

# MONTANA

# Gardens



The Missouri River reflects a winter wonderland. This scene is repeated throughout Montana where the Missouri, its headwaters and its tributaries flow through most MFGC Districts in the state.

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**The Official Publication of The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, INC.  
Winter 2013 — Volume 59 — Issue 4**

## President's Desk



**Denise Fink**  
**President MFGC 2013-2015**  
**Glendive Garden Club**

This President had the honor to represent the great state of Montana in St. Louis, Missouri at the National Fall Board. I'm happy to report it didn't rain and we toured our National Headquarter's and the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Our bus driver told us that the Missouri Botanical Gardens were started by George Bernard Shaw. We

found this interesting because we thought he lived in London, but it turned out it was *Henry Saw*, who is interred in the Gardens in a stained glass mausoleum, with his likeness carved in alabaster laying on his sarcophagus. We saw some great Victorian gardens made with succulents in patterns but were told all the tiny succulents have to be pulled and put into greenhouses in the winter. *Oh, what one can do with 60 or 70 gardeners!*

Our National president, Linda Nelson, had a panel of chairmen presenting information on her theme, "*Making a World of Difference - Choices Mater.*" This will be a project that has the clubs applying for awards directly to the National Chairman. There is an overall chairman, then chairmen for each aspect of the conservation pledge: *Air, Water, Forest, Land and Wildlife*. Your club should be able to find many interesting projects from these areas. I have included information from the chairman in the club president's packets. We have some wonderful DVD's on backyard sanctuaries as well as many other pertinent topics. (see list on page 10).

Our Rocky Mountain Director's project overlaps: "*Tread Lightly on Land and Water.*" I'm thinking water conservation, mulches and composting, river cleanup, noxious weed cleanup...and the list goes on and on! To make the most of your opportunities use a Linda Nelson Educational grant to bring a top notch speaker for your club. And, to apply for an "*Honor the Past, Embrace the Future Award*" you should have something old or new in your project.

Annie Mollock has graciously agreed to be chairman of the RMR project, and Joyce Hendricks, who didn't have enough to do being second vice president and district director will do the NGC project. Oh yes, Joyce also has the convention in Billings next year. Luckily there are lots of wonderful and experienced helpers there.

Our Chairmen have been very busy preparing information for you on many areas of interests, and Linda Sadler, also an overly busy vice president, has been busy, busy on awards. I am always available on the phone or email and look forward to serving all of you this term.

Thank you,  
*Denise Fink*

## 2013-2015 Officers

**Denise Fink** *President* fink52daf@gmail.com  
**Linda Sadler** *1st Vice President* 43sadler@bresnan.net  
**Joyce Hendricks** *2nd Vice President* mjh1@optimum.net  
**Glenna Waltee** *Treasurer* gdwaltee@q.com  
**Lynn Mahan** *Recording Secretary* mahanik@optimum.net  
**Jim Sadler** *Corresp. Secretary* jimsadler@bresnan.net  
**Darlene Skari** *Parliamentarian* dskari@3riversdbs.net

### DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

#2 Cheryl Carroll	#3 Nancy Johnson
#4 Judy Rente	#5 Pat Biggs
#6 Vanette Nagamori	#7 Jane Ereaux, Sharon Miller
#8 Marie Jones	#10 Joyce Hendricks
#12 Anna Brandt	

### ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

**Phyllis White**, *Chairman*  
**Norman DeNeal**, **Darlene Skari**, **Ruth Layton**,  
**Mary McLane**, **Mary Olson**, **Jean Thomas**, **Marie Jones**

### MONTANA Gardens

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This issue is available in color at <http://www.MTFGC.org>

### 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*  
Suite 531 The Columbus Center  
1601 Second Avenue North  
Great Falls, Montana 59401  
406-727-7633 – [tamarackgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:tamarackgroup@yahoo.com)



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

### ADVERTISING RATES

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### Submission Reminder

**Deadline / Issue**  
February 1 / Spring  
April 1 / Summer  
July 1 / Fall  
November 1 / Winter

### 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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# NGC PROJECT

## Native Bee / BeeGAP

(Gardeners Adding Pollinators)



*Sue Leferink, BeeGAP Chairman*

It is estimated that bees pollinate about one third of the food we eat. Bees are on the decline along with many other pollinating insects due to a variety of factors. You can help increase the survival rate of native bees and raise money for your club at the same time. Mason bees are very gentle solitary bees native to the United States. Only the female has a stinger, and if on the rare occasion one does sting it is similar to a mosquito bite. These small metallic blue bees are amazing spring pollinators. One Mason bee can pollinate the same amount of blossoms as 100 honey bees.

The National Council of Garden Clubs (NGC) has partnered with Crown Bees, a Washington based mom and pop company. We can join in this new national project in one of several ways to support our bee populations:

- Learn how to create a Mason Bee friendly environment in your garden by visiting <http://crownbees.com/beeschool/>
- Sign up for Bee Mail at <http://crownbees.com/mason-bees-newsletter-from-crown-bees/> to receive newsletters on tips and tricks for raising Mason Bees.
- Raise Mason Bees in our gardens and collect excess Mason Bee cocoons to sell as a club fund-raiser. Crown Bees will pay current wholesale prices for harvested cocoon and 40% for unharvested cocoons. Individual

members can sign up for the Bee GAP program at <http://crownbees.com/ngcsignup/>



- Become a member of the NGC BeeGap Speakers Bureau and teach clubs, schools and local organizations about the importance of bees by signing up through the [ngcsignup](http://crownbees.com/ngcsignup/) link above. Crown Bees will provide reference materials. This is another way to earn money for your club. You can charge a speakers fee or offer coupons that will give a portion of the sale back to the speaker. Best of all these educational programs will qualify for the national project Making a Difference - <http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/president's-projects/making-a-difference.aspx>
- Sell Crown Bee Products. You can purchase bee supplies through Crown Bees at a 30% discount and sell them in your local community as a club fundraiser. You will receive a discount on bee supply products through the web site – Details will be posted on the National Garden Club web site in the spring: <http://www.shopgardenclub.org/shop/custom.aspx?recid=1>

If you purchase Mason Bees be sure to select the Western Blue Orchard Mason Bee, *Osmia lignaria propinqua*, which is the species native to our region. If you have questions about the BeeGAP program or bees in general contact your Montana State Native Bee/BeeGAP Chairman, **Sue Leferink**, [nditch@bresnan.net](mailto:nditch@bresnan.net), 406-439-5206, 7 Fiesta Court, East Helena, Montana 59635

If you create an environment for Mason Bees you are eligible for Wildlife Habitat Certification through the National Federation of Wildlife. For details check out [www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx)



NGC President Linda Nelson says that “*MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE*” in our environment is the goal shared by this newly formed partnership. Crown Bees is a mason bee pollination and education company and National Garden Clubs, Inc. is the largest worldwide nonprofit organization of volunteers pursuing gardening’s best practices and education for a sustainable environment. President Nelson says that, “The hallmark of National Garden Club activities is to protect and conserve our natural resources, and to promote education so we may all be better caretakers of our beautiful planet.” She also says that, “Increasing bee awareness and promoting the use of bee safe products allow us to be part of this powerful solution.”

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN Regional Project

## "Make Water Choices for a Green World"

The Rocky Mountain Regional project is "Make Water Choices for a Green World." The "Make Water Choices for a Green World" was selected as water (rain) is the livelihood of the entire RMR area. Members are asked to maintain good quality water for drinking, recreation, fish and wildlife. Everything we do influences our water quality and availability.

Following are some ways you can improve the water environment in your own backyard: planting trees and shrubs, making wildlife habitats, adding backyard ponds and wetlands, composting, mulching, terracing, practicing safe pest management, conserving water, and applying only the nutrients needed.

Some ideas for community projects would be:

- Purchase and plant trees at a local park or community center
- Spearhead a city composting program
- Encourage members to commit to using only natural/non-chemical products in their gardens, which include no artificial pesticides or herbicides
- Partner with local parks department on projects to conserve water, and maintain natural wildlife habitats

These are just a few ideas. I have confidence that garden clubs throughout the state will come up with many more of their own ideas for a **water conservation project**.

Our Regional Director, Beverly Heidelberger is asking all the clubs in the Rocky Mountain Region to do a project and submit a report which would be a paragraph or two, with pictures if available, to the **Award of Excellence Chairman, Annie Mollock**, by **October 1, 2014**. You can mail it to: Annie at 7151 Walker Road, Bozeman, MT 59715 or submit an electronic copy to her at [dragonflydragonfli@yahoo.com](mailto:dragonflydragonfli@yahoo.com).

As garden club members we need to be good examples of stewardship and educate others on the benefit of a healthy environment for future generations.

I encourage all of you to improve your community environment and have fun working together on a project you have a passion for!

**ANNIE MOLLOCK**

**Award of Excellence Chairman**  
406-570-8136

**MFGC second place - Large clubs**

**Award of Excellence for  
2011-2013 Regional Project  
"We Make Our World a  
Better Place to Live"**



*Presentation of Higgins' 1909*



*Painting of Roses to the Butte Archives*

## PIONEER MONTANA GARDENER'S PAINTINGS DONATED TO BUTTE ARCHIVES

Alma Bielenberg-Higgins, Montana's most renowned gardener in the late 19th and first half of the 20th century who was instrumental in founding the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs had two of her oil paintings donated to the Butte Archives in September. Claudia Bielenberg-Thorsrud, Higgins' great niece in Big Fork, Montana, made the donation. Higgins, a fine art oil painter, also studied under some of the most renowned ceramics teachers in the country in her early life.

Higgins was the daughter of Nicholas Bielenberg, the half brother of Conrad Kohrs. The early Bielenberg and Kohrs families were a very successful cattle ranchers. Alma moved to Butte in 1920 where she maintained her primary residence for the rest of her life. She organized the planting of the White House living Christmas tree in 1924, was one of the leaders who began the School of Forestry at the University of Montana in Missoula, began our National Garden Week in 1923 first celebrated in Butte in 1922, led the landscaping of the campus of the Montana School of Mines (*today's Montana Tech*), planted hundreds of trees in Butte and Thompson Park south of Butte, and designed, built and maintained Butte's finest in-city garden across the street from the present Public Library on Broadway.

Though Higgins' national and Montana contributions have endured, her Butte contributions have largely been lost. Trees planted along West Broadway, Montana and Excelsior Streets were cut down by the Butte Park's Commission. Only the trees she planted in 1928 along Rowe Road exist. Her garden next to the present Covellite Theatre was lost a few years after her death in 1962. A bronze plaque in the garden wall, noting her 30 year maintenance remains. There is a plan by both Northwestern Energy and Butte-Silver Bow's Urban Revitalization Agency to restore part of that garden in 2014. The Butte Garden Study Group voted to have an explanatory plaque made to accompany the donated paintings to note Higgins' contributions.

Higgins was responsible for building the Women's Clubhouse in Deerlodge in 1910, the result of her 30 years of fund-raising. The clubhouse still serves women and girls in the community. She befriended Butte's Evelyn Mooney, who rose to become National Garden Club's national president in 1957 and was responsible for building the organization's national headquarters building in St. Louis, Missouri next to the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Mooney led the NGC in its heyday with over 500,000 members. Higgins and Mooney spearheaded Butte garden clubs which grew to have over 400 members in eighteen neighborhood clubs. This partnership gave Butte the largest number of garden club members of any city in the Western United States per capita. During this time Butte, not Missoula, was known as Montana's garden city... *a remarkable achievement since in 1892 Butte had not a single living plant within the city limits as a result of fumes generated from toxic smelter smoke that killed every living plant within the city!*

# MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

2013 Fall Board Report, Missoula, MT

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

## MFGC WEBSITE [www.mtfgc.org](http://www.mtfgc.org)

The website is updated weekly. Each *garden club* has a page to publish any material they wish at no charge. Please look at your club's page and send me new material and/or pictures via email. The page may be updated periodically throughout the year. If you have a public event, such as a plant sale, garden tour, or holiday bazaar, please send the date and information for the Calendar page. If you wish to place an ad for the event on the opening page of the MFGC website, send me the information at least a month prior to the event. Ads cost \$10 for front page placement.

*State chairmen* are encouraged to send information and documents for the website. These are usually placed under "*Projects, Schools and Scholarships*" or "*Gardening Know-How*." Please send information in "*Word*" format. Clubs are encouraged to place the website address in their yearbooks, when submitting information to local news outlets, and on posters and flyers so that the public can find contact information about your club.

In the past year, the site has been accessed over 39,000 times; over 150,000 pages or documents were viewed. The most frequently viewed downloads are issues of Montana Gardens. The annual site costs are \$180 for broadband space, and \$17.47 for the name [mtfgc.org](http://mtfgc.org).

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Seven members of the Nominating Committee will be elected at the 2014 MFGC Convention in Billings. Members from across the state (*one from each District*) are encouraged to run for these positions to provide a broad spectrum of experience and knowledge of candidates. This chairman is developing a Committee Procedure Manual based on one from National Garden Clubs, and will send it to committee members upon their election. Candidates for Vice President (2), Recording Secretary and Treasurer may be interviewed by the committee at the 2014 Fall Board in Malta. Therefore, committee members should plan to attend that meeting; most of the work of the committee will be performed between September 2014 and April 2015. A slate of candidates will be published in Montana Gardens before the 2015 Convention.

## ZONE 4 PARTNERSHIP

The MFGC / Zone 4 subscription partnership continues whereby \$5 from every subscription noted as "Garden Club" will be donated to MFGC for the Awards Account. Subscriptions may be purchased by anyone for their personal use, for gifts and for renewal subscriptions if the purchaser lets Zone 4 know they are connected with the garden club. Subscriptions may be made via their phone system, 406-586-8540, or online at [zone4magazine.com](http://zone4magazine.com). You may also use the attached form and mail it to Zone 4, P O Box 3208, Bozeman, MT 59772. If you use a pre-printed form supplied by Zone 4, write "Garden Club" above your name. Subscriptions to the quarterly magazine cost \$24. MFGC has earned more than \$200 since the partnership started about 9 months ago.

Subscribe to **ZONE 4 Magazine** and help the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs at the same time! **ZONE 4** is pleased to donate \$5 from each subscription order to benefit the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs.

Ever feel that the national gardening magazines pay scant attention to the challenges of growing in the Rocky Mountain West? That's why Zone 4 was created—not only to help gardeners be more successful, but also to connect people, places and events in these states through departments such as Around the Zone and Garden Club News.

New subscriptions, renewals or gift subscriptions qualify for the donation. Simply fill out the order form to the right and return it to **Zone 4 Magazine, PO Box 3208, Bozeman, MT 59772-3208** with payment. Or, feel free to order on the telephone, **406-586-8540** where we can take your credit card information. For online orders, please go to [www.zone4magazine.com](http://www.zone4magazine.com). Then, place your order, and under "How did you hear about Zone 4", type in the code MTFGC so that the Federation can be credited.

**Thank you for supporting the MFGC Awards Program!**

## ZONE 4 ORDER FORM – GARDEN CLUB

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**QUESTIONS? CALL 406-586-8540 OR EMAIL  
[ANDRA@ZONE4MAGAZINE.COM](mailto:ANDRA@ZONE4MAGAZINE.COM)**

# District Directors



District Directors have the job of advancing the objectives of the National, Regional and State Garden Clubs to club members in their respective districts. They work to sustain current clubs and members as well as organize new clubs within their district. They are the conduit of information between state meetings, relating information on programs and projects and act as a liaison between state officers and club presidents. They visit each club in their District. **Introducing MFGC District Directors:**

## **WESTERN DISTRICT #2 CHERYL CAROLL\***

## **SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT #3**

### **NANCY JOHNSON**

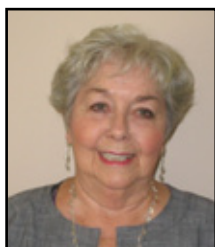
Nancy is from Dillon, Montana. She learned the names of trees, grasses, forbes, shrubs and wildflowers from her father while growing up on a ranch on the South Fork of the Dearborn River. While she was working at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Dillon next door to Mike Riley's home, she decided she wanted to learn more about gardening and joined the Dillon Garden Club family.

## **LEWIS & CLARK DISTRICT #4 JUDY RENTE**



Judy has been a member of the Gallatin Empire Garden Club for 12 years. Like most, she joined because she wanted to know about gardening in Montana. And she keeps learning! It was an unexpected benefit when she learned how to create floral designs. *"We have so many talented designers in our club who are very willing to share their expertise with others."* She adds, *"As the years pass, there's always more to look forward to learning!"* Judy was presented her club's 2013 Green Thumb Award.

## **CENTRAL DISTRICT #5 PAT BIGGS**



Pat joined Great Falls Flower Growers in 2006, sponsored by Gail Zarr and has been active in many things since joining. She has been co-chairman of the club's holiday tea for two years as well as flower arrangements to be given away and table decorations for meetings. She served as GFFG 1st and 2nd vice-president for two years and was an award winning yearbook chairman. She has been responsible for the club's website and arranging program meetings. Pat served as 2012 MFGC Resource chairman doing workshops for new presidents and acting as a resource for grants. She is excited about being a District Director and her first newsletter to her district members.

## **NORTHERN DISTRICT #6 VANETTE NAGAMORI**



When Vanette was in school they did not have junior garden club members. Her mother was in the Green Thumb Garden Club on the west side of Great Falls and did not enjoy making all the required flower arrangements so Vanette started doing a few for the flower show at the Westside Bank. She joined Rainbow Garden Club in 2006. When they wanted to start a Garden club in Fort Benton she served as acting President until they officially became a club, then was their first president. She and her husband live on a ranch near Loma.

## **HI LINE DISTRICT #7**

### **SHARON MILLER (left) & JANE EREAUX**



Jane and Sharon are serving their third term as District Directors. Sharon joined the Malta Dirt Daubers 15 years ago. She was invited to join, but waited a year and another invitation before she joined the club...and has been very involved ever since! She is the club's current president. Jane joined Malta Dirt Daubers over 18 years ago, and she too has been very involved ever since. Their large District stretches from the center of Montana to the North Dakota border. They produce a District Newsletter and hold workshops.

## **EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT #8 MARIE JONES\***

## **YELLOWSTONE DISTRICT #10**

### **JOYCE HENDRICKS**

Joyce is a native Montanan, born and raised on a ranch out of Lodge Grass. Her mother loved flowers and gardening and passed that love on to Joyce. She has worked for 45 years as a pediatric nurse, including a six-year stint in the Air Force. She and her husband moved to Billings in 1998 and was invited to join Thumb R Green Garden Club by Shirley Spildie. She enjoys club activities, meeting new people and learning about flowers and gardening. She completed the last exam to become an accredited Flower Show Judge. She says, *"Learning something new each time I interact with other gardeners is such a joy."*

## **EASTERN GATEWAY DISTRICT #12**

### **ANNA BRANDT**



Anna joined the Miles City Garden Club six years ago and is on her second term as president. She was elected Eastern Gateway District Director this spring. Her passion for gardening was passed down to her from her mother. She said if you couldn't find her mother anywhere, *all you had to do was look in the garden!*

*\* Bios for the District Directors for Western District #2 and East Central District #8 will be printed in the next edition of Montana Gardens*

## This and That...

**Notes from LINDA SADLER 1st Vice President** The weather is changing and the fall colors are beginning to appear. The red oak leaves and the red burning bushes are so spectacular. **With the cooler weather, it is time to put the garden to sleep.** Roses need their roots covered with mulch as well as any other newly transplanted plants.

If the rose branches are high, they can be cut down to knee height to keep the stems from whipping in the wind. You don't want to mulch until the ground is frozen probably in November. Keep roses well watered to keep the frost from going down into the ground and freezing the roots.

Clean the tubers thoroughly when digging dahlias. Let the tubers dry. You can cut the tubers but be sure each piece has an eye. Spritz the tubers with Lysol to keep mold from forming. The tubers can be wrapped in Saran wrap and stored in a bucket. Choose a cool place but not the garage or anywhere they might freeze. A root cellar may be fine. Check in January or February to make sure the tubers are not dry or rotted.

How do you keep the Christmas tree fresh? When buying, rub your hand down the branch. If needles fall into your hand, the tree is dry. A commercial product which seals in the plant moisture is **Wilt Pruf**. It can also be used on roses to help winterize the plant. As some of you know, Jim and I are now planning our Christmas decorating inside and outside. *We start the weekend after Halloween!*

Merry Christmas

## Flower Show School Report

Three flower show students took the test. They are: Mary Kempf of Dillon, Joyce Hendricks of Billings and Carol Works of Big Sandy. Wish them good luck!

We are planning a Symposium in 2014 in Great Falls on July 9-10, 2014 hosted by GFFG and Rainbow. A Symposium is open to anyone who wants to attend to acquire knowledge on Horticulture and Design. Judges are required to attend every three years to keep in good standing. It will be held at the Holiday Inn. Local chairman is Luana Maxwell and Local Registrar is Elaine Dow. Instructors are: Horticulture - David Robson - Springfield, IL and Claudia Chopp - Sturgeon Bay, WI. Our topics of study are Petunias and Daylilies. Design will be Underwater and Illuminary Design (form in Spring MT Gardens).

If you are interested in starting another series of Flower Show Schools, please contact me. We need about 10 people who are interested in becoming judges and committed to the series of 4 courses, and also clubs interested in hosting the schools.

Montana currently has 8 Emeritus Judges, 15 Accredited Master Judges, 7 Accredited Life Judges, 4 Accredited and 6 Student Judges.

*Susan J. Billmayer*  
**State Credentials Chairman**

## WILDFLOWERS AND NATIVES

by SUE LEFERINK, CHAIRMAN

When we talk about growing native plants in our garden most people have visions of juniper, sagebrush or yucca. However, there are many beautiful Montana wildflowers, shrubs and trees that would thrive and look gorgeous in our gardens. There are several reasons for using native plants in our landscaping projects, such as water conservation, fire protection, pest control and increased biodiversity.

Every time you grow a Montana native plant, you provide more food for the local pollinating insects and will have more wildlife in your garden. When planning your garden, take a hike and observe the plants in their native environment or visit a native plant nursery and ask for advice. The Montana native Plant society web site also has some great resources including landscape tips, a list of local nurseries and grants available – [www.mtnativeplants.org/Native\\_Plant\\_Landscaping](http://www.mtnativeplants.org/Native_Plant_Landscaping)

Montana is diverse and many wild plants exist only in a specific part of the state. When shopping at nurseries stick with ones close to your location for the best results or select plants that grow in all regions of Montana.

To learn more about native plants, check out the MFGC Facebook site for the native plant of the month and the Helena Garden Club's web page on creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat Garden – [helenagardenclub.wordpress.com/certified-wildlife-habitat-garden](http://helenagardenclub.wordpress.com/certified-wildlife-habitat-garden) Don't forget to look up the Montana Federation of Garden Club Awards available to see if your project qualifies. If you have any questions about how to get started, please contact me.

The following reference books are a good source of information on Montana native plants:

- \* *Alpine Wildflowers* - Dr. Dee Strickler
- \* *Alpine Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountains* - Joseph H Duff and Robert Moseley
- \* *Central Rocky Mountain Wildflowers* - H Wayne Phillips (Falcon)
- \* *Edible and Medicinal Plants of the West* - Gregory I. Tilford
- \* *Field Guide to North American Wildflowers, Western Region* - National Audubon Society
- \* *Manual of Montana Vascular Plants* - Peter Lesica
- \* *Montana Native Plants & Early Peoples* - Jeff Hart
- \* *Northern Rocky Mountain Wildflowers* - Wayne Phillips (Falcon)
- \* *Plants of the Rocky Mountains* - Linda Kershaw, Andy MacKinnon, Jim Pojar
- \* *Prairie Wildflowers* - Dr. Dee Strickler
- \* *Rocky Mountain Wildflowers* - John J. Craighead, Frank C. Craighead Jr., Ray J. Davis - (Peterson Field Guides)
- \* *The History and Folklore of North American Wildflowers* - Timothy Coffey
- \* *Weeds of the West* - Tom D. Whitson, Editor
- \* *Wildflowers of Montana* - Donald Anthony Schiemann
- \* *Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountains* - Carl Schreier (Lone Pine)
- \* *Wild Wildflowers of the West* - Edith S. Kinucan, Penney R. Brons

Additional information regarding Wildflowers collected by Lewis and Clark by Susan Andrews is on the MFGC website – [www.mtfgc.org/pdfs/lewis%20clark%20wildflowers.pdf](http://www.mtfgc.org/pdfs/lewis%20clark%20wildflowers.pdf). Also, read about how the Stevensville Garden Club received a \$3,000 Forest Service grant to establish a native plant educational garden.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Jackie Freedom, MFGC Membership Chairman

As the new State Membership Chairman, I hope to be able to share ideas and suggestions that will be helpful with your recruiting of new members as well as sustaining those members you already have. The key to this is to **GET THE WORD OUT**. We have to let others know that we exist and what we're all about. Set a goal to have something in the local newspaper. Monthly would be wonderful but once or twice a year may be more realistic.

Keep your webpage information up to date by emailing Phyllis at [phylliswhite@bresnan.net](mailto:phylliswhite@bresnan.net) so potential and existing members will know just what's happening within your group and don't forget our Facebook page. It's a terrific resource of ideas and information. Access it by clicking on the Facebook icon on our website, [www.MTFGC.org](http://www.MTFGC.org).

Are you the Membership Chairman of your group? If so, send me your contact information. New membership brochures have been ordered from National Garden Clubs and I will be happy to send some to you and add your name to my mailing list.

Most importantly, I'm announcing a **CONTEST! ...open to all clubs**. The challenge is to create a "Membership Brochure" of your very own. The brochure will be limited to a single sheet of 8 1/2"x11" paper that may be printed on one or both sides, folded or not. It must include the following information:

- **Club Goals and objectives**
- **Club sponsored projects**
- **Contact information for meetings**

You are free to include anything else you would like. Entries will be judged on clarity, organization, presentation, creativity and overall design. Deadline for entries will be **Thursday, May 1, 2014**. There will be a \$\$\$ prize.

**Remember that personal contact is the number one way to attract and retain new members. A personal invitation to attend a meeting or activity is often all it takes. Send/email any membership ideas that you or your group has used or is using. Let's help each other by sharing our successes and grow our membership.**



My contact information is Jackie Freedom, 1700 Mountain Goat Trail, Bozeman, MT 59715  
Phone: 406-599-2536  
Email: [kapandjap@gmail.com](mailto:kapandjap@gmail.com)

*I'm looking forward to hearing from you!*

## Member Services

Be sure to check out the NGC website at: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), click **Member Services** to see all that is available from National; flower show supplies, books, club programs, study plans, pins, other jewelry and more. It is your garden club store! The 100% silk scarf, (*available in blue or green*) is beautiful, designed with all state garden club logos represented.

Information for NGC Shopping Partners is found under News & Events, click on **Shopping Partners**. You will find; Bloomin' Bucks (*Brent & Becky's Bulbs*), Gardeners Supply Co., & Oasis Floral Products. The correct website for another Partner, New Flower Magazine is, [www.flowermag.com/subscribe](http://www.flowermag.com/subscribe), phone number 1-877-400-3074. All Partnerships pay a percentage of purchases to NGC. Keep them in mind when you are ready to shop.

Come on MT garden club members, let's again win that **National Life Membership**, NGC award based on % of National Life Members. Becoming a National Life Member is easy, just send your \$200 membership fee and application for me to sign, and I will send on to the NGC Chairman. (*\$119 is tax deductible*) Applications are available from me, or at the NGC website. The monies are invested, and only the interest is used to give \$3500 scholarships. You will not only be growing the scholarship fund, you may receive the **National Gardener** free for as long as you continue being a garden club member.

The new NGC President's project is **MAKING A WORLD of DIFFERENCE – CHOICES MATTER**, and there are numerous On-going Projects. **For information go to the NGC website, and click on projects.**

### Carol Works, Member Services Chairman

Remember: **November 2013 to April 2014**, contact me at:  
7750 E. Broadway Rd, Lot 789  
Mesa, AZ 85208

Phone: (480) 354-1956



### 2014 MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BILLINGS, MONTANA

JUNE 21 - 22, 2014

HOLIDAY INN

THEME: Gardening is Healthy

**There will be something for everyone! Plan to come, learn and have some fun!**

## BLUE STAR MEMORIALS

Kathy Austin, Blue Star Memorial Chairman

The Blue Star Memorial Program has been in existence through the Garden Club movement for more than 65 years. NGC, Inc. is committed to placing Blue Star Memorial markers on our Highways and Byways in honor of our nation's Armed Forces. *Each time a Blue Star Marker is dedicated, we show our love for our country and our appreciation for the Armed Services of America.*

The large Highway Markers are permitted on highways and highway rest areas. The Memorial Markers are permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, Veteran Administration Medical Centers and any other appropriate civic location as approved by the NGC Blue Star Chairman. A smaller By-Way Marker is permitted in parks, historical sites and other civic locations.

The NGC awards Certificates of Merit for outstanding Blue Star Memorial Marker landscaping projects. The project may be continuous, but major landscaping must be completed within two years. The project may be a replacement for a destroyed or long neglected landscape.

If your community already has a Blue Star Memorial, perhaps your club can work to place a marker at another highway rest area or civic location. The Hamilton garden club recently "re-dedicated" their "lost" memorial marker. Do you know of others that are missing? NGC suggests we work with our VFW and American Legions as well as their Auxiliaries to help coordinate marker locations.

*Please contact me if you have any questions and I will work to help you in all phases from planning through the final dedication.*

Kathy Austin

**BLUE STAR MEMORIAL CHAIRMAN**

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

**Phone: 406-727-0206**

### DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB NOW IN CENTRAL DISTRICT 5

Due to their proximity to Great Falls, the Dearborn club was unanimously voted into Central District 5 out of District 4

## Linda Nelson Educational Grant

*The purpose of the Linda Nelson Educational Grant is to promote educational opportunities for MFGC Garden Clubs and to increase utilization of the MFGC's Speakers Bureau and Video/DVD Library.*

The \$200 grant will cover expenses for a speaker to put on a program for your club. A complete list of speakers has been made available on the MFGC's website and in each President's packet.

Contact the speaker to see if he or she is available for the date you desire, then negotiate travel arrangements, overnight stay and honorarium (*not to exceed \$200 in receipts submitted by speaker*). If the speaker is not part of our Speakers Bureau, check to see if they are willing to be added to our list, then get approval from Speaker's Bureau Chairman Linda Clark. If the event is open to the public, do appropriate advertising. Your Garden Club should pay the speaker initially and submit receipts to Chairman Clark for reimbursement.

For reimbursement of postage for any DVD/Video tape mailed from our Multimedia Library, mail the receipt to the chairman for reimbursement. Listed below are a few of the many topics listed by the Speaker's Bureau and the DVDs Books and Video Tapes available from MFGC. Both lists are available on the MFGC website at: [www.MTFGC.org](http://www.MTFGC.org)

**Questions? Contact Linda Clark for additions and corrections: [lindaclark113@msn.com](mailto:lindaclark113@msn.com)**

### Outstanding Program Presentations

- \* Landscaping with Native Plants
- \* Horticulture Therapy
- \* Plant Nomenclature
- \* Creating Flower Show Schedules
- \* Starting Plants from Seed
- \* The Abstract Flower Artist
- \* How to Attract Birds to Your Backyard
- \* Colony Collapse of Bees
- \* Cooking from the Garden...and so many more!

### Outstanding DVDs, Books, Video Tapes

- \* How to Grow and Nurture Seedlings
- \* Invasive Plants of the United States; Control
- \* The Butterfly Farm
- \* New Dimensions in Floral Design
- \* P. Allen Smith: *Bulbs, Roses, Veggies & Herbs*
- \* Square Foot Gardening
- \* Parliamentary Procedures
- \* Design Study Unit...and so many, many more!

# Under Montana's Big Sky

## News from Montana Garden Clubs

### BILLINGS GARDEN CLUBS

MontanaFair touts its concerts, carnival, supercross and rodeo - *the big draws*. But this year, MetraPark General Manager Bill Dutcher is singing praises for the little fair details, too. The fairgrounds have been spruced up with a lot of help from local volunteers and MetraPark staff.

Four local garden clubs planted all the flowers on the fairgrounds and have been tending them. Their work included planting 50 whiskey barrels, 24 hanging baskets and all the flower beds with about \$9,000 in plants supplied by Special K Ranch.

*"Let's have a round of applause for Sow N Grow, Thumbs R Green, Huntley Project Garden Club and Alpha Alpha Preceptor Garden Club,"* said Dutcher. *"It's the best the grounds have ever looked!"*



### CHESTER GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Darlene Skari presented an interesting and educational program on Microgreens. These vegetable seeds are grown in various sized containers which can be placed on kitchen counters or other areas inside. A number of vegetables can be grown this way and leaves may be used in salads or for decorating other food dishes. Seeds such as lettuce, peas, radishes and a mixture of vegetables can be grown and thus used. After Darlene finished the workshop, members had a container of planted seeds to take home.

Members of the Junior Garden Club - 4H members, reported on all the work they had done around Chester as well as at the 4-County Marias Fair this year. A committee will be planning new plantings at the Lions Park as well as changes to the city park club corner.



### GREAT FALLS FLOWER GROWERS RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB HOST FLOWER SHOW

Every other year, two Great Falls Garden Clubs co-host a standard flower show in Central District #5. This year's show was held late in August at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. The theme was *"Living Nursery Rhymes."* It provided the clubs with a fun array of decorating ideas for the show's room and table displays, and, the artistic floral designers with classes such as *"The Sky is Falling"* and *"Too Many Children."*

*Pictured below are two juniors who attended a design workshop in advance of the show and the committee working to accept the 100's of entries.*



Rainbow Garden Club held their annual style show fundraiser on October 26. The theme was *"What Women Wear."* The tables were adorned with beautiful scarves and all the models and fashions were fabulous.

Great Falls Flower Growers will host their annual Holiday Tea and Bazaar on December 5. The theme will be *"Toy Land."* There will be raffles, handicrafts, bake sales, floral arrangements, refreshments and a silent auction.



## Greetings



**"The Dearborn Garden Club sends Season's Greetings to all our friends in the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs!"**

– HELEN SHEWMAN, TREASURER

Christmas Greetings from the Gumbo Gals Garden Club: **"Hoe, Hoe, Hoe from the Gumbo Gals of Nashua!"**

## Donations



- \* In Memory of **Ralph Backa** by Joyce Backa - \$35 to the Life Member Scholarship
- \* In Memory of **Lonna Tempel** by Chester Garden Club - \$25 to the Endowment Fund
- \* Donation by Dearborn Garden Club - \$25 to Life Member Scholarship

## Big Sky Star



**"The Gumbo Gals send a Big Sky Star for recently deceased member, **Barbara Boner**—a pillar of the Nashua community. Her willing, giving spirit will be greatly missed!"**

## Life Members



### NEW LIFE MEMBERS ARE:

- \* **Elaine Dow** of Great Falls Flower Growers
- \* **Gail Stuart, Elaine Lux-Burt, Jenny Perkins, Ray Loftin, Carol Ann Durham, Vivian Wyatt, Frances Glynn** - Anaconda GC
- \* **Martha Adams and Judy Grace** of Gallatin Empire Garden Club
- \* **Rebecca Vetter** of Glendive Garden Club
- \* **Wilma Mavencamp** of Malta Dirt Daubers

### WAY TO GO ANACONDA GARDEN CLUB!

Great Falls Flower Growers and Rainbow Garden Club donated a minimum of \$50 each to **"Dollars for Scholars."**

*Phyllis White, Jim Sadler, Kathleen Waters, Sharon Miller, Patricia Schlaeger, and Creuza Squires* contributed to the **Life Members Rose program.**



**A hearty thank you to all for your commitment to the good of Life Members.**

– SUSAN WOODS, CHAIRMAN

## WRAPPING IT UP...NOTES FROM Patricia Schlaeger, Editor

The Fall Board Meeting in Missoula in October was an excellent opportunity for us all to network and discuss our respective projects as we conducted business at hand, necessary to run our organization within the Federation's operating bylaws.

Timely reports were given, motions made, moved and seconded for the records. Awards were given to recognize various RMR club projects and individuals and, at this point in the proceedings, from my viewpoint in the back of the room, I noticed the mood change. There was a buzz of excitement as club members came to the front of the room to accept award certificates and in some cases, the treasured financial rewards. *Not to mention squeals of delight!*

Working with club members on your projects gives you all a sense of pride, but there is a different feeling when you are praised and rewarded by the state, regional and national garden club organization for your work. Work with your club's award chairman to prepare and file project notes, photographs and any publicity clippings as soon as your project is completed. Be aware of all projects or individual awards your club qualifies for and review deadlines early so you are not burning "midnite oil" to complete your books of evidence or award entry forms. Awards are important to us as individual club members, our state clubs, our region and national organization. This is evidenced by more than 50 pages of Award guidelines in the State President's Handbook given to club presidents. *Be proud of what you do, and be recognized for a job well done!*

## DIRECTORY CHANGES - CORRECTIONS

- Diane Ward** - Change e mail to. [K-d@outdrs.net](mailto:K-d@outdrs.net)  
**Susan Andrews** - Change e mail to. [sugar30@LATMT.com](mailto:sugar30@LATMT.com)  
Add phone 406-582-4135  
**Glenna Waltee** - Add winter address: 12432 W. Rutherford Ct. Boise, ID. 83709 Cell Phone: 406-498-8780  
**Nina Eadie** - Zip code is 59828-9594  
**Judy Locker** - correct phone to 406-685-3666  
**Sherry Corneliusen** - new cell 406-941-3172  
**Jo Daniels** - Change e mail to gmail.com  
**Donna Dowell** - Email. [donnaroses.1942@gmail.com](mailto:donnaroses.1942@gmail.com)  
**Sue Leferink** - Correct phone number to 406-439-5206  
**Lynne Mahan** - Correct phone number to 406-315-2096

## DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS - AWARDS

The Awards Committee will confer and send out a complete list of any corrections and/or additions to the MFGC State Directory's Award Section.

Updated Award information is available on the MFGC website. For additional information, Award deadlines or questions, please contact Linda Sadler, Awards chairman

**43sadler@bresnan.net**

**MONTANA** Gardens  
Diane Ward – Circulation Manager  
P.O. Box 444  
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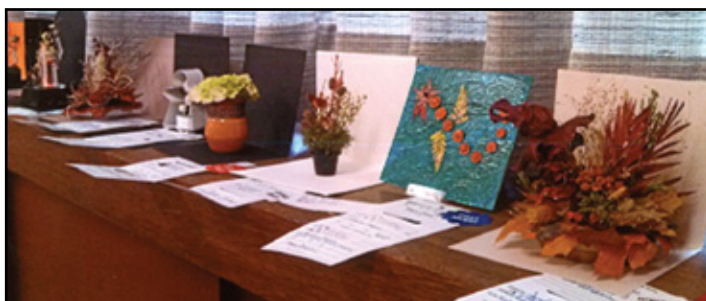
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## *The Magical & Tiny World of Halloween Small Standard Flower Show a Success!*

A standing ovation to Chairman Jim Sadler! The miniature floral arrangements made a hit at the flower show held during the Fall Board meeting in Missoula, and all these beautiful flowers were really show stoppers.



**Merry Christmas \* Happy Chanukah  
Feliz Navidad \* Happy New Year**

*from Denise Fink, Jim and Linda Sadler,  
Joyce Hendricks, Glenna Waltee, Patty Schlager,  
Diane Ward, Darlene Skari, Lynne Mahan and  
all the Chairman, District Directors, Advisors  
and Club Presidents of MFGC!*

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**JANUARY 7** - Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl to Jennifer Strezelczyk

**FEBRUARY 1** - Deadline for submitting information for Spring Montana Gardens

**MAY 1** - MFGC Awards - Linda Sadler EAwards, Kathy Atkinson Design Award - Gary Clark

**\* Check the MFGC website for a complete list of all Program Award Deadlines, District Meetings, NFG and Regional Award Deadlines**