

MONTANA *Gardens*

The Official Publication of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

WINTER 2013 / VOL. 58 / ISSUE 4

- New Flower Varieties
- MFGC President Authors
- Statewide Club News
- 2013 MFGC Convention



MONTANA *Gardens*

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Dates to Remember:

April - District Meetings

May 1 - MFGC Award Applications

May 17-19 - Landscape Design School

May 21-29 - NGC Convention in Seattle, WA.
Registration forms are on the NGC website.

June 28 and 29 - MFGC Convention in Helena
hosted by the Townsend Garden Club

See the full Calendar of Events with more info
on our website, www.MTFGC.org

President's Desk

The catalogs have arrived. The perfect garden is being planned. The seed orders are being placed. As we while away winter evenings, now is an ideal time to incorporate those principles you've learned at meetings or read in the pages of **Montana Gardens** or on MFGC's Facebook page. Montana experienced both severe flooding and drought in the past two years. Gardeners are trying to adjust to these extremes by incorporating wise water use, raising more of their families' edibles, searching out farmer's markets and community gardens, and sharing gardening knowledge and abundance with others and our youth. Thank you for your efforts to improve our communities.



Speaking of your efforts, we want to publicize and reward them through MFGC's Award program. Award criteria and descriptions are in the state directory and on our website. We are pleased to announce many of the monetary awards have been increased. Amounts for "C" "D" and "E" awards are \$20 for each membership level and B-4 and B-5 awards are raised to \$15. An insert in this edition describes a new partnership with **Zone 4** whereby \$5 will be donated to MFGC for each member's magazine subscription, gift or renewal. In turn, the money will be used to award three clubs \$50 under the C-1 Award of Appreciation. Please apply for this award for outstanding work to further MFGC objectives and projects, or for a project not provided for in another award. Our objectives are to:

- aid in protection and conservation of natural resources, promote civic beauty, encourage improvement of roadsides and parks;
- encourage and assist in establishing and maintaining botanical gardens and other horticultural centers for advancement of science, enjoyment and education of the public;
- study and advance the arts of gardening, horticulture, floral design, landscape design, and environmental sciences;
- cooperate with other organizations in the furtherance of the foregoing objectives; and
- further horticultural education, conservation, and landscape design through scholarships.

Phyllis White

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Become a fan of Montana Federation of Garden Clubs on Facebook! Stay up to date with local gardening activities, check out helpful articles we've found across the web, and view photos of gardens and club members. Keyword: **Montana Garden Clubs**

On The Cover

Pressed flowers by Linda Lindgren, Gallatin Empire Garden Club, include red geranium petals, yellow butter cups, blue violas, pink coral bells, Queen Ann's lace, and Virginia creeper vines.

what is
MFGC

SCHOLARSHIPS
friendship organic
environment EDIBLES
community native plants
EDUCATION landscape design
PRESERVATION
Montana Gardens LEADERSHIP
CONTESTS & AWARDS speakers
beautification aquatic ecosystems
social networking service
Blue Star Markers HORTICULTURE
CONSERVATION YOUTH
natural disaster remediation xeriscaping

MONTANA Gardens

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"NGC - Proudly Serving our Members and the Community"

SUBMISSION REMINDER

Deadline	Issue
April 1	Summer
July 1	Fall
Nov 1	Winter
Feb 1	Spring

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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.

New Flower Varieties

Sherry Corneliusen, Community Garden Chairman



SHERRY CORNELIUSEN

How many garden catalogs have you received in the mail already this year? At last count mine numbered twelve. Have you been spending these long winter hours paging through these books and dreaming about all the "new" items that are offered for sale? I can hardly wait to see what's new for this year. Yes, I grow my traditional favorites, but I just have to try some of the new beauties also.



"Martha Washington" Petunia

When I opened one of my garden catalogs and saw the new petunia called "Martha Washington", I thought "WOW", what a gorgeous pink flower! It is a blend of light to dark pink and is just stunning. Have you heard about "Moonlight

Eclipse"? This petunia has deep purple blooms with light green tips. "Purple Delight" is another petunia that has purple flowers but unique variegated foliage. Then there is "Blue a Fuse" petunia. Isn't that a cute name? It makes you wonder, where do they come up with all these names?

"Solar Flare" is a new sunflower that was a prize winner in Burpee trials. "Elise Mix" is a mixture of Lewisias in shades of purple, orange, yellow, pink, white and even bi-colors.



"Solar Flare" Sunflower

"Mowgli Marigold" is a small French marigold that does not need deadheading. Won't that be nice? "Key Lime" marigold has a hint of lime green in its large blooms. "Peach Cobbler" is a calibrachoa that has dark peach centers fading to yellow edges.



"Sparks Will Fly" Begonia

"Sparks Will Fly" begonia has orange flowers and bronze foliage. "Santa Cruz Sunset" is a cascading begonia with or-

ange bell shaped blooms. The new "Sun Sparkler" sedums include "Dazzleberry, Lime Zinger and Cherry Tart".

"Happy Trails" is the new moss rose collection. "Lacey Blue" is a dwarf Russian Sage. My old ones always need staking. "Lighthouse" is a new purple salvia and "Blue Lagoon" is the new verbascum.

"Cheyenne Spirit, Pow Wow Wild- berry, Cleopatra and Julia" are the new echinaceas and "Jams and Jellies" are the new vincas—another cute name.



"Jams and Jellies" Vincas

There are many more new varieties for 2013, including vegetables, but I thought I would just stick to the flowers for this article. So when you are ordering plants or out at the nurseries shopping this spring, keep these "new" varieties in mind and try one or two of them. Good luck and happy gardening.

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Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems

Annie Mollock, Conservation Chairman



ANNIE MOLLOCK

We could all learn a lesson from our grandparent's generation about water conservation. Back in the day, our ancestor's had to use water carefully and wisely; conserving water was not a matter of choice, but of survival. They had to pump water and carry it by hand. They had to rely on rain and snowfall to provide water for their crops and household use. Water conservation was a way of life. In the modern world of today many people tend to take for granted the water that flows from our faucets without thinking about where it comes from. Today, the average household consumes and estimated 200 gallons of water per day.

All living things need water to survive and flourish. Each species, animal and plant, need specific minimum amounts of water to survive. Humans need about 8 glasses per day. Kangaroo rats get all of their daily needs from feeding only on dry seeds and metabolizing the proteins and fats in a manner that provides all the water they require.

Water quality is an important aspect of meeting water needs, as well. Some people live in areas where water is not treated to

remove pollutants, disease-causing bacteria, etc. Most plants and animals use water directly for its source within their environment. For this reason it is important that we do what we can to protect our water sources from pollutants.

During the 20th century the world population tripled, while water use for human purposes multiplied six-fold. Climate, geography, economics, access to technology, population growth, etc. can all affect the availability of water. For this reason we need to do all we can to protect our Aquatic Eco-systems.



Shirley Nicolai, NGC President has an ongoing project now asking Garden Clubs to help do just that. Some of her suggestions are to create and promote educational hands-on programs for youth, have your local garden club adopt an Aquatic Eco-system as a project, educate the public to practice organic gardening at home, provide educational exhibits at flower shows, adopt water-issue positions and more. For more information about how you can protect aquatic eco-systems in your community go to gardenclub.org.

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Club Leadership

Darlene Skari, MFGC Parliamentarian



DARLENE SKARI

This is the time of year that clubs elect their nominating committees, District Directors are selected and the often difficult decisions about new leaders confronted. Pat Biggs presented some excellent workshops on leadership skills that were helpful to those attending.

As clubs and the state organization chooses officers and chairman it is often too easy to keep recycling the competent, knowledgeable, and well known older members. Everyone knows they can do the job (and are often the very folks who find it hard to say "no"). While those members have lots to share as part of committees etc. if newer members are not recognized and asked to lead, there comes a time when the pool for experienced club officers, district directors, state officers and chairman is very limited because of the necessity for previous garden club experience.

So, as members are nominated, look around your group for those new folks who would be willing to serve. And consider that unlike

Federal Judges, officers should not be selected to serve for life!

The handbooks for club, district and state officers that have been developed the past few years are a great resource. When officers are in place members really need to support their efforts. An organization where members volunteer for jobs, show up and participate to use their skills and abilities thrives.....and so do the leaders and the members.

District Meetings

Denise Fink, President-elect



DENISE FINK

One of the nice things about gardening is that everything has it's season. The same thing is true of Garden Clubs. Consistency is comforting to us. We know what time of year it is by what we are doing. This time of years we begin the process of organizing the traveling to District Meetings. I have been in contact with the District Directors, and they in turn are talking with the club presidents. Our schedule is as follows:

Week One
April 2nd Malta
April 3rd Lewistown
April 4th Chester
April 5th Great Falls
Week Two
April 16th Miles City
April 17th Billings
April 18th Townsend
April 19th Missoula
April 20th Southwestern

The finance committee will meet the evening of April 17th at the home of Glenna Waltee, Thank you Glenna for your wonderful hospitality. We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing all our gardening experiences with each other. And, we won't forget ways and means.

MFGC Authors

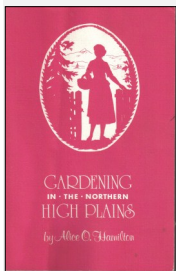
Legacy of our former presidents, Norman DeNeal

Within our eight state region, Montana has long sponsored a series of "Writing Awards", due to members of the Montana Federation having such a strong tradition of excellence in publication. Former state presidents Alice Hamilton (1954-56) and Esther Hamél (1956-59) typify this talent.



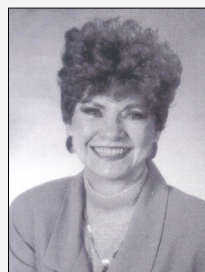
In her term as the state President, **Alice O. Hamilton** from Billings saw Federation membership rise to 2,000. She oversaw dividing the state into districts, and for the first time, District Directors were elected. It was through Hamilton that Montana nominated

Evelyn Mooney from Butte for the National Garden Club presidency. Under Hamilton, Montana became the first state to contribute \$1 for every member in the state toward the building of National Headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. A major thrust of her presidency was to promote highway beautification through a litterbug campaign. During this period the state president also was the editor of the "Montana Quarterly" (the predecessor of "Montana Gardens"), and the publication earned several awards for both its content and format. Hamilton was the first Montana flower show judge to become an accredited flower show instructor (1957). Some of her designs were published in the Vision of Beauty calendar. She encouraged her husband, Bob, a college professor, to become a Federation instructor in horticulture.



Today Hamilton is best remembered for her book "Gardening in the Northern High Plains" (1986), a 200+ page compilation of gardening articles she had published in the Billings Gazette beginning in 1954. Though

not now in print, the book sometimes shows up in garden club fundraisers, and is a must buy purchase. Even today, it is still considered the best summary of garden cultivation for both eastern and western Montana. Full of savvy advice and direct experience, there is a emphasis on food gardening.



Esther Hamél from St. Ignatius, followed Hamilton as the state President and continued Hamilton's litterbug campaign and specifically targeted highway billboards that were so numerous as to block much of Montana's best landscapes. She

officially incorporated the Federation in 1958. Hamél pushed for the adoption of the Rose as the National Flower, ultimately a winning effort. Hamél served three years to align state elections with national elections. During her term the "Montana Quarterly" became our present "Montana Gardens" and won third place of all national publications. Always having a flair for writing, Hamel made a major contribution to the book "Gardening, Forcing, Conditioning, and Drying Flowers" during her presidential term. Hamél was an exceptional judge and creative designer. As an instructor, her students would sometimes struggle to make a design, but using the same materials, she could make an extraordinary and memorable one.



But it is her book, "The Encyclopedia of Exhibiting and Judging" that Hamél is best remembered. So complete and well written, it remained the bible of this subject matter for the National Garden Clubs for decades. Today it is still used as a reference text by

(Continued)

Active Garden Club Members

Linda Sadler, 2nd Vice President



LINDA SADLER

As a Montana Garden Club member, we are involved in our communities maintaining and planting public places and gardens. Whenever a beautification project is needed or suggested, garden club members show up with ideas, shovels and plants ready to work.

My knowledge of the activities being done in our state was vastly enlarged after conversations with our club presidents. I started to realize how many wonderful projects are accomplished in our state. Every club has one or more on-going beautification project.

An amazing fact is that over \$10,000 in scholarships is awarded annually by federated clubs. Anaconda and the Great Falls clubs give a total six \$1,000 scholarships to students a year. Other scholarships range from small amounts to \$500. Some scholarships are given to members to help with expenses in taking landscaping school or extension courses.

Fund raising for scholarships and civic projects are many. Plant sales among communities as well as members are popular. I was amazed at the many garage sales, bazaars, Holiday Teas, garden tours, and grant funding projects. You'll want to read the Dearborn Club news in the next article and learn how they published a

game based on Monopoly using businesses in their area.

In large and small communities, our clubs are decorating hanging baskets downtown, maintaining gardens at libraries, courthouses, fairgrounds, nursing homes and Blue Star Memorials just to name a few. Clubs are creating arrangements and giving them to nursing homes. Several clubs participate in the Festival of Trees, fairs, and health fairs. Clubs are involved in school gardening projects, as well as other altruistic happenings. I was astounded at the many outstanding projects clubs are involved in.

Did you realize over 250 programs were given last year? Programs dealt with improving gardens, learning about soil and different ways to plant, and creative flower arranging. Programs were given on preparing specimens for fair entries to cooking using vegetables and herbs from our gardens. Members are learning about the latest gardening ideas and techniques.

About one third of our clubs are supporting Junior Garden Clubs. Other clubs are working with school gardens and Boys and Girl Clubs. Clubs are working with children helping them to enter the county fair. We are helping our younger generation learn how to prepare for the future by growing their own food.

Montana Garden Club members are the energizing bunny. You keep on going and going beautifying our communities. No job is too small or too big. You are a wonderful group and I learned so much. Thank you for sharing with me.

(Continued from the previous page)

many of the 200 garden clubs of Garden Club of America. This year Hamél's Encyclopedia was finally completely revised by six authors and renamed "Horticulture, Exhibiting and Judging" available through NGC's member services for \$40. Remaining copies of Hamél's book (last revised in 1982) are still available through member services for \$15. Hamel was eclectic in personality and in her writing subjects. Her books ranged from "Creativity With Gourds", "Creative Design With Dried And Contrived Flowers", "The House of Termites", and "Gestalt And Floral Design....Judging" to one of her last publications "The Intuitive Art of Gambling". Today, at 90 years old, Hamel resides in Port Charlotte, Florida.

Garden Club News

Anaconda Garden Club, by Pat Darnell

Anaconda Garden Club was proud to host last year's fall board meeting. We had a great attendance and meeting. Friday evening was hosted by one of our members in another beautiful historic home. Saturday's tour of Anaconda's historic sections was enjoyed by all. We have some projects planned for spring in our Kennedy Commons (but they're a secret!!) so another exciting year is again planned in Anaconda.

Belgrade Garden Club

As the newest garden club in the Federation, we are organizing our program and garden tour schedules. We're building membership at this month's Wild West WinterFest at the Gallatin Fairgrounds with donation of table arrangements holding our contact card. The club consists of gardeners with all levels of gardening experience and includes many couples.

Butte Garden Study Group, by Norman DeNeal



The popular series Downton Abbey, which garnered the largest PBS television viewership in America with over 7 million, is also inspiring Butte's garden club. Picking up on this popular film series, Butte's Garden Study Group has been showing gardens of English estates such as Highclere Castle, the film backdrop for Downton Abbey. With evocative views of the Highclere, also shown were video clips of Highclere's Lady Carnarvon introducing the garden. Additionally, Prince Phillip's garden at Highgrove House, which the prince actually tends, were also shown at



the same meeting. The programming is intended to illustrate some of the techniques that make these gardens exemplary models even for modest local home gardens. In subsequent programs more English estate gardens will be shown to illustrate the history of landscape design, with an accent on English designers that have so influenced American gardening today.

Chester Garden Club

The Chester Garden club had a great December meeting with a workshop on holiday arrangements with community members invited. Everyone left with an arrangement for their home. The club provided greens, holly and flowers, plus great potluck finger food.

The group is planning for the Northern District meeting, electing officers, and making arrangements for their annual plant sale with the Riverview Greenhouse from Fort Benton.

A local farmer who is also an excellent carpenter has built a new storage bench for the Garden Corner of the city park. To make certain this bench lasts well, marine plywood, treated lumber and redwood was used; expensive materials, but well worth the cost.

Garden Club News

Dearborn Garden Club, by Joyce Backa

Dearborn Garden Club has co-presidents and a theme of "Blooming and Blossoming". Bloom: a condition or time of vigor, freshness and beauty; blossom: to develop and flourish. The club flower is the Prairie Crocus and the club bird is Bluebird (we maintain a bluebird trail). Meeting the third Wednesday of each month, just visiting in January and February, at the Missouri Inn, the club is into its 62nd year and has 52 members.

One of our projects is to sponsor Bingo with the main object to donate a \$500 scholarship to a senior from Cascade High School. Recently, this money maker needed a boost. Many discussions were held and one member presented the idea of Missouri Riveropoly. Advertising content fills the property spaces, the Fate and River Card areas and the cards, even the Start and Go To Jail blocks. Other sponsorship names fill in the space between a local landscape photo and the properties. The "money" is sponsored by Stockman's Bank. On the lid is a mural of more landscape photos that were collected in a contest with the winner receiving the choice of a game or \$20. A committee was formed, worked hard and 500 copies were sold by Christmas 2012. Funds have been relegated to trusts, endowments, etc. Usual fund raisers will go on but the club certainly has a substantial savings account.

Fort Benton Garden Club, by Nancy Lachapelle

The Fort Benton garden club had a busy year. We hosted a very enjoyable and productive District 6 meeting in April. We spent May and some of June clearing, fencing and mulching the community garden before the delivery of 18 elevated garden beds, purchased with the last of our grant funding from the local Lippard-Clawiter Foundation. Even with a late start, we managed to have all but two of the beds planted for the growing season. July was our local, multi-garden tour with three gardens on the agenda this year. In August we took on the 100th Chouteau County Fair, performing Floriculture superintendent duties, giving a flower arranging workshop (which produced the largest number of arrangement entries in the last three years), decorating for the Fort Benton Ag booth, coordinating a three town vegetable giveaway during the Fair and providing vegetable carving and tasting demonstrations. All agree it was a huge success and a great fundraiser as we garnered second prize monies for our Ag booth decorations and payment for our superintendent services. The club submitted several grant applications which were rewarded with three grants earned. Our largest grant will provide finishing touches on the community garden. We will be able to extend a water line to the garden, purchase and install a drip irrigation system and purchase a compost tumbler for the garden. A new grant this year will allow club members to work with the local fifth graders to grow heirloom plants for sale in support of our local Chouteau County Cancer Support Group's annual plant sale. At last year's sale, with the help of the fifth graders, we were able to raise a record breaking \$880 for the cancer support group. The Club was also awarded a grant to work with the fifth graders on a composting program at the local elementary school. Funding will provide supplies and materials for club members to work with students to build a three bin compost station at the school and also provide educational and promotional materials to help the students learn the basics of composting. Hopefully, this program is a precursor to establishing interest in a Junior Garden Club in our community. During the Community's Winter Celebration, club members manned a 'Recycled Christmas' fundraiser; repurposing and recycling gently used holiday decorations and, for very little effort, netted over \$100 in sales. We used our annual holiday potluck as a brainstorming and planning session for 2013. Club members have come up with many exciting programs and plans for the coming year and we want to wish everyone a prosperous new year.

Garden Club News

Gallatin Empire Garden Club, by Cynthia Carlton

'Color Your World Green' has been our theme during my presidency. Our major goals have been to host the best State Convention ever (with help from Lewis and Clark District 4 Clubs) and to install and dedicate a Blue Star Memorial Marker in the Gallatin Valley on May 18, 2013. Our club provides the centerpieces for the annual Senior Center Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and a monthly arrangement for their reception desk. We donate thirteen decorated wreaths to non-profits throughout the Valley and contribute many hours to the Rest Home sensory garden. We provide tray arrangements for Hospice patients and encourage our Garden Gnomes with artistic projects. We participate in the Fair Flower Show (many hours spent coordinating with the Fairground Board) and have many interesting programs presented by professors, club members or spouses, and community professionals on subjects ranging from floral design to new cultivars. As a major fundraiser, we sell baked goods, plants, and miscellaneous items at the annual Bozeman Crazy Days. During the summer months, we organize a few garden tours to stimulate our creativity!



Glendive Garden Club, by Denise Fink



The Glendive Garden Club was the result of a suggestion at the Glendive Woman's Club meeting of April 8, 1948 (my birthday). It incorporated on May 21st that year. Harold Ulman, who owned a local nursery, was first president. The club started with 15 members and the slogan that year was "petunias in every yard." Betty Shyroch was state President at the time.

Currently, we have 15 members. We are doing some interesting programs this year including reviewing the State Flower Show video. On August 2nd, we will have Beth Babcock from Cheyenne, Wyoming

with her wonderful wildflower collection, and we will be meeting at the home of Creuza Squires who has a fabulous garden. We hope this will be a good recruitment meeting. We meet the first Friday of the month, usually at 1:30; everyone is welcome. Call me for location information.

Garden Club News

Great Falls Flower Growers, by Sherry Meadors



TOP: Ember Woods and Shirley Davis, co-chairmen of "Gingerland", the 2012 holiday tea fundraiser.

BOTTOM: MFGC President Phyllis White, Rosemary Liston, MFGC Garden Club Member of the Year, and Sherry Meadors, club President.

One of the things that stands out above all else in the Great Falls Flower Growers is the tremendous commitment of our members. The renovation project at the Library Park was our biggest project last year. The Jubilee Grant assisted us in this project. We are privileged to decorate the patio area of the MT Veterans Memorial with flowers and to plant large planters at the Visitor's Center to welcome guests to our city. We also provide a lush butterfly garden at the Paris Gibson Museum. Our annual holiday tea brought in record breaking revenue which supports our college scholarships. Our members are also proud of the activities which keep us connected to the needs of our community. Members donate canned goods, hats, mittens and sundries for the needy, supply monthly floral arrangements to beautify the Gift of Life housing for families of ill patients, celebrate the birthdays of senior citizens in January and do therapeutic gardening with those in alternative housing. The children are recipients of Junior Garden Club activities, the Smokey Bear Poster and Poetry contests and Christmas wreaths for the Campfire Club. Our theme is "Grow Where You are Planted-- There's Power in Positivity".



Garden Club News

Joliet Garden Club, by Karen Huso

The Joliet Garden Club was founded in 1950. JGC currently has 18 members. We meet at members' homes monthly from February – October, and hold a Christmas gathering with spouses or significant others in December. Each month the Hostess plans a program that can include: speakers, gardening videos, field trips or other gardening related activities. In 2013 we will host a Flower Show/Luncheon on June 21st at the Joliet Community Center. Our community service will continue in 2013 as we tend the flowerbeds at the Joliet Community Center from Spring through Fall. We will hold a perennial swap in April, and a plant exchange in May, for the benefit of our JGC members.

Little Britches Dirt Dabblers of Hamilton, by Virginia Coleman

Our members are delighted to have found the "lost" Blue Star Marker which was dedicated on May 27, 1952, and installed at Lost Trail Pass. The Marker was removed by the State Highway Department during highway construction decades ago and has only recently been returned to our federated club. The Marker has been restored to original condition and plans are underway for a re-dedication ceremony this summer.

Malta Dirt Daubers, by Grace Lucas

The Malta Dirt Daubers Garden club had an interesting and busy year. Time was spent on our historic garden restoration and planting our "Think Pink" flower area. We also planted flowers in our containers around the city. We had a good reception with our flower show that we put on for the public. We showed many different kind of flower arrangements and flowers. We arranged bouquets to give to the teachers and staff on the first day of school. A \$500 scholarship was given to a senior to help further her education. We sponsored the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest and had many entries. We sponsor two junior garden clubs. With the Phillips County Historical Society we built a ramp for people to get to the walking trail along the river in the bird sanctuary by the H.G. Robinson House. We had a speaker tell us about the birds and their nesting habits that could be seen in the area of the sanctuary. Time was spent sponsoring and decorating the booth at the county fair. We help the Phillips County Museum sponsor the Festival of the Trees and decorated a wreath for it.

Rainbow Garden Club, by Kathy Austin

Rainbow Garden Club hit the ground running in September with our major fund raiser less than two months away. Members gathered bows, ribbons, silk and dried flowers and fashioned 25 wreaths with rose bowl accents for table decorations and sale. Almost 200 tickets were sold for the November luncheon at the Meadow Lark Country Club, complete with style show, fine jewelry, raffles, drawings and silent auction items. The show was a success making \$2,000 for our 2013 scholarship. Montana School for the Deaf and Blind children, "Expressions of Silence," performed for RGC in December as a "thank you" for fall and spring plantings, holiday and graduation flowers our members provide. Now, as winter winds blow, conservation and horticulture programs will enlighten us until we can work on community plantings, therapeutic gardening and our joint Great Falls clubs' Flower Show.

Garden Club News



Left to Right: District 5 Director Ivy Jackson, State Horticulture Therapy Chairman Delores Gregory and RGC Vice President Patty Schlaeger show off wreaths for the Rainbow Garden Club's Fashion Show.

Saco Garden Club, by Ronda Dull

The Saco Garden club is a very energetic group of women which contribute to the success of our organization. Our foremost and continuing project is the completion of the Immanuel Church and the surrounding grounds, which also include the Huntley School and the old city jail. We call this historical area Saco Pioneer Park. The Huntley School is open to visitors during the summer months. The guest book is signed by visitors from many states and countries, including England and Germany.

Last fall the members applied three coats of paint to the church and the Huntley school and outhouse were also painted. The paint was donated by a family who had attended the church years ago when the building was located north of Saco. We received a MFGC Jubilee grant to help complete the Pioneer Park project, including landscaping and sidewalks.

Numerous monetary memorials have been received which are displayed on a plaque in the church. We have also received many donations of time and labor for our project. During the Christmas season our club donated a generous amount of canned goods to the county food bank.

Other activities include help with the Phillips County fair with entries of vegetables and flowers from the Saco and Whitewater area. Our programs include visits from the Valley County Agent and other local guests. Each hosting member presents a program at the monthly meeting.

Garden Club News

Mission View Garden Club, by Connie Plaissey



Mission View members enjoyed a trip to Dayton Community Public Park.

This year has been exceptional both in history and advancing our club's goals.

Our Charlo Memorial Park has been in existence since 1948. We have maintained it and improved it with all our united efforts. It has become a centerpiece of the Charlo community.

In conjunction with Lake County Commissioners and Lake County Department of Parks we have turned over the Park and its improvements to Lake County. As of now, we will still maintain the park with their help.

Our club will still run fundraisers to help with our

goals. Every month we have interesting and educational programs for our members and their guests.

In a world that has continued to become more complex and dependent on monetary rewards rather than esthetics, we have moved forward. A beautiful community makes a beautiful and friendly neighborhood. I will be stepping down as President this year in May but not away from our club which is in my heart.

Sow and Grow Garden Club, by Bobbie Meyers

The highlight of our year was our 50th Anniversary celebration, pictured in the last edition of Montana Gardens. We closed out 2012 with our annual Christmas dinner and gift exchange at Enzo's Restaurant.

We began 2013 with a breakfast meeting at Perkin's Restaurant. (We enjoy eating.) Programs and field trips for the rest of the year brings us to Good Earth Market to learn about growing safe food organically in small places—presented by Danly Farms, then we will be making terrariums, electing officers and planning programs for 2014. In May we begin planting and caring for our own gardens as well as those at Zoo Montana, Metra-Park Fairgrounds, and The Depot.

Every year we plan a "summer adventure." Some of us will travel to Paradise Gateway Bread and Breakfast, which is owned by a former garden club member. Also, during the summer we tour the gardens of our members.

We will co-host the 2014 MFGC Convention with Thumb-R-Green Garden Club of Billings. We are looking forward to our 51st year of beautifying our neighborhoods.

Garden Club News

Stevensville Garden Club, by Mary Baughn



District Director JoAnn Notti and former MFGC President Jean Thomas

The 'new year' began with our annual picnic at the Daly Mansion. Guests included members of Little Britches Dirt Dabblers and other local garden clubs.

Members toured Mark/Linda Bennett's Vineyard in Hamilton, learning about grape growing and wine making in the Bitterroot Valley. Later in October several members attended Fall Board. We also collected food for Pantry Partners, and began a 6-month collection of funds for Global Partners Running Waters, Inc. called 'Drop In The Bucket' which will help provide water to 263 families in Guatemala.

Another program featured Judy Brockton speaking on terrariums and dish gardens which is a category at the

Ravalli County Fair Flower Show. Nearly 80 members and guests attended "A Montana Christmas" luncheon and enjoyed a scrumptious, gourmet menu. The Stevensville Chrysoleun Choir entertained with snappy Christmas music and guests received hand-made pine cone tree ornaments.



Thumb-R-Green Garden Club of Billings, by Joyce Hendricks

Our club motto is "Pleasure in Sharing." We currently have 34 members. Our members enjoy sharing gardening, plant and flower information and tips. In the fall we shared our triumphs and tribulations in gardening (most included concern over the drought conditions of this past summer), how to winterize our gardens, how to make landscaping easier and a photo show of wild flowers. Most advice is centered on taking your time and not rushing the processes whether it is planting or planning or even taking pictures. We planted one of the planters at the Metra this past summer and, despite many obstacles, it turned out very nice and the ornamental cabbage stayed pretty for even the fall events being held on the grounds. For Christmas we decorated a tree at the Moss Mansion and got good publicity for our club. The ornaments we made and found were "spectacular!" We are looking forward to hosting the Yellowstone District Meeting on April 17th and hope many members will be able to join us. We are also planning a flower show July 26th and 27th.

Garden Club News

Whitehall Garden Club, by Ann Palmer



TOP: The Whitehall Garden Club float won 1st place in the Whitehall Frontier Days Parade. BOTTOM: Club members Diane Ward, Karen Ranta, president Ann Palmer, Barbara Willis and Eileen Roth gather greens for all the holiday projects described here.

Another busy year for the Whitehall Garden Club, where do I begin? I'll start with our fund-raising project. A few days before the Whitehall Christmas Stroll, we went to Elk Park (aka Elf Park) to cut 40 pine/fir trees. Selling Christmas Trees added enough funds to our treasury to carry us through the next year! We designed hands on programs where we made cement birdbaths using rhubarb leaves, propagated geraniums and made Christmas centerpieces and wreaths. A field trip to a Sedum Farm taught us how "green roofs" are

made and we were able to buy different varieties of sedum to take home. During National Garden Week we had a wonderful display during the Farmer's Market showing the public what our Club offers. Membership applications were made available. We are looking forward to programs about Perennial Herb Gardens, Plant & Seed Exchange and a Bird Walk. We always invite the public to attend our meetings in our notices announcing our next meeting in our local newspaper. We continue awarding the Golden Spade Award to deserving Whitehall residents who have beautiful flower/vegetable gardens or wonderful landscaping through the summer months. The Club entered a float in the Whitehall Frontier Days Parade

and took first place. We are planning to plant a "Pink Garden" in front of the new Whitehall Ambulance and Training Center in the shape of the Cancer Awareness logo. It will give residents and visitors a warm welcome to Whitehall. There's never a dull moment in the Whitehall Garden Club.



Big Sky Stars

- ★ A Star to new Nashua Gumbo Gal member Linda Kaveshan for completing Level 1 Master Gardener with plans in the works to teach Junior Master Gardener program.
- ★ A Star to Pat Darnell for excellent leadership to her adopted city and Anaconda Garden Club.
- ★ A Star to Glenna Waltee, Whitehall Garden Club, Montana's newest National Garden Club Life Member.

MFGC 2013 Convention

Ruth Layton, Chairman

It's that time of year again. Time to mark your calendar with plans to attend the MFGC 76th convention, "Montana Treasures." This meeting is open to all MFGC members. Current and newly elected club presidents and district directors are urged to attend. NGC President Linda Nelson will be our honored guest and install new officers and District Directors. Speakers will present programs on growing edibles, floral design, community gardening, entering a fair and photography. More information will be distributed at the District meetings and published on the website and in the next issue of Montana Gardens.

When: June 28 & 29, 2013

Where: Jorgenson's Hotel & Restaurant,
1714 11th Ave., Helena MT.

Phone 406-442-1770

Great rates \$99.99 + tax for Queen or Double Queen. That also includes Hot breakfast with registration. Rooms include a refrigerator and microwave.

The rate has been extended to include June 27th for anyone coming on Thursday as the meeting will start Friday morning.

Block of rooms will be held until June 1st. Rooms are extremely limited.

Mention Code "Garden Club" when booking your reservation.

It is suggested you book early because Helena will be very busy that weekend.



Jubilee Grant Available

Mary McLane, Chairman



MARY MCLANE

MFGC is offering Jubilee Grants for the second and final year to promote community beautification by your club. Those clubs that applied last year will not be eligible. The Grant funds, which are up to \$200, must be matched by your club or other outside sources. You will need to describe your club project, how funds will be spent, and how your project will improve or impact your community when you apply for these funds. Before and after pictures are helpful. The application is available from your club president or online and is due March 15, 2013, and will be awarded at the district meetings.

Send your grant proposal to Mary McLane, 3555 Buffalo Trail Rd., Molt, MT 59057-2109.

Former Club Presidents

A Bit of History—Great Falls Flower Growers and the Federation



LEFT TO RIGHT: Nelone Nilsen, Marialyce Martin, Inga Bradley, Gail Zarr, Luana Maxwell, Bev Knoll, former MFGC President Darlene Skari, and Delores Gregory

Great Falls Flower Growers dedicated their February meeting in honor of the club's former presidents, pictured above. This year is also the 75th anniversary of their affiliation with the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs. The club formed March 10, 1933 under the organizational skills of 6 energetic ladies, and now, 80 years later, they have a long history of undertaking large civic projects and community beautification.

Clubs in Butte and in the Bitterroot Valley formed Montana Federation of Garden Clubs in September 1937. The Great Falls club soon joined the Federation. MFGC affiliated with National Garden Clubs in 1938, 75 years ago. In July of 1956, MFGC officers passed a resolution to adopt bylaws as a nonprofit unincorporated organization, signed by Alice Hamilton, Esther Hamel and Mrs. Harold Leach at the Florence Hotel in Missoula. MFGC officially incorporated June 9, 1958, and later became an IRS 501(c) 3 educational nonprofit organization on June 1, 2000. Thirty-seven women and men have served as Federation presidents.

Membership Retention Tips

Diane Ward, State Membership Chairman



DIANE WARD

When someone joins a new club or organization, the excitement and enthusiasm of the group spills over to the newest members. **Enthusiasm** is contagious. People who are happy and excited can be very productive. Making someone new feel like she/he belongs increases the club's "working force" and she/he will become another valuable club member.

Have you ever gone to a meeting where you were "the new kid on the block"? I have, and I found it easier to mingle and get involved with those around me when **name tags** were worn. As President of your club, you can avoid embarrassment of not knowing member's names when everyone has a name tag. A new member, as well as an existing member, will feel more welcome when their name is remembered. Speaking with someone and using a name

is a more friendly means of communication. A name tag will also assist other members in putting a name with a face.

Another small gesture that will make someone feel welcome and happy she is member of your Club is **greeting that person at the door**. Greet that new or old member at each meeting with a big smile. You'll be amazed how good someone feels with a warm, friendly smile. You'll make her day and she'll look forward to each meeting, knowing she is welcome and among good friends. Let your members know you value their membership — that they are important.

Member Services

Carol Works, Member Services Chairman



CAROL WORKS

Congratulations Glenna Waltee for becoming Montana's most recent National Life Member. Every garden club member is eligible to join. National Life Members may receive the National Gardener free for life (as long as you continue local garden club membership). A portion of the membership fee is tax-deductible. The interest from your \$200 membership fee enables NGC to give several annual \$3500 scholarships. I have NGC Life Member applications, or click National Life Members on the website for an application, fill it out and mail it with your check to me, as I have to sign it before I mail to the National chairman.

MFGC clubs have donated over \$1000 in the past three and a half years to help reforest Montana National Forests. The U.S. Forest Service thanks all clubs and individuals who have donated to Penny Pines! Each forest places the money into a fund, along with other donations received. When they are ready to reforest, the money is available.

Be sure to check out the NGC website at www.gardenclub.org, click member services to see all that is available from National such as flower show supplies, books, program suggestions, pins, other jewelry and more. It is your garden club store! The new 100% silk scarf is beautiful, designed with all the state logos represented. NGC is Shopping Partners with Becky Bulbs, Gardeners Supply Co., Oasis Supply, and New Flower Magazine, who pay a percentage of purchases to NGC. Keep them in mind when you are ready to shop. From now to April 2013, you can contact me at 7750 E. Broadway Rd, Lot 789, Mesa, AZ 85208, Ph (480)354-1956.

Chaplain's Message

Grace Lucas, Chaplain



GRACE LUCAS

Henry David Thoreau said, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." This quote could be changed just a little to say, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Raise the garden you have imagined."

You have the knowledge and confidence to achieve your goal. You can get inspiration in looking at the catalogs that have come out. Then look forward to the beautiful colors to enjoy this summer and do your part in making your neighborhood a more enjoyable place to live.

Donations

Endowment Fund interest will be used for grants to fund speakers, seminars, workshops or the purchase of technological equipment to present programs. Donations are tax deductible.

- ◆ In Memory of Michael Riley and Barbara Tucker by Darlene Skari, \$100
- ◆ In Memory of Irene Gottfried by Phyllis White, \$20
- ◆ In Memory of Irene Gottfried by Arlo and Darlene Skari, \$50

2012-13 Montana Rose Life Members to benefit horticulture scholarships presented by MFGC Life Members. Donations are tax deductible.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| ◆ Linda Sadler | ◆ Phyllis White |
| ◆ Susan Woods | ◆ Pat Biggs |
| ◆ Jane Ereaux | ◆ Joyce Backa |
| ◆ Sue Leferink | ◆ Glenna Waltee |

Dollars For Scholars Club donations to benefit Life Member Scholarships

- ◆ Dearborn Garden Club

Penny Pines 2012 donations:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ◆ Butte Garden Study Group (\$68) | ◆ Rainbow Garden Club (\$136) |
| ◆ Anaconda Job Corps Junior Garden Club (\$340) | |

Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Winners:

First grade, Gabby Giblette, sponsored by Malta Dirt Daubers
 Second grade, Brylee French, sponsored by Malta Dirt Daubers
 Third grade, Reese Styman, sponsored by the Stevensville Garden Club
 Fourth grade, Annika Beckner, sponsored by the Great Falls Flower Growers
 Fifth grade, Naomi Nickisch, sponsored by the Great Falls Flower Growers



Gabby Giblette



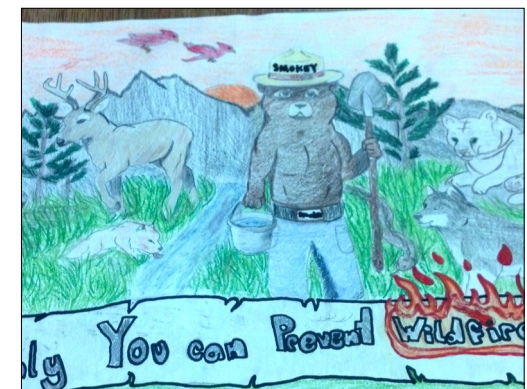
Brylee French



Reese Styman



Annika Beckner



Naomi Nickisch

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