the Required Reading List as they apply to specific courses.**

A person needs to attend four courses of Flower Show School. Each school is three days. You need to pass the point scoring exams and the written exam with a score of 70 or better. After you have completed two courses you become a Student Exhibitor. After completing three courses you become a Student Judge. After the completion of all four courses you write a Flower Show Schedule with specific directions that is sent in and graded. You must pass the schedule writing with a score of 70 or better. If you fail, it can be corrected and sent back in.

As a Student Exhibitor and Student Judge you begin the process of entering Standard Flower Shows to earn exhibiting and judging credits. You will need five

exhibiting credits that are a blue ribbon or score 90+, three credits in horticulture and two in design or vice versa. As a Student Judge you are qualified to earn judging credits from a Standard Flower Show. You will serve on a judging panel with other judges. You will need five judging credits. You will need to document your exhibiting and judging credits by keeping the entry cards and ribbons and also the schedules from the shows you have judged. Alternate credits of winning a blue ribbon for an Educational Exhibit or serving as the General Chairman of a Flower Show will count.

When all of this is completed and approved you apply to take the National Handbook Exam which is held twice a year on the fourth Thursday in April and October. You must pass with a score of 70 or better. After the exam is passed you make application to be an Accredited Judge.

Your Accredited Judge certificate is good for three years. You need to refresh your certificate with either a Symposium or Flower Show School Course III or IV. Accredited Judges continue to earn exhibiting and judging credits. As long as you refresh your certificate every three years you remain in good standing.

For more information on Judges please see the ***Handbook for Flower Shows*** page 259.

## FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE III

Flower Show School Course III will be held August 19, 20, 21, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Belgrade, Montana hosted by The Belgrade Bloomers.

Local chairman is Phyllis White and local registrar will be Susan Andrews. We will be studying Horticulture, Designs and Flower Show Procedure.

Thursday, August 18th — A Small Standard Flower Show

Entries taken from Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Thursday evening 7:30 p.m. — Flower Show Procedure (*one hour*)

For more information contact:

**Phyllis White at [gardens@bresnan.net](mailto:gardens@bresnan.net)**

**P. O. Box 921 Bozeman, MT 59771 | phone 406-586-0400**



# "Bee a Wildlife Action Hero!"

## Garden for Wildlife

Becky Hassebroek, NGC Habitat Chair

### Happy Spring! Greetings to everyone!

What an incredible time of year for us gardeners—not only for the exciting decisions we will make for changes in and improvements to our own gardens, but also for the projects we will be working on in our clubs and in our communities.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is excited to announce a new grant opportunity for Garden Clubs working with youth clubs or groups planning and planting Pollinator Gardens. Grants, up to \$200, are available for projects that include educational materials on the vital role pollinators play in nature and youth involvement in planning and planting gardens providing nesting and food sources for pollinators. Youth will learn the importance of providing appropriate food sources, nesting areas, shelter, and practicing sustainable gardening practices for pollinators by planning, planting, and maintaining these pollinator gardens.

To apply for a grant you must complete an NGC Grant Application. Provide detailed information about the project, and submit your request to the NGC Youth Committee Chairman for approval. Grant applications are available [www.ngc.org](http://www.ngc.org).

We hope you were able to submit your application for the President's Special Project which were due



on March 15th. There are some very nice monetary awards, and applications are quite simple, so I hope your club submitted their applications to the project chairmen listed for each award prior to the deadline as listed on our MFGC site and in the MFGC President's Guide. As you know, it's not just about

the money—even though in these times that is quite helpful to a lot of our clubs—but it's about recognizing your clubs and members for the wonderful projects they are working on and the difference those projects will make in our Communities! Remember, no project is too small!

Please continue to share! We want to highlight the wonderful work your members are doing. It is important to *"pat ourselves on the back!"* Please have your member clubs send a picture to share their club's project having to do with habitats or pollinators, along with a brief description and who's doing the work and where, for inclusion in a special presentation, to me at [beckyhasse@aol.com](mailto:beckyhasse@aol.com).

Thank you for all you do! If you have any questions or suggestions of any kind, please contact:

**Becky Hassebroek, Habitat Chairman**  
907-456-3066 | [beckyhasse@aol.com](mailto:beckyhasse@aol.com)

## Flower Show School Course II

The Dillon Garden Club hosted Flower Show School, Course II April 8-10 at the National Guard Armory. Instructor Billie Fitch (pictured below standing at the center) taught Flower Show Procedure and judging considerations for Violas and Narcissus. Design instructor Char Mutschler (pictured kneeling center) introduced creative design on the second day. Students from around the state attended, including Norm DeNeal, Arlis Vannett, Diane Ward, Mary Ann Carey, Donna Dowell, Nina Eadie, Jeanne Bennett, Sue O'Leary, Vanette Nagamori, Judy Rente, Mary Ann Byerly, and Annie Mollock. Any garden club member may attend a course to expand their personal horticulture and design knowledge. The next class will be held in Belgrade August 18-21; watch the website calendar for registration information.



**Pictured: (Left) Flower Show School April Class. (Right) Creative Floral Design.**

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# My Frog

By Michelle Mensinger



*I had a little jumping frog, I trained to come and go,  
We enjoyed each other's company, and I often told her so.  
She lived out in my garden, in a clump of weeds you see,  
and she ate the bugs and insects, that often bothered me.  
She was busy in the early morn, a-hopping everywhere,  
helping to keep my garden clean, of pests unwanted there.  
When the sun rose high, she hopped for home, This frog had done her best,  
and stayed till the cool of eve, when the sun had gone to rest.  
Soon evening came and she roamed about, a-hopping here and there,  
she croaked a froggy little tune, that made me be aware  
Of the beauty of God's creation, in a garden that pleases me,  
with flowers and vegetables of every kind, and this frog for company.  
Take time to learn about nature,  
and all that God has made.  
Enjoy a little bit of heaven on earth in the outdoors every day.  
It will keep you happy and healthy, and chase the blues away.  
A little bit of outside happiness, is what everybody needs.  
Embrace Sandy Robinson's theme, and protect our native frogs.  
**Please leap into action, and don't pull all the weeds!***

—Reprinted from *Keeping in Touch*

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## What is a Community Garden?

Susan Woods, Community Gardens & Growing Edibles Chairman

A community garden is defined as a single piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people. Some are set up by letting an area to be gardened by someone and others are worked by a group who then take payment for produce received on a set timetable.

Community gardens provide fresh produce (generally organic) as well as satisfying labor in the case of a plot where you work it yourself. They improve users' health through increased fresh vegetable consumption and providing a venue for exercise. We all know how strenuous gardening can be!

Community gardens increase a sense of community ownership and stewardship, foster the development of a community identity and spirit, bring people together from a variety of backgrounds and ages, and builds community leaders.

There are many resources available on the Internet if you are looking for information. Does your town have a community garden? Share your story with us and a future article will be published with this information.

Community Gardens are popping up all over urban areas.



# 2016 Convention Agenda



## JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> — FLOWER SHOW

## JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>, 25<sup>TH</sup> — MFGC CONVENTION

Our state convention will be in Missoula June 23-25. The theme for the Montana convention will be emphasizing leadership as well as a Standard Flower Show. Our guest speaker will be Robin Pokorski, NGC Corresponding Secretary, who will help members with leadership skills. Greg Pokorski will do a workshop on parliamentary procedure for clubs.

**'PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN'** is the theme for the Standard Flower Show with miniature designs to be held at the June Convention. Entry time is Thursday, June 23 beginning at 1:00 pm with judging beginning at 7:00 or soon thereafter. The flower show will be displayed in the main banquet and meeting room of the convention.

The designs will either be 3 inches, 5 inches, or 8 inches. The horticulture will be regular size. See the website soon for exact details and a copy of the schedule. President Linda will have copies of the schedule available when she attends the District meetings in April. All convention attendees are eligible to enter. For additional information contact Jim Sadler, Flower Show Chair.

## Tentative Schedule for 2016 Convention

*(All times subject to change)*

### JUNE 23

Flower Show Entries	1-6:00 p.m.
Finance Committee	1:00 p.m.
Executive Committee	2:00 p.m.
Advisory Committee	3:00 p.m.
Presidents & Directors	3:00 p.m.
Judges Council	4:00 p.m.
Show Judging	7:30 p.m.

### JUNE 24

Formal Opening	9:15 a.m.
Presentation of Colors	
Welcome	
Garden Club Member of the Year	
Memorial Service	
Officer Reports	
Lunch	12:30 p.m.

### JUNE 24

Green Thumb Award	
Speaker Robin Pokorski	
Business resumes	2:30 p.m.
Speaker Greg Pokorski	3:30 p.m.
Life Member Banquet	6:30 p.m.

### JUNE 25

Farmers Market	8:00 a.m.
Business Resumes	9:30 a.m.
Continuation of Reports	
Awards Lunch	11:45 a.m.
Speaker Robin Pokorski	
Business	1:45 p.m.
Closing	2:30 p.m.
Tours	2:30 p.m.
Banquet	7:00 p.m.
Darlene Skari, RMR Director - Speaker	

## Annual Life Members Dinner

Susan Woods, Life Members Chair

Life Members of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs was founded in 1956. Mrs. Evelyn Mooney was the first member. Our membership now numbers 873 with three new members this past year.

A scholarship is awarded yearly in the amount of \$1,000.00 to a student who is enrolled in a horticulture related field. This field has expanded greatly since the inception of the scholarship.

With a one time \$25.00 donation, you can become a Life Member and be able to participate in Life Member activities at your club level, when available, and, at our state convention in June. I hope you will consider doing this if you are not already a Life Member. Your check should be sent to MFGC Treasurer, Jane Ereaux.

On Friday, June 24 we will have our annual Life Members dinner at convention. Our entertainment this year will be a talent show and that talent will be provided by **You!** Can you sing, dance, play an instrument or recite poetry? These are only a few suggestions. I'm sure our creative members will come up with many more.

Prizes will be awarded. **See you then!**



**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**"THUMBS UP FOR GARDENING:  
EDUCATE, ENGAGE, ENJOY"**  
**79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATE MEMBERSHIP CONVENTION**  
**June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**  
Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown, 200 South Pattee Street, Missoula, Mt 59802  
Phone 406-721-8550 | [www.himissouladowntown.com](http://www.himissouladowntown.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check all applicable titles \*indicates Voting Member**

☐ Club President\* ☐ Garden Club Member ☐ National President ☐ Club Delegate\* ☐ State Life Member  
☐ Regional Director ☐ Alternate Delegate\* ☐ Flower Show Judge ☐ Regional Board Member  
☐ District Director\* ☐ Student FS Judge ☐ National Board Member ☐ State President\*  
☐ Landscape Consultant ☐ Nat'l Life Member ☐ Elected State Officer\* ☐ Student LS Consultant  
☐ Guest ☐ Appointed State Officer\* ☐ First Time Attendee ☐ State Chairman\*  
☐ Advisory Council Member\*

*\*name must appear on Delegate Registration Form*

**REGISTRATION AND MEALS:**

Registration deadline is May 24. Hotel registration deadline is May 24 to get the convention rates. No refunds after May 24. All MFGC Members must register to attend any function.

Full time Registration June 23, 24, 25	\$35.00 _____
Full time Registration postmarked after May 24	\$45.00 _____
One Day Registration Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____	\$20.00 _____
One Day Registration postmarked after May 24	\$25.00 _____
Fee charged if you do not register at Holiday Inn and live outside of 50 mile radius of Missoula	\$30.00 _____

**Meals: Check all that apply (tips included in price)**

Friday lunch	\$22.00 _____
Friday Life Members' Banquet (Open to all Life Members & Potential Members)	\$39.00 _____
Saturday Awards Luncheon	\$22.00 _____
Saturday Banquet, NGC Awards Presentations	\$39.00 _____

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make checks payable to James Sadler, 1220 Clements Rd, Missoula, MT 59804-2908**



# Come to the Anurarama!

**Save the date October 14<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup>**

Join us in Stevensville, located in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley, when we gather for **FALL BOARD**. We will not only learn from our State Officers and Chairmen what projects we can “leap into” but will explore the world of Anura (**frogs and toads that is**) and how they benefit our gardens and the environment.

There will be an informal contest with prizes. Participants can display a small dish garden, plaque or? (**let your imagination go wild**), showing a snapshot habitat of these wonderful amphibians. Entries must fit a 12” x 12” space on a table. Think toad houses, frog ponds, etc. If you do a plaque please bring a stand/easel so it can be upright.

**More information and registration forms will be available soon.**

**JOANNE GIBBONS  
CHAIRMAN**

*jogibbons@cybernet1.com*

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## Horticulture Symposium

Gary Clark, Marie Hoyer, Elle Darling and Glenna Waltee attended a Symposium in Richland, Washington.

Horticulture studied was roses and succulents while the Design was Type I and Type II Tables. Congratulations to Gary and Marie on becoming Accredited Master Judges.



Pictured (right) are Gary Clark and Marie Hoyer.



# Keeping In Touch

Phyllis White, NGC KIT Editor

The newest edition of **Keeping In Touch** (KIT) has been sent out to all MFGC Chairmen. It has lots of good information from NGC President Sandy Robinson and the NGC Chairmen. KIT is no longer available on the public section of the NGC website, but you may access this issue and all back issues on the NGC Member's Section. To view any back issues you will have to have the access combination of a username and a password. This secure data may be obtained by contacting me at [gardens@bresnan.net](mailto:gardens@bresnan.net). NGC requests that this information not appear on club

websites or Facebook pages for others to see. MFGC President Linda Sadler will forward KIT to all the club presidents and district directors.

I highly recommend you check out the NGC Facebook page and Pinterest Boards. The icons are "live" and you may gain access by clicking on the icons in the KIT stories. Feel free to send me information you'd like to appear in either of these social media formats—they're supposed to be membership-building tools.

***Leap Into Action!***

## SHOW YOUR GARDEN CLUB AT WORK TO ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS

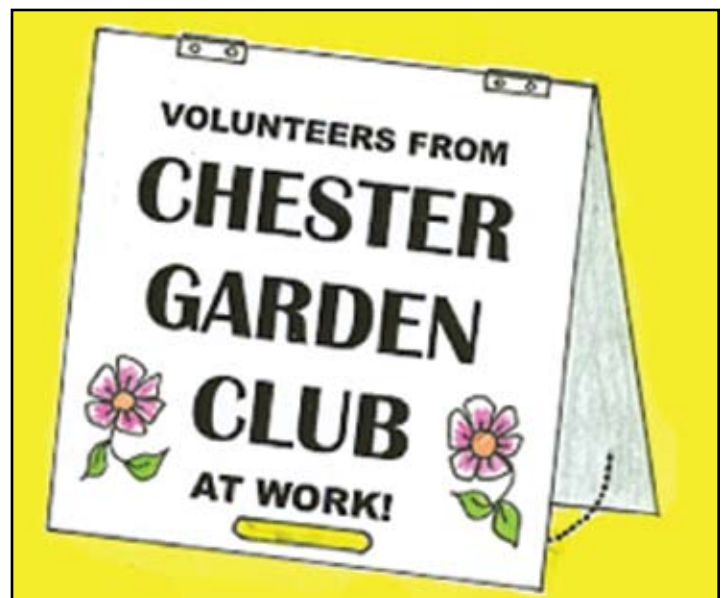
Vanette Nagamori, Membership Chair

Here's an idea you can use to attract new members to your garden club. ***Build an A frame poster for your club!***

Cut two equal size pieces of plywood (*suggested minimum size be 18 inches by 24 inches*). Plywood should be used because of its weight and durability. Foam board is too light and will blow away in Montana's gusty winds. You can make a larger rectangle, but make sure the unit can easily fit into a car. Use two hinges at the top to connect the shortest sides together.

Attach a chain or a strong cord to the bottom center of both pieces. When open you have a free standing sign. When collapsed you will have two pieces of plywood to carry. You may want to cut an oblong hole near the bottom of each side for a hand grip.

Paint both outside pieces of plywood including the edges a base color; you may also paint the inside. Suggested wording on both sides at the top of your sign in smaller letters could be: "**Volunteers From**"; in larger lettering below put "**your garden club's name.**"



The drawing above shows a finished poster.

It may be wise to designate one officer or club member to be custodian of the sign.

***When should you use your sign?*** Any time one or more garden club members are working on a community project such as weeding a public flowerbed, planting trees or flowers, or even if your club is in charge of the floral department at the local fair. ***Use your sign to let everyone in town know what your garden club is doing when you're at work!***

If you bring your A Frame Poster to the 2016 state convention, you may get a ***ca\$h prize***.



# Memories from the Seattle Flower Show Trip



What a wonderful trip and experience we had at the Seattle Flower and Garden Show. Thank you Seattle travelers for your support of the trip. The adventure was so much fun.

Pictured: Group photo at the Ritzville Rest Stop (above) and Exhibition Garden Displays at the Seattle Flower & Garden Show (left).

## Montana Homesteaders A STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

### PRESENTED BY CENTRAL DISTRICT #5

Dearborn Garden Club, Great Falls Flower Growers  
and Rainbow Garden Clubs

Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

Mustang Gym - 3911 Central Avenue, Great Falls, Montana

**FRIDAY – JULY 15, 2016** — Entries Accepted 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Workshop for Children and Novices – 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY – JULY 16, 2016** — Judging 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Public Viewing 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY – JULY 17, 2016** — Public Viewing 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**FREE ADMISSION** — Public invited to enter and attend!

**For more information call:**

**Patty Howse 406-750-7702**

**Luana Maxwell 406-452-8227 | Pat Biggs 406-315-2610**

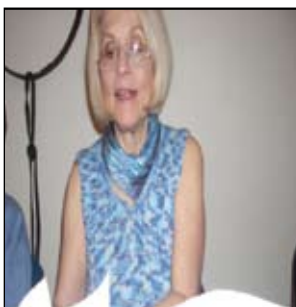


# Under Montana's Big Sky

## DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB

December 5, 2015 found members of the Dearborn Garden Club at the Cascade Quiet Day Manor, where they decorated the lobby for the Holiday Season.

The Dearborn Garden Club members also brought a lunch which they enjoyed with the residents of the Quiet Day Manor. We enjoy this tradition.



Co-President Judy Fettig

On December 9, 2015 Dearborn Garden Club had a short business meeting and then it was time for cookie exchange, gift exchange, and stuffing 50 stockings (*made by members of the Dearborn Garden Club*) which were delivered to the Rescue Mission and the Children's Home both in Great Falls. Members also donated new food stuffs, clothing, and unwrapped presents for the Rescue Mission, Children's Home and the Cascade Food Bank.

In January, Central District #5 Director Carol Brady shared with us the program she had attended in Helena, presented by MSU Extension for Master Gardeners, which was held at the Helena Fairgrounds.

In February Co-President Judy Fettig told us about the Central District #5 meeting to be held April 21, 2016 in Great Falls. The March regular meeting of the Dearborn Garden Club was held at the Senior Citizens Center in Cascade.

## BUTTE GARDEN CLUB

Becky Morris is president of the Butte Garden Club. At their October meeting, she demonstrated pumpkin decorating and carving. In November the Montana Natural Medicine organization put on a program explaining the positive effects of Medicinal Marijuana and the rules and regulations that go along with it. At Christmas the Club held it's annual holiday potluck with a white elephant gift exchange and Butte Jeopardy. With the anticipation of Spring, Gail Stuart and Carmela Guza put on a program in January featuring "container gardening."

Norm DeNeal's presentation on the mining hillside reclamation project was very informative. In addition he presented a short program on starting Montana native plants from seed and Pat Broderick spoke about starting rock garden plants from seed. Once every two weeks during the summer the club will sell items they have made during the Farmer's Market.

## ANACONDA GARDEN CLUB

Norm DeNeal is the current president of the Anaconda Garden Club. Their meetings are held at the Haufbrau at 11:30 with a luncheon before the business begins. Some of their projects include a Holiday Show in November. This is one of their most successful fundraisers, raising over \$5000. This year, after the show ended, they dismantled four vintage scenes, depicting Christmas in the 20's and 30's, and moved the displays into windows of the Montana Hotel for passers-by to view.

Pictured Below is one of the vintage scenes.



Their Christmas Party in December included entertainment from the Anaconda High School Choir and 12 ladies from a Zumba Exercise Dance group. With Anaconda's fundraising, they are able to award two \$1000 scholarships and two \$500 scholarships to Anaconda High School graduates.

## DILLON GARDEN CLUB

Greg Cooper is Dillon Garden Club's president. In October they put on a cart fair which was a great fundraiser for them. They had about 30 vendors offering their wares during the first week of hunting season. In November they created centerpieces for the Festival of Trees, another fundraiser for various charities in Dillon. Christmas decorations around Dillon were judged by members of the Club in December and they sold ornaments at a craft fair in Anaconda. In January they had bluebird boxes made by the high school as part of their bluebird trail project.





## WHITEHALL GARDEN CLUB

The Whitehall Garden Club has tried something new. The office of president is being shared between Mary Ann Carey and Kathy Hatch. With the newly renovated Borden's Hotel, their meetings are held in the conference room and sometimes at a members house. In October Kathy Hatch gave a program on gourds and how to decorate them. Shoe polish, leather tanning polish and other mediums were used. In October, one of the Whitehall Members is owner of the Sunshine Health Mine and the club had a "Haunted Mine" for the Halloween holiday. Club members met at the mine and made witches brooms and scary dolls as props for the Haunted Mine Tour.

Mary Ann Carey and Theri L'Hirondelle discussed the various types of greenhouses and their basic operation at the November meeting. A fundraising project was conducted in December. During the Christmas Stroll in Whitehall, the Club members sold Christmas centerpieces and wreaths. Their annual Christmas Potluck was at the home of Ann Palmer with a white elephant gift exchange towards the end of the evening. The Club did not meet in January. This was a time for the new officers to meet and organize the coming year. Carmela Guza came to Whitehall in February and gave a program on the new variety of petunias and other plants that will survive the difficult growing conditions in Whitehall.



Pictured top right: Decorating gourds, scary dolls and witches brooms for the Haunted Mine Tour.

## TOWNSEND GARDEN CLUB

Townsend has wonderful Saturday morning garden studies. At a recent forum, tree pruning was discussed and a great deal of information was shared during the presentation and the discussion that followed. The prior month there was a presentation on Venus Flytraps. What an interesting plant to grow in your home! The Townsend members truly enjoy learning and sharing gardening ideas.

## HELENA GARDEN CLUB

Helena is busy planning our district meeting to be held in April. It sounds like a wonderful meeting with many self-guided tours and an Ikebana presentation. Rounding out the program there is a potential orchid greenhouse tour which many will attend. I hope everyone from Lewis and Clark District will join us for a Saturday of interesting discussions.



## GLENDIVE GARDEN CLUB

The Glendive Garden Club has been busy this past year. We have been working on an Arbor Project for the past couple years and finally got the arbor up at our Pricilla Hudson Garden. We spray painted it and it looks very nice. We need to do some landscaping and planting this spring. Our plan is to make it a memorial garden with stepping stones etched with deceased member names on them. In October we took a bunch of pumpkins and decorated them with succulents. We sold 28 of them at the Harvest Fest here in Glendive, enhancing our treasury by \$315. We also made glass art topiaries for our yards at one of our meetings.

Our Christmas party was held at the home of Jan Pust with members bringing canned goods for the food bank. A delicious potluck lunch was enjoyed by all and afterwards we made Christmas arrangements. The club furnishes the greenery and red and white carnations as a thank you to our members for all they have done for the club during the past year. It is always a fun time.



# Chester Garden Club

## Celebrates Their Sixtieth Anniversary

At a special tea on Sunday, March 10, members of the Chester Garden Club and many guests celebrated sixty years of working together to bring beauty to our area. The Northern District Director, Donna Arvidson was in attendance along with garden club members from Conrad, Havre and Great Falls.

Margaret Meissner, one of the two remaining Charter Members, read a history of the club. The other Charter Member, Agnas Cole, was also present. Darlene Skari read an appropriate poem as a memorial to past members and talked about the determination of the first members who started a garden club before there was usable water for planting in Chester. A power point program illustrated the beginning of the Garden Club Corner of the park just after water from Tiber Dam was piped into town.

Chester Garden Club member Georgie Brain was one of the first Flower Show Judges in Montana, and her early influence is still felt in the club as she encouraged members to share plants, ideas and skills, and to love flower arranging. The current members of the club worked together to put on this event with pride in knowing that the work, fellowship, and learning for sixty years goes on in this part of the Hi-Line of Montana.



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### MEMORIALS & ENDOWMENTS

#### MEMORIAL TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Jo Wallace

by the Great Falls Flower Growers – \$25

#### LIFE MEMBERS

Kay Stevens — Great Falls Flower Growers

#### PENNY PINES

Gallatin Empire Garden Club – \$68.00

### CORRECTIONS

#### MFGC Directory correction:

[kathyaustin65@msn.com](mailto:kathyaustin65@msn.com)

(previous print did not include '65' in the directory)

### IN MEMORIAM

#### DILLON GARDEN CLUB

Harriet Watkins passed away in November. She was a retired Emeritus Master Judge. Harriet was over 100 years old. She helped organize the Dillon Garden Club.

#### GREAT FALLS FLOWER GROWERS

Johanna Wallace

#### RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB

Dixie Boland

#### DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB

Audrey Seaton

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## Wrapping It Up

Patricia Schlaeger, MFGC Gardens Editor

Winter came back in April for just a few days to remind us that in Montana snow can happen whenever Mother Nature says it can! On the north side of the ranch house pretty little violas were shivering in the snow next to the fireplace. They were growing out of a small space between the bricks and the grass. This brought me to the realization that Spring is really here, and I should rake off the hay covering most of my flower beds. At our ranch flowers and plantings take a back seat to more pressing ranch matters such as fixing fences broken by cattle pastured for the winter, plowing and seeding. My hardy perennials have to fend for themselves until I free myself from caring for the broodmares and return from business travel to address yard beautification.

But this warm, gentle winter has been kind to my plants and easy on the animals. Now we just have to get more moisture and hope the wind doesn't dry out what little we have been getting. We are turning some bottom land into an organic farming practice. It will be interesting to view new crops and caring for the land without any chemical fertilizer or weed killers. This is a return to the way this land was originally farmed when my parents bought the ranch in the 1950's. What goes around, comes around.





## INCREASE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION NGC PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL 2-YEAR PROJECT 2015-2017

"Service in Action", is intended to increase awareness of the seriousness of the demise of pollinators and amphibians and encourage conservation and protection efforts by clubs, the general public and governmental agencies.

Often called the first bio-indicators; amphibians and pollinators, by their presence, abundance, and activities reveal the state of their ecosystems. Pollinator and amphibian populations are declining worldwide through the effects of pesticides, habitat destruction, diseases, parasites, global warming, and introduced predators. Education, habitat conservation, and protection of at risk populations are issues we can change through our actions. For complete program information [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

Visit our website at [www.MTFGC.org](http://www.MTFGC.org)



find us on facebook!

[facebook.com/MontanaGardens](https://facebook.com/MontanaGardens)

## Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Contest Winners

1st grade – **Teegan Judd**, Malta, Montana  
 2nd grade – **Hailey Welch**, Malta, Montana  
 3rd grade (tie) – **Hailey Judd**, Malta, Montana  
 3rd grade (tie) – **Gracie Skoyen**, Chinook, MT  
 4th grade – **Quincy Neuman**, Great Falls, MT  
                   Great Falls Flower Growers  
 5th grade – **Marissa Sandvick**, Malta, Montana

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### DISTRICT MEETINGS

<b>APRIL 13 - Glendive</b>	<b>APRIL 14 - Havre</b>
<b>APRIL 15 - Shelby</b>	<b>APRIL 16 - Helena</b>
<b>APRIL 20 - Missoula</b>	<b>APRIL 21 - Great Falls</b>
<b>APRIL 22 - Billings</b>	<b>APRIL 23 - Whitehall</b>

### STATE CONVENTION

**JUNE 23, 24, 25 - Holiday Inn Downtown  
 Missoula, Montana**



Posters (left to right top) Teegan Judd, Hailey Welch, Hailey Judd;  
 (left to right bottom) Gracie Skoyen, Quincy Neuman, Marissa Sandvick