

Petals in the Wind

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs Newsletter

February 2016

Petals from President Linda



What a wonderful trip and experience we had at the Seattle Flower and Garden Show. Twenty nine rode the bus and we got acquainted with each other. The show was mind boggling. The garden displays were full of ideas and vendors had available a myriad of garden tools, yard decorations, seeds, bulbs, books, jewelry and

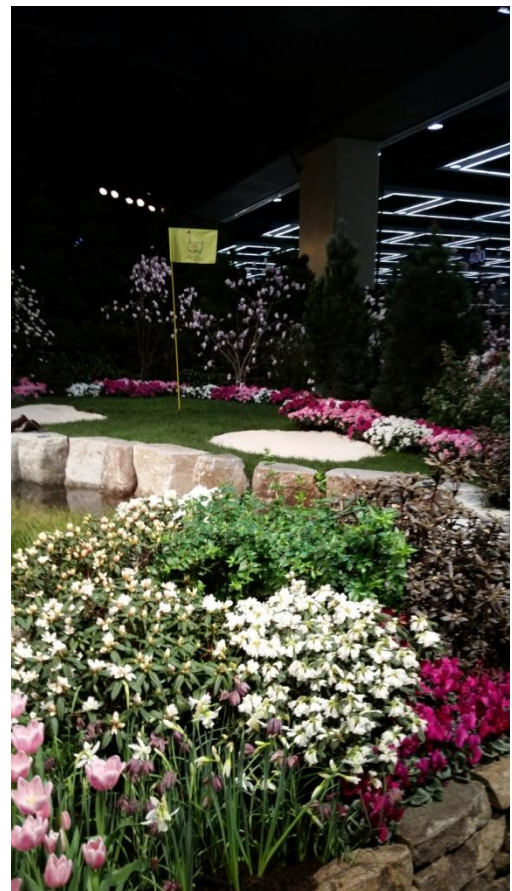
clothing. Everything you could want! Come to our June convention to see the video of our trip. An added experience was coming home via Leavenworth and Wenatchee. Thank you Seattle travelers for your support of the trip. The adventure was fun.

Our state convention will be in Missoula June 23-25. Plans are being finalized. The theme for the Montana convention 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.

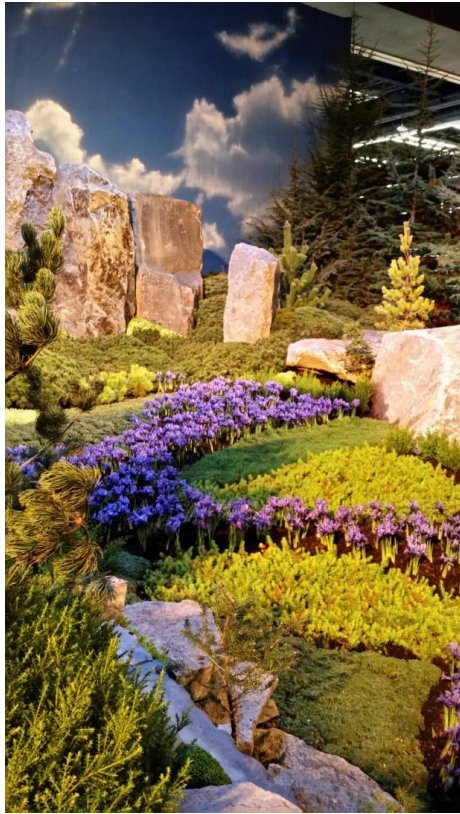
April will find the State Officers traveling to nine district meetings over two weeks. We enjoy meeting and visiting with members and hearing what clubs are busy doing. It is a long way from western Montana to eastern Montana. Over the last two years, I have enjoyed traveling new roads criss-crossing the state. The First Vice President and Second Vice President travel with me.



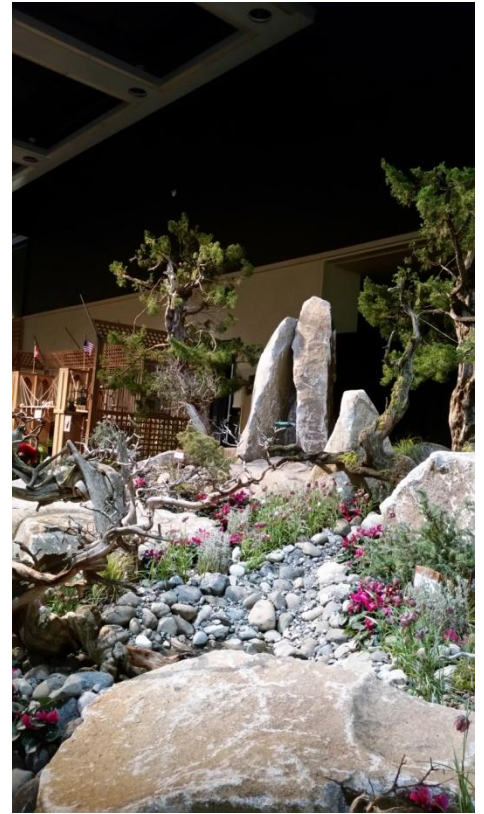
Seattle - Here we come!!!



Designer garden exhibit at the Seattle Flower Show



Beautiful spring exhibit in Seattle



Bonsai Garden in Seattle exhibit



Trimming the Bonsai



Notice the GLASS FISH!!!

Robin Pokorski is Coming!!

Robin Pokorski served as President of California Garden Clubs, Inc. and developed this Leadership Forum from a vast array of resources. She has presented this forum to garden clubs all over California and to Nevada garden clubs as well as outside the garden club world to other non-profit organizations.

Don't Miss Her Leadership Training in June

What do YOU need to know to be a presiding officer or treasurer or secretary? What do YOU need to know to handle difficult members? What do YOU need to know to increase membership or motivate your current members to participate? Come to the Leadership Forum – now, don't get scared but it's four hours – yes, four, but it's action-packed! Three hours just wasn't long enough to answer all the questions at the last five meetings. You'll learn lots and have a good time learning it. Bring a pencil to take notes; there'll be plenty of ideas to share with your club.

Leadership is ...

Rewarding, fun, interesting Make the most of your position

My Frog by Michelle Mensinger

from Keeping in Touch



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!

Save the Dates:

Flower Show School -

Dillon, Montana - April 8,9,10th

Instructors: Billie Fitch - Horticulture and Char Mutschler - Design

Contact Chairperson: Cathy Spiech-Ferguson
(cathysf@bresnan.net)



Awards

MFGC Awards A,B,C,D,E are due April 15 to Sherry Corneliusen (1014 Road 248, Glendive, MT 59330)

District Meeting Dates:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| April 13 - Glendive | April 20-Missoula |
| April 14- Havre | April 21 - Great Falls |
| April 15 - open | April 22 - Billings |
| April 16 - Helena | April 23 - Whitehall |

State Convention and Flower Show Info:

Missoula, MT- Holiday Inn Downtown

June 23 - Flower Show

June 24, 25th - Convention



'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 4:00 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. Jim Sadler, Show Chair



District Petals of News

Southwestern District - Diane Ward Dir.



ANACONDA GARDEN CLUB: Norm DeNeal, President

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, over \$5,000!

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. 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 \$1,000 scholarships and two \$500 scholarships to Anaconda High School graduates. Once every two weeks during the summer the club will sell items they have made during the Farmer's Market.

BUTTE GARDEN CLUB: Becky Morris, President

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 its 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.

DILLON GARDEN CLUB: Greg Cooper, President.

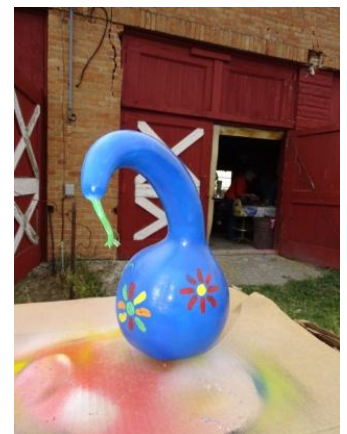
In October they put on a cart fair which was a great fundraiser for them. They had about 30 vendors offering their wares during the first week of hunting season. In November they created centerpieces for the Festival of Trees, another fundraiser for various charities in Dillon. Christmas decorations 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. Putting together their activity sheet and planning programs for the coming year are being decided in February.



Scary doll for haunted mine tour

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 member's 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. One of the Whitehall members is owner of the Sunshine Health Mine and 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 centerpieces and wreaths. 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.



Beautiful, painted gourd

Eastern District - Sherry Corneliusen - Dir.



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. (Phase two)

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.

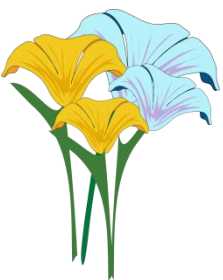
Two of our members attended the MFGC Fall Board meeting in Fort Benton on October 9 & 10th.

The club has been trying to generate interest in the Seattle Flower Show bus trip and three members have signed up to go, along with three other members from our community.

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

At our February meeting we discussed preparations for the upcoming District Meeting that we will be hosting in April.

Yellowstone District - Rosemary Powers -Dir.



BILLINGS GARDEN CLUB: The Thumb-R-Green Garden Club of Billings as a community project decorated a Christmas tree at the Moss Mansion. The theme this year was "Homemade Christmas". T_R_G members made and decorated many small birdhouses, strings of popcorn, dried plant materials, glittery cut out bird silhouettes and bubble lights

made the tree a winner with a prize of \$150.00
Congratulations!

The program for the January meeting was presented by each member giving some information about a bird that they had selected prior to the meeting and had researched. All seemed to enjoy the participation and information.

North Central District - Carol Brady - Dir.



FLOWER GROWERS: Gail Zarr-Pres

Flower Growers put on their Christmas Holiday Tea in December. It's their annual fundraiser and a wonderful event. The theme was "Candy Cane Lane" and they raised enough money to provide one \$1,000.00 scholarship to a deserving high school senior, to be chosen in the spring. In Jan. they had a

presentation by Electric City Conservatory on "terrariums". At their Feb. meeting, they honored four Past Presidents of their club. They gave their "herstories". In March they plan to have Steve Tilleras, owner of Tilleras Nurseries give a talk on trees and shrubs. They will also be planting a tree in the spring, in an agreed upon park in Great Falls where the city determines it is needed, in memory of a member(s) who have died in the past year. They had one member, Pat Biggs, who attended the NW Flower and Garden show in Feb. by joining up with the MT Garden Club tour group bus. She said there were 29 on the bus and it was a great trip and a very comfortable ride.

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB: Ivy Jackson, President:

The Rainbow club had their annual fundraiser style show in Oct. 2015 at the Elks in downtown Great Falls. They had a silent auction, 50-50 tickets, and a raffle for a large garden produce cache, donated by Jan Gorman, their club's Gardener of the Year recipient. Enough funds were raised to provide \$1,500 scholarships for two worthy Great Falls seniors. In January the club had a presentation on genealogy research by Sandra Guynn. She explained the process of checking DNA and what it can reveal. There is a large research group in Great Falls with extensive info available to the public. In February the club heard a talk on "Helping our Winter Birds". This talk was given by an Audubon expert, Aria Eckert. In March, the MSU Extension service will be giving a presentation on Horticultural issues. In April, the club will be helping the Deaf and Blind School replant and refurbish their Sensory Garden on campus.

DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB: Judy Fettig/Marcie Bateman co-chairs

The DCG club had their Christmas party meeting, where they had a cookie exchange, gift exchange, stocking stuffing of 50 stockings for the Rescue Mission kids and Children's Receiving Home. Fun was had by all. In Jan. and Feb. the club had no-host luncheons at the Angus Café in Cascade, attended by the NON-snowbirds in the area. They had "show and tell" of member's creations and minimal club business was discussed. In March, the presentation for the meeting will be by Kristina Smucker who is a non-game Species Biologist with FW&P. Her topic will be birding in your back yard, esp. identifying raptors. We will also be planning the annual clean-up of our section of the Interstate for spring.

Western District - Cheryl Carroll, Director



STEVENSVILLE GARDEN CLUB: Linda Clark, President
Stevensville held a Christmas Tea and decorated main street with Christmas Decorations. Stevensville is busy planning the 2016 Fall Board Meeting.

MISSOULA GARDEN CLUB: Diane Norby, President
Missoula assembled holiday swags at the home of president

Diane who hosted the group with a delicious chili feed. The swags were sold for a club project. Missoula held a Christmas Party at the Holt Museum in Lolo. The club is planning the April 20th District Meeting and the MFGC Convention in Missoula on June 23-25th.

Lewis and Clark District- Betsy Heckel, Director



BELGRADE GARDEN CLUB:
Belgrade is making plans for hosting the Flower School in August and we are hoping for good attendance in the class. We are having monthly meetings that included a visit to the Wild Birds Unlimited Store where we learned a tremendous amount about our local birds. We plan on learning

more about orchids in the coming months and are beginning our plantings for our propagation workshop in May, potatoes and tomatoes.

BOZEMAN GARDEN CLUB: Bozeman recently hosted a wonderful presentation by two wildflower photographers that inspired us to get out and enjoy the beauty we are surrounded by and take a few photos along the way to enjoy later. They had a large crowd at the meeting as they invited master gardeners and the local BWAG hiking group to join them.

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.

Highline District - Gloria Tillman, Director



BULLHOOK BLOSSOMS: Judy Ward, President

Bullhook Blossoms does not meet in November or December. We did not meet in January because our president Judy Ward is in Arizona. We are meeting tomorrow to plan the District meeting.



Hear ye, hear ye!

All state awards are due to:

Sherry Corneliusen
1014 Road 248
Glendive, MT 59330

by April 15. That is tax deadline and award application deadline.

I encourage all of you to apply for the awards that are listed on the web at www.mtfgc.org. You can also find the awards in the state directory that all Presidents and District Directors should have in their possession. An award application is on page 32 in the directory. If you go to the website you can fill in the application and apply on line. The awards are a lot simpler now and you only have to fill out three pages instead of a whole book of evidence. Just paper clip the three pages together and send them to me.

The awards vary in amount from \$10 all the way to \$25 for most and the Gardener of the Year gets \$100. If you have any questions, email me at sher@midrivers.com or call 406 486-5787.

B-8 is the Circle of Green Thumbs award. Nominate one person from each club

B-9 is Gardener of the Year and worth \$100

C-4 is Garden Club Member of the year and they get the tiara for a year.

B-11 is the Esther Hamel Butterfly Garden award and it is offered for A,B,C clubs, Youth and individuals

B-12 is the Mary Lee Award and can go to an individual for an artistic expression of flowers, such as a painting, quilt, hand-made flower craft, excluding photography. Entries must be submitted in digital format.

Check out the awards on the web or in the directory and submit some so we can present a certificate and money to you and your club at the convention in June.



Seattle Waterfront from Pike Street Market

An Irish Blessing

"May God grant you always...

A sunbeam to warm you, a moonbeam to charm you,

a sheltering Angel so nothing can harm you

laughter to cheer you, faithful friends near you

and whenever you pray,

Heaven to hear you."



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