

# MONTANA *Gardens*



*Dedication of the Malta Blue Star Memorial Marker*  
(Left to right) Toni Ziegler & Rosemary Veseth, from the Malta Dirt Daubers  
and Kathy Austin, State Blue Star Memorial Marker Chairman

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## A MESSAGE FROM MFGC

### President Denise Fink



#### Greetings Fellow Gardeners:

It's hard to believe we have put our plants to bed and are back to shoveling snow. Remember, winter is a great time to trim trees and hedges. Their sap flows slowly and you can see the shape of the tree. I use my chipper in the winter to grind up all the limbs that have fallen

or that I have cut off. *In the winter I don't have to worry about spiders and snakes.*

We had a wonderful time in Colorado Springs for the Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting. Darlene Skari will be our new RMR Director so please give her all your support. We also went to Des Moines, Iowa for the National Board Meeting. We (*Darlene, Phyllis and myself*) toured an Architectural Resale House, a beautifully remodeled library, home of the World Prize Organization, the new Des Moines Botanical Gardens and a test garden for *Better Homes and Gardens*. The test garden evaluates new cultivars and provides a place for the photographs to be taken for their magazine spreads.

National Garden Clubs has not had a dues increase for 20 years. Currently we pay 50 cents per member and they need our help. We talked about this at Fall Board in Malta and I will be introducing by-law changes to raise the dues to \$1.00. That is a 50 cent increase and it won't go into effect until 2016. When you think about how much we have been getting for 50 cents, it is remarkable. Go to member services and see how many lesson plans are available for your clubs, youth, club presidents, parliamentarians, etc., plus books, scarves and tools. Let's support our National Organization and approve this raise. We will vote on it in June at convention.

I was very sorry to hear Esther Hamel passed away on September 21 at age 92. Her son Dave Alligood's address is 1467 Blue Lake Circle, Punta Gorda, FL. 33983 and Daughter Kay Kelly, 15381 Foot Hills Road, St. Ignatious, MT 59865 if you wish to send sympathy cards.

*I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy New Year!*

*Denise Fink, President*

**Montana Federation of Garden Clubs**

## 2013-2015 MFGC Officers

**Denise Fink** *President* fink52daf@gmail.com

**Linda Sadler** *President-elect* lindahillsadler@gmail.com

**Joyce Hendricks** *2nd Vice President* rnjhend@charter.net

**Glenna Waltee** *Treasurer* glennawaltee@yahoo.com

**Lynne Mahan** *Recording Secretary* mahanik@charter.net

**Jim Sadler** *Corresp. Secretary* jimsadler@bresnan.net

**Darlene Skari** *Parliamentarian* dskari@3riversdbns.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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### 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:

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

### ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page \$100 — ½ Page \$50 — ¼ Page \$25

### Submission Reminder

#### Deadline / Issue

April 1st, 2014 / Summer

July 1st, 2014 / Fall

November 1st, 2014 / Winter

February 1st 2015 / Spring

**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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# **WANTED**

## **APPLICATIONS FOR NGC PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT**

**Making a World of Difference—Choices Matter**  
**AIR - WATER - FOREST - LAND - WILDLIFE**

**\$\$ Rewards ... \$\$ Rewards ... \$\$ Rewards**

**First Place - \$200 Second Place - \$100**

*(in each resource category)*

Little Clubs – Medium Clubs – Big Clubs – X-Large Clubs

**First Place - \$200 Second Place - \$100**

*(in each state category)*

X-Large State – Large State – Medium State – Small State

- 1. Clubs select any Natural Resource Category**
- 2. Plan, learn, educate and implement a club or state project**
- 3. For complete award: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)  
— Click on Projects**
- 4. Clubs send 3-page Award Application to appropriate chairman \*\***
- 5. States send 3-page Education Promotion to Marion Hilliard**
- 6. Need Help? Project Coordinator: [marionh@bellsouth.net](mailto:marionh@bellsouth.net)**

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POST MARKED  
BY DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2015**

\*\* AIR - Doris Jackson [dfcjd@aol.com](mailto:dfcjd@aol.com)

FOREST - Phyllis Besch [pdbesch@aol.com](mailto:pdbesch@aol.com)

WILDLIFE - Mary Jacobs [mary\\_gardens@att.net](mailto:mary_gardens@att.net)

WATER - Mary Sue Colvin [mscolvin2@gmail.com](mailto:mscolvin2@gmail.com)

LAND - Caroline Wittman [Caroline.wittman@cox.net](mailto:Caroline.wittman@cox.net)

IA - Sandy Mangels [sandy.mangels@yahoo.com](mailto:sandy.mangels@yahoo.com)

**YOUR CLUB AND YOUR STATE  
CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



## *Cover Story*

### **MALTA'S BLUE STAR**

#### *Memorial Dedication*

On Saturday, October 18, 2014, Sharon Miller, President of the Malta Dirt Daubers, welcomed the military, local officials, friends and family along with MFGC members for the Blue Star Memorial Dedication. Sharon was honored to have many special veterans in attendance to participate at the dedication. She proclaimed, "The Blue Star Memorial Marker is dedicated to the men and women, past and present, in our Armed Forces, who fly our skies, sail our seas and guard our shores, ensuring our safety. They stand ready at a moment's notice to defend our country."

Rosemary Veseth gave the history of the Blue Star Marker, followed by a special military tribute conducted by area veterans. After the Marker was unveiled, Denise Fink, President of the MFGC, and Linda Sadler, President-elect of the MFGC presented the official dedication. The marker was officially accepted by Shyla Jones, Mayor of Malta, and Kathy Austin, MFGC State Chairman for Blue Star Markers.

WWII veteran, Joe Eskildsen presided over the Laying of the Wreath. A beautiful musical tribute was performed by Dan and Kerri Morton. Following the dedication, Toni Ziegler welcomed everyone to attend a reception hosted by the Malta Dirt Daubers at the Malta VFW Club.

**Pictured below are Linda Sadler and Denise fink during the official dedication of the Marker.**





## Ecological Landscaping

by Megan Terry \*

My lawn has always been a far cry from perfection and generally doesn't even fit the category of "aesthetically pleasing." We are always combating one extreme or another - harsh winters, dry summers, poor soil and weeds. Just getting sod rolled out seemed like a narrow fix. My husband and I started thinking, "*Are there other options that are more 'green'?*"

When I think of lawn in its native setting, I think of the mild climates of northern Europe and green grass, rolling hills and white woolly sheep dotting the expanse. This native grass grew with adequate rainfall and mild climates. There was very little cultivation from man-kind and the "lawnmowers" were sheep who kept the growing grass in check. Over the years wealthy landowners modernized grasses and added them to grand manicured gardens.

So, flashback to modern-day America. We live in a country with a vast array of opposing climates. Time, money, and in most cases, toxic chemicals are used on the implementation and upkeep of flora species that makes no ecological sense for the climatically diverse landscape of the United States.

According to the EPA, garden equipment contributes 5% of the nation's air pollution - 800 million gallons burned annually. But, before emissions have a chance to be released in the air, more than 17 million gallons of fuel are spilled each year refueling equipment - that's nearly double the oil spilled from the Exxon Valdez. In terms of water use, about 50-70% of residential water is used for landscaping, totalling 20-30 million acres in the US. Need more convincing? How about nearly 70 million tons of active pesticide and fertilizers applied to lawns each year. This is 10 times the amount used per acre by farmers. Now, with all the water runoff, those pesticides move to water bodies where 96% of fish now contain a detectable level of at least one pesticide.

So what can we do to make a change to these statistics? Smaller lawn areas and changes including a push mower, planning for more effective watering and reduction of fertilizers and pesticides. Another movement in the battle against traditional lawn is Xeriscaping or native landscaping which involves substituting traditional lawn with more sensible solutions based on the region. Here are several alternatives to traditional grass:

- Thyme - *fragrant, drought tolerant but slow spreading*
- Creeping Jenny - *eye-catching groundcover, very aggressive*
- Buffalo grass - *like turf grass, but less water and mowing*
- Dutch white clover - *nitrogen fixing, but can't handle traffic*
- Sedums - *spread quickly and outcompete neighboring weeds*
- Mazus - *good in shady spots but prefer slightly moist soil*

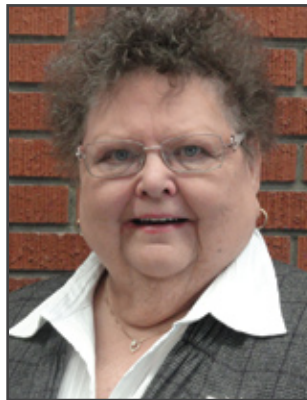
Single massings of these plants can be mixed and matched for a lawn to take on a quilt-like or mosaic pattern.

For me it was a clear decision to stay away from a traditional lawn. We now employ compost and chicken manure as fertilizer, native plantings, an old push mower to trim where possible and future use of rainwater cisterns and grey water for irrigation. Look around your yard. Are there areas where lawn doesn't make sense? **I challenge you to consider one small change as you plan for the future.** As a former college professor put it, "*If you don't need a moat, you don't need a lawn.*"

\* Megan was the 2008 Murphy Memorial and Whitehall Garden Club Scholarship recipient. She received a degree in Landscape Architecture in 2010 and currently works for an environmental engineering firm (WET) in Butte, Montana.

## This and That

by Linda Sadler



October is a time of transition. The days are shorter and weather cooler. Work in the garden is coming to an end. While walking my dog "Bella" last night, I heard the honking geese and quacking ducks heading south. The robins are long gone from the yard, and frost has taken the flowers. Now we are spending more time sitting by the fire, listening

to music, maybe planning for next year and reading books and magazines.

If you like a mystery, the *National Gardener* summer issue had an article about a book written by Neal Sanders called [A Murder at the Flower Show](#). I enjoyed reading the book and recommend it. He also wrote [A Murder in the Garden Club](#), which was so enjoyable I couldn't put either one down until I finished the books.

At the Rocky Mountain Region meeting in Colorado Springs, a new fund was established for members in our region who experience a natural disaster to their home or town. To establish this fund \$250.00 was collected. Denise drove Darlene and me through snow, sleet, rain and sunshine. Phyllis missed the exciting drive and flew. The meeting had great speakers and entertainment.

While the garden needs to be put to sleep, we need to spend time to replenish ourselves during the down months and reflect on our accomplishments of summer.

*Linda Sadler, President-elect*

### SMOKEY BEAR / WOODSY OWL WINNERS GOING ON TO NATIONAL LEVEL

*Congratulations to the following winners whose posters are being sent to compete at the National Level:*

**Camryn Mears - third grade - Malta Dirt Daubers**

**Colin Stowers - fourth grade - Great Falls Flower Growers**

**Camryn Brady - fifth grade - Great Falls Flower Growers**

*Please note the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl program is celebrating Smokey's 70th birthday!*

## NGC SAGE & ROSES BLUE STAR MARKER FUND

The Sage and Roses Program is a special way to send your garden club members and other friends or family an email greeting at Christmas or any holiday! Save the time and cost of the card and stamp. (*Grandchildren are wonders at creating email greetings.*)

First send your NGC board Member and other friends an email greeting, then:

- 1. Make a donation to the SAGE AND ROSES BLUE STAR MARKER FUND to NGC Headquarters.**
  - a) \$10.00 to \$25.00 – one chance for your state to win.
  - b) \$26.00 to \$50.00 – two chances for your state.
  - c) Each additional \$25.00 - another chance to win.
- 2. Your name will be on your chance tickets.**
- 3. The winning ticket will be drawn by the president at the NGC Convention.**
- 4. The winning ticket holder decides where the Blue Star Marker will be placed in the state.**
- 5. All monies collected will be spent in the same year for the erection and landscaping of markers.**

The Blue Star Memorial Marker program is the premier National project which advertises NGC's name from coast to coast. Be a three way winner:

- \*Remember your friends at Christmas and holidays.*
- \*Remind the public that NGC is a nationwide organization.*
- \*Remember those whose sacrifices give us our freedoms.*

**Previous Winners: 2009 – Rhode Island, 2010 – Nevada and NCA, 2011 – Virginia, 2012 – Pennsylvania and 2013 – Florida and New York**

*Here are some sample messages you can use:*

*A donation to the National Garden Clubs' "Sage and Roses" program for a Blue Star Memorial Marker is being made with the money saved on a card and stamp in wishing you a most blessed and happy\_\_\_\_\_.*

*A donation to the National Garden Clubs' "Sage and Roses" program will be made in your name. Funds collected are used to erect Blue Star Memorial Markers.*

**Send your donations to:**

**Bill Trapp**  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
4404 Magnolia Ave  
St Louis, MO 63110-3492



Make check to National Garden Clubs Memo: SAGE and ROSES  
Mr. Trapp sends the list of names and amount of the donation to Lois Dupre, Sage & Roses Chairman. She then makes chances with the name of the person and the state. At the National Convention, the president draws the winning tickets. The money is then sent to the respective states to help pay for Blue Star Memorial Markers.

## ESTHER HAMEL *Passes Away in Florida*

Former MFGC President Esther Vera Mae Knopp Hamel, 92, of Punta Gorda, Florida, and formerly of St. Ignatius, died Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014, at the Palms of Punta Gorda retirement home. She experienced a stroke in May 2011 and never fully recovered from it.



Esther was born May 20, 1922, at the family homestead near Circle to Frank Knopp and Kathrine Malhstedt. Her mother died in 1930 and Frank married Pauline Loftis in 1933. The homestead was lost to drought and the family moved to Pablo and Ronan, where Esther graduated from high school.

Esther married Robert J. Hamel of St. Ignatius on March 16, 1941, in Las Vegas. They made their first home in Los Angeles, where Robert worked for Vultee Aircraft as a draftsman. After his father's illness in 1942, they moved back to St. Ignatius, formed Chalimar Farm and began ranching, raising their two children, Kathryn Dee and Dennis Robert.

Esther didn't receive any higher education, but she was self-taught in a variety of fields. She received 15 local and national honors and wrote 12 books on various subjects. She was a local and national flower show judge and chairman for more than 20 years. She was an accomplished seamstress and made her clothing with hats to match. Esther also loved wigs in every color and style to match an outfit, often confusing people to think that Robert had a new wife.

Robert died Jan. 20, 1996, the year they would have celebrated 55 years of marriage. Esther bought a lot in Florida in 1997 and began subdividing the farm to ultimately have her dream house built down the street from adopted son David in Florida. She enjoyed her Florida home for 13 years until declining health moved her to independent living.

She is survived by her sisters, Joy Knopp Des Rosier of Whitehall and Florence Knopp Hayden of Florence; daughter, Kay Hamel Kelly of St. Ignatius; adopted son, David Alligood; and friend, Ray Bailey of Florida. She also leaves behind two grandsons, a granddaughter and five great-grandchildren.

***A celebration of Esther's life will be held in St. Ignatius, Montana in the spring of 2015.***



## HIGHLIGHTS MFGC FALL BOARD

OCTOBER 17-18, 2014 MALTA, MONTANA

### *Recycle Today for a Better Tomorrow*

We had a wonderful time in Malta, with great workshops and an amazing Blue Star Memorial Highway dedication. We missed everyone who could not make the meeting. The Malta Garden Club with Co-District Directors Jane Ereaux and Sharon Miller outdid themselves. We started with a fabulous cocktail party at Jane's, with enough food to feed the Air Force, then had fabulous workshops. Susie Billmayer started our creative juices flowing, guiding us through the creation of a "Armature" design. *Can you believe it, we all created designs.* Darlene Skari, with the support of the Chester Garden Club, taught us how to, *and not to*, run a garden club meeting. I heard myself in one of those characters, can anyone guess which one? Then Pat Biggs taught us how to have fun, you wouldn't believe what people carry in their purses (*hint: nothing to do with gardens*). Sharon Miller did a fabulous job of going through the complete criteria of how the yearbooks are judged. If you want to go for that National Prize her information was invaluable. Everyone said they were re-thinking their yearbooks. Sue Leferink talked about edible forests and how Helena is planting one next spring. I'm really looking forward to touring the project as it develops. I have the acreage, but not the time. *Great project, Sue!*

In keeping with my theme, Honor the Past and Embrace the Future, we honored Charter Members with Certificates. Conrad honored **Marge Gebhart**. **Norman De-Neal** and **Sharon Chebul** were Charter members of the Butte Garden Study Group, federated in 2001. Rainbow Garden Club interviewed **Norma Johnson**, (*Grace Blend MFGC President's daughter*) and Florence Charlson Murphy. Rainbow Garden Club was chosen in honor of the Rainbow Dam. Iris is the club flower as it means "Rainbow," and for years the club met at the Rainbow Hotel. Rainbow was federated in 1957. Sow and Grow honored **Julie Halverson** and **Darlene Peterson**. Julie has been active since the club was founded in 1962 and volunteers at Zoo Montana's Sensory Garden and their Geranium Fest. Darlene served as President of Sow and Grow and also volunteers at the Zoo. She was able to attend the 50th Anniversary Party in 2012. Chester honored **Margaret Meissner**. If you have a Charter Member we missed, please let me know and we will honor them.

The Blue Star Dedication was the highlight of the Fall Board Meeting. I was honored to do the actual Dedication Speech and I made it through without crying. What a wonderful project this is to honor all who have served. How many of you know which members of our Executive Committee are Veterans? See you in the spring.

*Denise Fink, MFGC President*  
**Reporting on the MFGC Fall Board**



(left) **Norman DeNeal** waits his turn as the first group of crafters create flowers out of recycled aluminum cans. (inset below) Some of the beautiful flowers created.



(below center) **Susan Billmayer** presents a Judge's Pin to **Carol Works**.



(Below bottom) Everyone participated in creating an "Armature" design during one of the workshops at the Fall Board Meeting.



# MFGC 2014 FALL BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 18, 2014 MALTA, MONTANA

**Call to Order:** 9:30 a.m. by President Denise Fink

**Invocation:** Norm DeNeal, MFGC Chaplain

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Vicki Niederegger, Jumping Juniper Garden Club

**Welcome:** Sharon Miller, Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club President; invitation to Blue Star Memorial Marker Ceremony in the afternoon, Toni Ziegler

**Introductions:** Glenna Waltee, Treasurer; Lynne Mahan, Recording Secretary; Darlene Skari, Parliamentarian; Linda Sibley, 1st Vice-President; Joyce Hendricks, 2nd Vice-President; Denise Fink, President

**Credentials Report:** Kathy Waters, Registrar : 38 members, 7 State Officers, 5 District Directors, 5 Club Presidents, 9 State Chairmen, 4 Advisory Council members

**Quorum and Standing Rules:** Parliamentarian Darlene Skari declared a quorum and reviewed the standing rules of Parliamentary Procedure

**Committee to Approve Minutes of 2014 Fall Board:** Joyce Hendricks, Sharon Miller, and Pat Biggs

**Treasurer's Report:** Glenna presented the Mid-year Financial Report and moved to have it accepted as printed, Motion carried.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Phyllis moved that Linda Hill Sadler be the 2015 - 2017 MFGC President, Motion carried. She will contact Club Presidents to submit names of members interested in filling these positions: Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and 2nd Vice-President. The Committee's slate of candidates will be voted upon at Convention 2015.

**Workshop One:** Susan Billmeyer led a hands-on workshop using the "Armiture" Design, the latest design from National. Natural plant materials are woven, braided, bundled, bound, etc. to achieve spectacular floral designs. Some remarkable designs were produced in such a short period of time.

## MFGC Officer Reports:

**President** Denise Fink pointed out that National will collect \$1 per member starting 2016; \$.50 per member has been the National's compensation for many years. MFGC will not raise its dues, and prefers to buffer the shortfall with fund raising projects, such as "Vision of Beauty" Calendars, Big Sky Star notices for \$5 in the *Montana Gardens*, etc. Denise encouraged everyone to contribute to our fundraisers in order to avoid and future increase in dues. gardens – Winter 2014

**President-elect** Linda Sadler has selected a "Thumbs-Up for Gardening—Educate, Engage, and Enjoy" theme for her presidency. The schedule for District Meetings in 2015 was distributed. Linda walked us through the process of completing an award, pointing our attention to how easy it was to prepare/submit an award and how little time it really takes.

**2nd VP** Joyce Hendricks stated that the NGC President's Special Project application promoting choices when impacting the environment and the health of our planet is due March 15. Any clubs working on these areas should apply; the first place prize is \$200. Applications are available through our website.

**Recording Secretary** Lynne Mahan has concerns about undated revisions of minutes can result in confusion and time-consuming misinformation.

**Corresponding Secretary** Jim Sadler relinquished his presentation in the interests of time constraints.

## MFGC Chairman Reports:

**Member Services:** Carol Works reported that Linda Sadler is the newest NGC Life member. She urged Clubs to apply for the Community Garden Tools grant (See *The National Gardener*, Fall issue 2014, p. 17). NGC has recently partnered with Ames Company, Inc., which is the largest U.S. manufacturer of gardening tools, and the winning grant gets a complete set of tools.

**Workshop Two:** Darlene Skari wrote a skit of a typical small garden club meeting where Robert's Rules were not followed and the repercussions thereof.

**Blue Star Memorial Marker:** The Sage and Roses program is a drawing where dollar donations earn chances for one State to win a Marker. Chairman Kathy Austin suggested that instead of sending cards/memorials to Garden Club members, a donation be made to Sage and Roses and increase the chance of a free Blue Star Marker in Montana.

**New MFGC Award:** Lynne Mahan read the following motion for approval:

Number B-12, entitled Mary Lee Award, in the amount of \$20 annually sponsored by the Whitehall Garden Club. The award will go to an individual, any size club, to reward artistic expression of flowers, such as a painting, quilt, or hand-made flower craft (no photos). Entries must be submitted in digital format.

Glenna Waltee asked that the award be approved as Mary Lee is elderly, has cancer, and would truly appreciate knowing an award is created in her name. Motion approved.

# MFGC 2014 FALL BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 18, 2014 MALTA, MONTANA

## MFGC Chairman Reports: (continued)

### *Unfinished Business:*

#### **Motion for Correction to Fall Board 2013**

**Minutes:** Norm DeNeal entertained a Motion for Correction to read: "MFGC Policies and Procedures do not need to be posted in the *Montana Gardens* but are voted on by the Board of Directors." Motion for Correction approved.

**Approval of Fall Board 2013 Minutes:** Denise called for a motion to approve the corrected Fall Board 2013 Minutes. Motion approved.

**Approval of MFGC Meeting Minutes:** Darlene reminded us that Linda Nelson, National President, clarified the approval of our meeting minutes: Fall Board minutes are approved at the regular meeting of the next year's Fall Board; Convention minutes are approved at the regular meeting of the next year's Convention.

**Flower Show School:** Susan Billmayer reported a very successful July Flower Show Symposium in Great Falls with 29 attendees. Joyce Hendricks became an Accredited Judge in September. Any interested members wanting to become a Judge should contact Susan. She encouraged Clubs to host a Standard Flower Show.

**State Credentials:** Susan Billmayer briefed us on the current Judge credentials for Montana: 6 Emeritus, 16 Master, 6 Life, 7 Judges, 3 Student Judges. Cheryl Carroll and Luana Maxwell became Master Judges after the Symposium. Diana May completed a Second Refresher, Denise Fink elevated to a Life Judge, and 5 Life Judges took their First Refresher course.

**Workshop Three:** Pat Biggs encouraged us to review our meeting programs and practice "Putting Fun in Garden Clubs." Member surveys reveal that Montana members want short, organized meetings. A handout was distributed outlining the basics of interesting meetings. Members enjoyed a "handbag scavenger hunt." The audience divided into two groups and raided each other's purses for scavenger hunt items. This activity illuminates how much fun we can have working together.

**Workshop Four:** Sharon Miller, Club Yearbooks Chairman, distributed the Guidelines sheet for yearbook submissions, which contains a scale of points for each item required.

**Native Plants/Wildflowers:** Sue Leferink designed and installed 250 square feet of Certified Wildlife Demonstration gardens at Montana Wild in Helena. Sue added 20 new species this year and acquires some of her

seeds/plants from the Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery ([www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/nursery](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/nursery)) in Missoula. All species are native to Montana and are available at little or no cost to any interested party.

**Crown Bees:** Sue Leferink, Chairman, gave presentations on attracting and creating habitat for native bees and has established a public native bee habitat garden at the Montana Wild Education center in Helena. Four MFGC members have agreed to help Sue "spread the word" on native bees: Connie Leatherman, Townsend; Jo Lee Burman, Dearborn; Mary Baughn, Stevensville, and Betsy Heckel, Belgrade. Sue provides all speaking/educational materials and serves as an informational source.

**Workshop Five:** Sue Leferink introduced an innovative concept taking Permaculture to the next level: Edible Forest Gardening based on the books by Dave Jacke and Eric Toensmeier. Modeling after the self-sustaining ecosystem of a forests, it combines agricultural concepts with a forest ecosystem. It requires an understanding of the relationships between the air, water, land, plants and other organisms and how the layers of a forest work together. The main goal is to achieve a low maintenance, sustainable food forest garden with minimal waste and disturbance to our environment. The first public food forest garden is being planted in Seattle, WA. The Helena community will be breaking ground on the first food forest in Montana next spring. For more information check out <http://www.insideedgedesignrs.com/6th-ward-park>.

### **Announcements:**

**Invitation to Chester Garden Club Flower Show,**  
November 15.

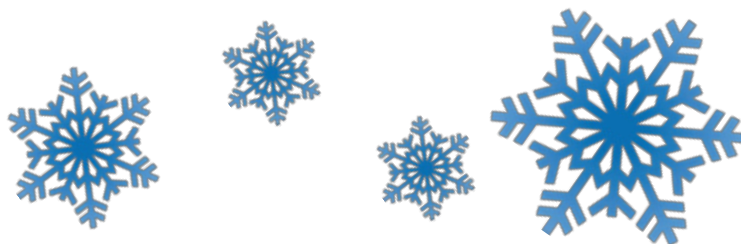
**Invitation to 2015 Convention** in Great Falls-Pat Biggs gave each participant a written invitation

**Dedication of Malta's Blue Star Memorial Marker**  
begins at 2:30 p.m., Trafton Park Rest Stop, Malta, MT

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 p.m.**

*Lynne Mahan, Recording Secretary*

*Approval Committee Corrections Incorporated 11/2/14*





## Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting

**SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2014**

What happened to the beautiful warm September weather! Denise Fink, Darlene Skari and I traveled together to the Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting in Colorado Springs. We woke up to a beautiful Christmas card scene. The trees were draped with 6" of heavy snow causing the branches to touch the ground. *Thank goodness Denise was driving her pickup.*

Since I hadn't traveled from Montana through Wyoming to Colorado, I was looking forward to viewing new territory. What I saw was nothing but low dense clouds that produced lots of rain! Of course, we arrived in Denver during the middle of rush hour traffic. Before we left Montana, Denise entered the address of the Colorado Springs Marriott in her GPS. Finally, we arrived at Colorado Springs in the dark and followed the GPS. We were directed to a residential area and a house which, obviously, was not the hotel. *Denise had entered the address of the conference treasurer.* After making four re-calculations and attempts to find the Marriott, we finally arrived.

At the conference, a natural disaster fund was established. It was felt clubs in our region needed help to repair projects caused by natural disasters such as floods, which occurred last year, and were discussed at the meeting in Salt Lake City. RMR members felt the region should help clubs monetarily in some way. Rocky Mountain Regional Director, Beverly Heidelberger addressed the scenerio of surviving a disaster

when she spoke at the MFGC annual session in Billings. The Heidelbergers have both become Master Gardeners to gain knowledge to help with disaster restoration after surviving a tornado.

In other business at the RMR session, Darlene Skari was elected the new RMR Director and I was elected the RMR Treasurer. Besides myself, Denise Fink, Darlene Skari, and Phyllis White attended.

*Linda Sadler*  
**MFGC President-elect**  
**RMR Treasurer**

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL AWARDS

*Congratulations to the following Rocky Mountain Regional Award Winners:*

- \* **Gallatin Empire Garden Club**—#1a Colorado Award- Garden Therapy Gallatin County Rest Home First Place
- \* **Stevensville Garden Club**—#1b Colorado Award- Garden Therapy Four Living Centre First Place
- \* **Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club**—#1c Garden Therapy. Seed Pictures. First Place
- \* **Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club**—#3a Montana Award- Writing. Yearbook. Certificate of Merit
- \* **Helena Garden Club**—#3a Montana Award- Writing. Yearbook First Place
- \* **Gallatin Empire Garden Club**—#3a Montana Award- Writing. Yearbook. First Place
- \* **Stevensville Garden Club**—#3c Montana Award- Writing -Club Newsletter Certificate of Merit
- \* **Anaconda Garden Club**—#3c Montana Award-Writing- Club Newsletter Certificate of Merit
- \* **Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club**—#3e Montana Award- Writing Article. First Place
- \* **Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club**—#8a Utah Award- Garden Tours. First Place
- \* **Gallatin Empire Garden Club**—#8b Utah Award-Garden Tours First Place
- \* **Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club**—#8b Utah Award- Garden Tours First Place
- \* **Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club**—#8e Utah Award- Garden Tours. First Place
- \* **Nina Eadie; Stevensville Garden Club**—#12 Butterfly Garden. First Place
- \* **Gallatin Empire Garden Club**—#18 Blue Star Highway Memorials First Place
- \* **Anaconda Garden Club**—#19 Pressbook. First Place
- \* **Dearborn Garden Club**—#19 Pressbook First Place

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE UPCOMING 78TH MFGC CONVENTION

*"We are the Caretakers"*

**JUNE 12-14, 2015**

**Hilton Garden Inn**

**Great Falls, Montana**

*To make this the*  
**GREATEST CONVENTION EVER**  
**WE NEED YOU TO ATTEND!**

## MEMBER SERVICES & NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS

*Let's go shopping at our Garden Club Store!* Bring up the NGC website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) and click on **Shop Online**. You will find a wonderful assortment of garden club related items, club programs and study plans, books for horticulture and design, Vision of Beauty Calendars, the **NEW Hellebore Collections**, flower show entry tags and ribbons. Maybe you or your club would like to honor a member with a special GC pin, or even get one for yourself. You may be surprised at the numerous items they have available.

At the same website, click onto **News & Events**, then click on **Shopping Partners**. Here you will find **Bloomin' Bucks** (Brent & Becky's Bulbs), **Gardener's Supply Co.**, **Oasis Floral Products** and the new partner, **The Ames Companies, Inc.**, the largest US manufacturer of gardening tools. (grants available: see your National Gardener pg 17, 2014 Fall Issue.) Another partner is the **New Flower Magazine**. You need to go to their website [www.flowermag/subscribe](http://www.flowermag/subscribe). Their phone number is 1-877-400-3074. All partnerships pay a percentage of purchases to NGC.

Becoming a **National Life Member** is easy. The requirements are: *belong to a Federated Garden Club and pay a \$200 membership fee (\$119 is tax deductible)*. A bonus is that you may receive the National Gardener for as long as you remain a GC member. The monies are invested with only the interest being used to give \$3,500 scholarships. Applications are available from me, or you can go to the NGC website, type in National Life Members, then click on NGC Life Membership Form. Fill it out and mail to me, along with your check payable to National Garden Clubs, Inc. As State Chairman, **I will sign** and mail the form to the NGC Life Members Chairman.

*Carol Works*

**State Chairman, Member Services**

15920 Kenilworth Road  
Big Sandy, MT 59520-8445  
email: [mtgardener59520@outlook.com](mailto:mtgardener59520@outlook.com)

**Winter Address (November - March)**

7750 East Broadway Road, Lot 789  
Mesa, AZ 85208-1353



## EXPLORING

### *"In The Oriental Manner"*

*Fundamental Ikebana using the  
four basic growth forms of plants*

These classes started in October and will continue on Mondays at 1:00 pm on December 8, January 12 and February 9 at the First Christian Church, 2701 South Russell, Missoula. The teacher is Joanne Gibbons, a Master Garden Club Judge Emeritus and Master Japanese Arrangement Judge.

*The cost is \$10 per session and is held in workshop format.*

#### **I. Introduction to Ikebana Workshops**

- A. What is Ikebana?
- B. What is "In the Oriental Manner"?
- C. Containers and other necessary supplies.
- D. Explanation of future classes and the four basic forms.

#### **II. Upright Form - Demonstration and workshop**

- A. Selection of materials
- B. Stem and flower placement
- C. Kenzan placement
- D. Step by step explanation

#### **III. Slanting Form - Demonstration and workshop**

- A. Suitable materials.
- B. Suitable containers
- C. Step by step explanation

#### **IV. Flat Form - Demonstration and workshop**

- A. Container. Using multiple containers.
  - 1. Using bamboo mats
  - 2. Using weathered wood
  - 3. Using cornucopias, fruits and vegetables
- B. Explanation

#### **V. Hanging Form - Demonstration and workshop**

- A. Nageire
- B. Using tall deep vases
- C. Nageire supports. Nageire forms include straight, slanting, and hanging.

You will learn basic flower arrangement principles and how to put one together. The classes will include selective pruning of materials to emphasize line and when possible manipulation of materials to develop better line direction.

**For more information contact:**

**Jim Sadler**  
[jimsadler@bresnan.net](mailto:jimsadler@bresnan.net)  
Phone: 406-728-4743



## WATER...DID YOU KNOW?

— 70% of the earth's surface is water; 75% of the human body; and 90% of human blood is water. Of all the water there is on earth, 97% is in seas and oceans and 2% is in ice caps. Of the remaining 1% fresh water, only a small percentage is accessible. And from what's accessible, 98% is used for agriculture and industry.

— Water's necessity does not end with humans. In fact, water is the quintessential part of most living organisms. Even plants need water. There is more animal and plant life found in water than on land and in the air collectively.

— For humans, water is so important because it's used in so many activities. We need to drink water to survive and stay healthy. We need water for bathing, cleaning and washing. We need water for cooking. Water is in the form of milk, fruits, meats, vegetables, and even in stones.

— Water is the most common substance on earth, however only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking.

— 66% (two-thirds) of the human body is water.

— A cow must drink 3 gallons of water to make 1 gallon of milk. 75% of a tree is water. 70% of an elephant is water.

— You can survive about three weeks without food, but only 3 days without water.

— It takes 50 glasses of water to grow enough oranges to make 1 glass of orange juice. A tomato is 95% water. An ear of corn is 80% water.

— Rivers and streams make up 3.5 million miles. Lakes cover 41 million acres.

— The average daily requirement for freshwater in the United States is about 338 billion gallons.

— If the Earth were completely flat, it would be covered by water 2 miles deep!

— One gallon of gasoline can contaminate 750,000 gallons of water.

— We use about 108 gallons of water per person per day in our homes.

*Source: Project Oceanography*

## NCG Photography Contest

The NGC Membership Photography Contest Award may be awarded to the highest scoring photograph with caption best depicting the theme: "*NGC Membership is...*". Entries may originate in any format but must be submitted electronically. All entries must be the original work of a national or international member and free from copyright restrictions. Members are member clubs, groups of member clubs, State Garden Clubs, NGC Regions and International Affiliates. The photograph should be a .jpeg or .jpg format with the highest resolution possible. Digital manipulation of the file image of the photograph is permitted. A release form for everyone depicted in the photograph, including minors, must be included. Release forms are available on the NGC website. Entries must be received by **March 15, 2015**.

**1st Place – \$250 gift certificate to  
Member Services and Certificate**

**2nd Place – \$100 gift certificate to  
Member Services and Certificate**

**3rd Place – \$50 gift certificate to  
Member Services and Certificate**



*All entries must be submitted through email:*

[NGCMEMBERSHIPS@gmail.com](mailto:NGCMEMBERSHIPS@gmail.com)

Include club name, state organization, number of members, location, date, caption and any required release form with photograph.

### SCALE OF POINTS:

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>10 points</b>
<i>(meets all requirements)</i>	
<b>Originality</b>	<b>30 points</b>
<b>Technical Excellence</b>	<b>10 points</b>
<b>Caption</b>	<b>30 points</b>
<b>Promotes NGC Objectives</b>	<b>20 points</b>

*The entry grants NGC perpetual and unlimited right to publish or otherwise use the elements in any and all media now known or hereafter developed.*

## Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Operating Budget Report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Income		Expenses	
Membership Dues	\$ 8,043.00	National Garden Club Dues	\$ 410.50
MT. Gardens Publication	\$ 25.00	MT. Gardens Publication	\$ 4,819.27
Website Support	\$ 20.00	Website	\$ 187.92
Fundraising	\$ 1,189.50	Fundraising	\$ 423.61
State Meetings	\$ 3,232.88	State, Regional, National Meetings	\$ 3,840.55
Designated Funds	\$ 2,615.00	Designated Funds	\$ 2,287.57
Suspended Funds	\$ 976.00	Suspended Funds	\$ 976.00
Regional Award	\$ 50.00	Travel/Mileage	\$ 450.73
Partnerships	\$ 170.00	Grants	\$ 185.10
Insurance	\$ 250.00	Regional Fees	\$ 100.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 209.23	Awards	\$ 450.00
		Supplies	\$ 562.70
		Insurance	\$ 1,497.00
		Miscellaneous	\$ 313.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,780.61</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,503.95</b>





## Under Montana's Big Sky

### CHESTER GARDEN CLUB

Members of the Chester Garden Club presented their Holiday Show, "Songs of the Season" on Sunday, November 16 at the Chester United Methodist Church. Entries for the show were judged on Saturday. Club members encouraged others in the community to exhibit arrangements and horticultural items for this show. Prior to the November program, members held a workshop for novice floral arrangers with instructions for arranging flowers given by advanced garden club members.

### RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB

Rainbow Garden Club held their annual fall luncheon and style show on Saturday, October 25 at the Elks Lodge in Great Falls. More than 160 members and guests had a great time at this fund-raiser. The theme was "Over the Rainbow" and committee members donned costumes from the Wizard of Oz. Proceeds from the style show fund Rainbow's projects including a scholarship, city beautification and programs during the year for children at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.

**(Pictured below) Committee members in their Wizard of Oz costumes pose with Dorothy and Toto.**



### GREAT FALLS FLOWER GROWERS

Members of the Great Falls Flower Growers have been working hard in preparation for their annual holiday tea. Their theme this year is "Cardinals at Play" and members have been making many interesting projects with a focus on these beautiful red birds. In addition to the tea, which is free to the public, this major club fund-raiser includes a bake and craft sale, floral arrangements, fixed price, silent auction and a raffle. The club will also have a "giving tree" for people to donate clothing and items for needy children.

The tea will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at the Central Assembly of God Church from 11:30 AM to 3 PM.

### MALTA WINS MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE CONTEST



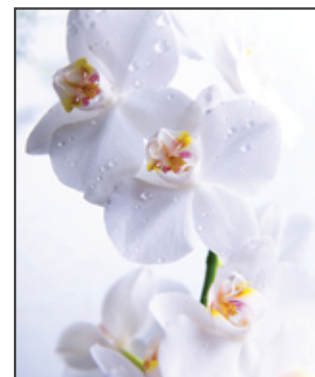
**Vanette Nagamori, MFGC Membership Chairman presented a check for \$25 at the Fall Board Meeting to Sharon Miller, Malta Dirt Daubers, winner of the state contest for the best garden club brochure.**

### DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB

October meeting guests were Pat Biggs, District 5 Director and Myrna McCollum Co-Chair for the Montana State Convention, both from Great Falls who talked about the Montana State Convention to be held June 12-14, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Great Falls. Our Co-President Carol Brady will be the new District 5 Director for 2015-2017. The Cascade Fire Department and the Cascade Park Department were each presented \$50.00 in celebration of October's Make a Difference Day in appreciation for the help we receive doing our various projects.

Several members worked on the highway cleanup project and Sunshine Therapy Chairman Cheryl Quintero will host "Making Christmas stockings" at her home. Club members cleaned and planted bulbs in the 911 Garden and the Friendship Garden.

Don Hazen, Riverview Floral in Fort Benton spoke to club members in November about orchids, perennials and answered questions from the audience. He said orchids grow on every continent and in every state in the U.S. The "Moon" Orchid blooms lasts a month and is rated #2 in popularity of all house plants. He concluded his program by discussing native grasses and perennials.



**(Pictured above) The popular Moon Orchid.**

## Treasurer's Notes...

### NEW MEMBERS

**Laura Zimmerman**, Townsend Garden Study Club  
**Nona Munroe**, Rainbow Garden Club  
**Ute Hohmann**, Gallatin Empire Garden Club  
**Joanna Nute**, Gallatin Empire Garden Club  
**Sammylu Parsons**, Gallatin Empire Garden Club  
**Gloria Roark**, Missoula Garden City Garden Club  
**Melanie Mendez**, Missoula Garden City Garden Club  
**Linda Waters**, Thumb-R-Green Garden Club

### BIG SKY STARS \*

**Congratulations and Best Wishes in your new positions –**  
*from the Gallatin Empire and Belgrade Blossoms Garden Clubs*

Linda Hill Sadler – MFGC President Elect

Darlene Skari – RMR Director Elect

**\*\* Thank you to the Malta Garden Club and surrounding clubs for the WONDERFUL Fall Board Meeting – Dearborn Garden Club**

**\*\* Thank you to Sharon Miller, Jane Ereaux, the Malta Garden Club and the Hi-Line #7 District Club participants for the FUN FALL BOARD – Glenna Waltee**

### GREETINGS

**Merry Christmas and Warm Wishes for a Fruitful New Year**  
from the Advisory Council Phyllis White, Norm DeNeal,  
Darlene Skari, Ruth Layton, Mary McLane, Mary Olson,  
Jean Thomas, and Marie Jones.

**Seasons Greetings to our MFGC Friends** from the  
Dearborn Garden Club

**Happy Holidays to the MFGC Membership** from  
Glenna Waltee

### DONATIONS

– **Donation of \$375 to Promotion/Publicity**  
by Phyllis White  
— **Donation of \$18 by Vickie Barbieri**



### ENDOWMENT FUND

**In Memory of Diane Ward's Mother \$20 – Glenna Waltee**

### PENNY PINES

Missoula Garden City Garden Club, \$68.

**NOTE:** There were **NO** new Life Members

**Reminder—New Members after January 1st pay half-year Federation dues: \$5.00**

Glenna Waltee  
MFGC Treasurer

## WRAPPING IT UP...

I can't believe that we finished another Fall Board Meeting. It seems as though we were just in Missoula! The program in Malta was excellent. I hope those who attended share all the great information presented with their clubs. In my personal business I spend considerable time both attending meetings and conducting them. I walked away from Malta with a new view on our leadership roles. The program presenters at this board meeting proved we learn more through "hands-on" sessions. And, we had fun.

Remember that our state, regional and national awards are there to reward excellence in all that we do in our club and personal projects. When your club has completed a project, take time to review the award listings and complete the form. File and gather photographs and news clippings so that when award deadlines near, you have a head start on your award applications.

*Patricia Schlaeger*  
**Montana Gardens Editor**

## EDUCATIONAL BOOKLET "ECOLOGY WARRIORS" TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL MEMBERS

The Environmental Concerns and Conservation Committee of National Garden clubs, Inc. invites you to become an **Ecology Warrior** as you investigate and study the contents of the educational booklet, "*Ecology Warriors*", prepared for use in the classroom, in youth groups and at garden club meetings. The question is not 'can you make a difference?' You already make a difference. It's just a matter of what kind of difference you want to make. Choices matter!

It was recommended and approved by the NGC Board of Directors at the 2014 Fall Board Meeting that this booklet be distributed to all members. The file is now available on the NGC website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) for downloading.

## CHANGES & CORRECTIONS

### NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES:

**Linda Sadler, President-elect**

[lindahillsadler@gmail.com](mailto:lindahillsadler@gmail.com)

**Susan Woods, Life Member Chairman**

[edsusan4046@centurylink.net](mailto:edsusan4046@centurylink.net)

**Joyce Hendricks, Second Vice President**

[rnhend@charter.net](mailto:rnhend@charter.net)



## ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOUR GARDEN CLUB!

Garden Clubs offer you advice and instruction, speakers, tours and networking opportunities. Projects include community beautification, award recognition and grants, flower shows, floral design and youth activities. Garden Club members also enjoy access to our free media library, quarterly newsletters, as well as support and camaraderie with gardeners around the state. From the beginner to the experienced grower -- all are welcome. Please visit the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs website [www.mtfgc.org](http://www.mtfgc.org) or call our Membership Chairman, Vanette Nagamori at 406-622-5356 and we'll help you get growing!

### CONSERVATION PLEDGE

I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife.

*Warmest Holiday Greetings from the Executive Committee:*

*Denise Fink, Linda Sadler, Joyce Hendricks, Jim Sadler,  
Lynne Mahan, Glenna Waltee and Darlene Skari*

### DISTRICT TRAVELS 2015

President Elect, Linda Sadler presented the new District Travel Schedule at the MFGC Fall Board in Malta, Montana:

#### WEEK 1

April 15th, 2015 - Western District, Charlo  
April 16th, 2015 - Central District, Great Falls  
April 17th, 2015 - Northern District, Chester  
April 18th, 2015 - Southwestern District, Anaconda

#### WEEK 2

April 29th, 2015 - Yellowstone District, Billings  
April 30th, 2015 - Eastern Gateway, Miles City  
May 1st, 2015 - Hi-Line District, Saco  
May 2nd, 2015 - Lewis and Clark District, Belgrade

We had some great brainstorming during the Financial Committee Meeting at Fall Board. For our fund raising for MFGC Convention in 2015 at Great Falls, we will be selling recycled jewelry and purses. So, we will be collecting jewelry and purses next Spring during District Meetings. *Sounds like a great fund raiser, doesn't it?* No baskets! We look forward to seeing everyone next spring.

*Denise Fink, President*  
**Montana Federation of Garden Clubs**

*Linda Sadler*  
**MFGC President-elect & RMR Treasurer**

### DATES & DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

#### JANUARY 1, 2015

NGC Member Award of Honor

*Send to Linda Sadler*

NGC Youth High School

Distinguished Service Award #76K

*Send to Linda Sadler*

Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

*Send to Jennifer Strezelszyk*

#### JANUARY 10, 2015

NGC Publicity Press Book Award #44

*Send to Linda Sadler*

#### MARCH 31, 2015

NGC President's Special Project

"Making A World Of Difference -  
Choices Matter"

*Send to Appropriate Chairman (See Page 3)*



**ON THE ROAD TO 2015 DISTRICT MEETINGS**