

MONTANA *Gardens*



COVER GIRLS (left) 2015-17 MFGC President, Linda Sadler,
(right) Marialyce Martin, Garden Club Member of the Year.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Montana Federation mission statement reads: *"Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and networking opportunities for its members and Montana youth, to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility."*

The first bullet word in my theme **"Thumbs Up for Gardening"** is **educate**. We can educate ourselves in many ways. We read and research new options for conserving our natural resources, learning new horticulture skills and studying design types. We educate ourselves with new leadership skills to help build our clubs.

As a member we need to engage in our club work by taking a leadership role. As members we need to **"Leap into Action"** which is the theme of our national

president. With new skills we have learned, we can **"leap"** into becoming better caretakers of our environment and be assured that we will enhance our leadership skills.

Our next step is to engage in building club membership, providing opportunities for flower judging schools and shows, serve on state committees and focus attention on the environment.

Now we can enjoy the numerous new skills we have learned!

We can enjoy the new members and take pleasure in the work we continue to promote for Montana Federation of Garden Clubs. At the end of the day, we can be assured that we will have made a difference.

A new term is starting and you have new club officers eager to begin. Give them your support. As

MFGC members let's **"Leap Into Action."** Let's be a force in making differences in our communities and with our environment.



LINDA SADLER
MFGC 2015-17 PRESIDENT

MFGC 2015-17 Officers & District Directors

President: Linda Sadler
lindahillsadler@gmail.com

1st Vice President:
Joyce Hendricks
rnhend@charter.net

2nd Vice President:
Sherry Corneliusen
sher@midrivers.com

Treasurer: Jane Ereaux
jane@mtintouch.net

Recording Secretary:
Diane Ward
mydoubleheartranch@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Phyllis White
gardens@bresnan.net

Corresponding Secretary:
Pat Biggs
patandchanbiggs@bresnan.net

Western District #2
Cheryl Carroll

Southwestern District #3
Diane Ward

Lewis & Clark District #4
Betsy Heckel

Central District #5
Carol Brady

Northern District #6
Donna Arvidson

Hi-Line District #7
Gloria Tilleman

Yellowstone District #10
Rosemary Power

East Gateway District #12
Sherry Corneliusen

ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

MONTANA Gardens

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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MARIALYCE MARTIN

GARDEN CLUB MEMBER OF YEAR

Marialyce Martin has been a member of the Great Falls Flower Growers club since 1983, and has served every major office within the club structure as well as committee chairman for at least 11 major committees.

She has always been a happy and busy member planting our community gardens, helping with garden tours, taking care of the indoor plants at the Library, making floral arrangements for the Gift of Life Homes, as well as other activities. She has also been a long-standing member of Life Members, serving as the local chairman and secretary/treasurer.

Until recently, Marialyce has attended every MFGC State Convention since she served as a delegate in Lewistown in 1984.

Her service to the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs is extensive. She served as State Treasurer from 1989-1993; Historian

from 1993-1997, on the Finance Committee from 1989- 1992 and again in 1999-2001. This busy lady also served as MFGC Life Member's co-chairman from 1997-1999.

Her love of this organization did not stop at MFGC. Marialyce attended four Rocky Mountain Regional meetings, serving as the region's treasurer from 1999- 2002. She also attended National Garden Club Conventions in Seattle and Denver in the 1990's. Litter Control and Recycling were her pet projects for two years as well as birds for two years. She also served as National Garden Week chair for two years.

However, Marialyce is most respected for being successful in getting the 501(c)3 IRS non-profit organization status for MFGC. No easy task, as this took two years of her time and commitment to this project.

It is rare that we are able to extol so many of a member's virtues, but

Marialyce has been a tireless and valuable member of her local, state and region garden club activities and she receives this honor with gratitude from all of us for her service and inspiration. She is a tremendous asset to the Great Falls community, her garden club and the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Congratulations to Marialyce on receiving this prestigious award!



Garden Club Member of the Year Marialyce (left) is presented by MFGC President Denise Fink

HELENA EDIBLE FOREST

AWARDED AMES CO. TOOLS

Helena has become the first city in Montana to plant an edible urban forest ecosystem right in the heart of town. The visionary efforts begun by Caroline Wallace of Inside Edge Design are based on sustainable, ecological gardening principles promoted by Dave Jacke, author of *Edible Forest Gardens*. The Helena Garden Club is excited to see this vision become a reality after four years of planning. The groundbreaking for the upcoming educational and edible food forest at the 6th Ward Park Garden began in May. To assist in the process, the Helena Garden Club applied for a new grant through the National Garden Clubs for garden tools from AMES Company. The AMES Companies (AMES) has been

making high quality tools since 1774. This American company awarded \$350 worth of tools to the Helena Garden Club for the project including shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows. The Helena Garden Club dedicated these tools to the 6th Ward Garden Park, 1235 Bozeman Ave (*just east of the HATS terminal*) in Helena, Montana on June 6th in celebration of National Trails Day and to kick off National Gardening Week. The celebration was part of a workday. The workday will focus on building 5000 square feet of new soil for ground between and delineating park trails. The new soil was created by sheet mulching using the AMES tools including two wheelbarrows and tools for moving wood compost, manure, and wood shaving horse

bedding into place.

Visit the 6th Ward Garden Park web site for further details at <http://6thwardgardenpark.com>. The AMES tools will be used by the many hard working garden volunteers to create and maintain this noteworthy garden for years to come. For more information about AMES Tools Grants, please visit: www.gardenclub.org

SUE LEFERINK
HELENA GARDEN CLUB



DISTRICT MEETINGS 2015



(left to right) Miles City Garden Club, Glendive Garden Club and Hoe and Hope Big Timber



(left to right) Sow and Grow and Thumb R Green, Billings; Jumping Junipers, Chinook



(left to right) Malta Garden Club and Nashua Garden Club



(left to right) Saco Garden Club, Townsend Garden Club, and Helena Garden Club

DISTRICT MEETING RECAPS —

The District 12 meeting at Miles City had a program on community gardens with the guest speaker from the extension service.

At Yellowstone District 10, three clubs - Hoe and Hope in Big Timber, Sow and Grow and Thumb R Green in Billings - have all been busy this past year beautifying their local environments. Sow and Grow hosted the meeting at a local winery where all learned about making wine. New District 10 Director is Rosemary Power, a member of Thumb R Green.

Two educational events were held prior to the District 4 meeting, Native Plants and Edible Landscapes.

After the meeting we visited the Ott-Kimm Conservatory in Three Forks. This personal greenhouse has been operated for over 30 years by John Hemighaus without the use of a single pesticide or synthetic fertilizer.

The District 7 meeting was hosted by Saco GC, highlighted by a presentation by the Bowdoin Bird Refuge on birds who frequent it.

(below top to bottom)

Belgrade Garden Club and Gallatin Empire Garden Club



— DARLENE SKARI — Rocky Mtn Region Director

Darlene Skari was installed at the 2015 National Garden Club convention to be Rocky Mountain Regional Director for 2015-2017. The position encompasses eight states. She is a former elementary school teacher, and, after living in various places in Montana the family moved to the Skari family farm north of Chester in 1969. That year Darlene walked into a Chester Garden Club meeting and discovered a group of active, interesting women who were determined not only to enjoy beauty around their homes, but to make their small town in northern Montana a better place to live. With one of the earliest flower show judges as a member, this club emphasized design and education.

Through the years, Darlene has been a District Director, club president several times, MFGC Recording Secretary for four years, and State President from 2007-2009.

A flower show judge since 1975, she has been actively judging and presenting programs on horticulture and design. As co-chairman of the 2010 National Fall Board held in Great Falls, she was in charge of tours and speakers.

She just completed four years on the National Calendar Committee. As part of her duties as Regional Director, she serves on the NGC Scholarship Committee.

She has been a junior gardener leader, and is a 4H leader. Her farm yard with flowers, vegetables, and even some fruit trees, keeps her busy in summer. The Skaris travel in winter, including a 2015 trip to Cuba and the Tucson Book Festival in March. In addition to quilting, her membership in the Chester GC and the Great Falls Flower Growers provides for time with like-minded individuals who love horticulture.

— THIS N' THAT —

Since I am relatively new to many of you I thought I would take this opportunity to get better acquainted and share a little about myself.

I come from a farming background having grown up on a farm in the Little Big Horn Valley near Lodge Grass. No matter where I have lived I have always done some kind of gardening, even if it was just house plants! I am a retired nurse (*nurse educator*) and have worked a number of different places including time in the Air Force. My wonderful husband, Ron, has followed me from Alaska to Delaware and back to Montana. In 2000, Shirley Spildie invited me to join the Thumb R Green garden club here in Billings and I have enjoyed all of the varied experiences of being a club member ever since.

In 2010, Shirley encouraged me to attend the Flower Show School in Dillon, which was great fun and allowed me to meet more garden club members from around the state. In 2014, I finished the requirements and became a flower show judge! ***Whew!***

I hope that as I continue to be involved as a state officer, I can meet many of you and learn your stories. I want to find out what you need as garden club member and how, as a state officer, I can be of help. ***Thank you for this opportunity to serve.***



**JOYCE HENDRICKS
MFGC FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB PRESIDENT ADDRESSES MF'GC AT STATE CONVENTION

As she addressed the MFGC, the newly installed NGC president Sandra Robinson remarked it is humbling, surreal, and just a little frightening to be in her position. She said, *"When I began this journey in 1985, never once did I imagine the day when I would stand before you as the 44th president of National Garden Clubs."*

She called us to action. Her special project for 2015-2017, **Service in Action**, will focus attention on pollinators and amphibians, two bio-indicators, who as individuals and populations, are used to monitor environmental conditions. She said that today, amphibians enjoy the dubious distinction of being the world's most endangered class of animals; it's been calculated that the group's extinction rate could be as much as forty-five thousand times higher than the background rate. But extinction rates among many other groups are fast approaching amphibian levels. She continued with the admonition that many find it inconceivable that we, man, could possibly be responsible for destroying the integrity of our planet's ecology.

She said the public needs to understand the effects of pesticides, the role of native pollinators and plants and the importance of leaving natural areas in our lawns, parks, and forests. To be truly effective agriculture, conservationists, and the general public must work together to protect soil, water, air and wildlife habitat.

Our native crops depend largely on native bee populations and she asked us to become familiar with our native bee species, especially the mason bees. The eradication of milkweed and the use of pesticides and genetically engineered crops has pushed the species toward extinction.

She reported NGC is partnering with the National Wildlife Federation to work on the Million Garden Challenge by the National Pollinator Garden Net work. The goal is to help establish



NGC President Sandra Robinson

one million gardens to support pollinator recovery.

Robinson said, *"Young children must learn to love and understand nature before being asked to save it. As a society we have a moral obligation to connect nature and our children."* She encouraged us to use The Frightened Frog, an Environmental Tale, an early reader book, written by NGC members. It is a bright, colorful, rhyming book highlighting many of the problems amphibians face with simple easy to understand solutions. The book is available through Member Services, and lesson plans that meet core standards are available on the NGC website.

In conclusion she said, *"Gardening brings out the beauty, strengths, and preferences in plants and people. We nurture our plants often spending lots of money and time on their survival. We, as garden club members, need to nurture each other."*

Praise and reward those who give of themselves and nudge them into the forefront. Leadership is action, not position. We do make a difference. Now is not the time to be weary or quit. We care, we are passionate about issues. My challenge to you is to take that concern, that passion, that desire for change and join hands as we "Leap into Action."



SAVE THE DATE!

Seattle Flower Show Trip February 17-20, 2016

We plan to take a bus from Missoula and travel to Seattle on February 17 to view the show February 18 & 19 and return to Missoula on February 20th, 2016.

More details will be available at Fall Board. If you want more information on the show itself go to:

www.gardenshow.com



MFGC STATE CONVENTION TO FEATURE STANDARD FLOWER SHOW June 23-25, 2016

**PROUD
TO BE AN
AMERICAN**

**MISSOULA,
MONTANA**

- MFGC 2015-17 COMMITTEES -

CHAPLAIN - Cheryl Carroll MONTANA GARDENS

Patricia Schlaeger,
Managing Editor
Norman DeNeal, Copy Editor
Pam Diamond, Copy Editor
Diane Ward, Circulation

WEB SITE

Phyllis White, Web Manager
Nina Eadie, Calendar Manager

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Glenna Waltee, Mary Olsen
Rosemary Corrigan, Jim Sadler

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Denise Fink, Chair; Jane
Ereaux, Linda Sadler, Joyce
Hendricks, Sherry Corneliusen

FINANCIAL AUDIT REVIEW

Gail Zarr, Norman DeNeal

HISTORIAN

Doris Richard, Kathy Spiech
Ferguson, Assistant

LONG RANGE PLANNING and ORGANIZATION STUDY

Denise Fink, Darlene Skari,
Phyllis White, Glenna Waltee

MEMBER SERVICES (NGC Life Membership, MFGC Products, National Gardener Subscriptions)

Carol Works

MEMBERSHIP

Vanette Nagamori

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Denise Fink

NGC PRESIDENT'S PROJECTS

Jim Sadler, Backyard Habitat
Sue Leferink, Bees

AWARDS

MFGC AWARDS CHAIRMAN

Sherry Corneliusen

Due: All awards due April 15.

CATHY ATKINSON AWARD

Vickie Barbieri

DUE: April 15

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Donna Dowell

DUE: April 15

MFGC and NGC FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

Susan Andrews

DUE: January 5

YEARBOOK AWARDS

Annie Mollock

DUE: December 1

AWARD of EXCELLENCE - REGION

**"Advancing Our Horizons - New
Thoughts, Ways and Ideas"**

Joyce Hendricks

2015-2017 NGC PRESIDENTS

PROJECT **"Service in Action"**

Joyce Hendricks

CIVIC DEVELOPMENT

BLUE STAR MARKERS

Kathy Austin

EDUCATION

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Susan Billmayer

FLOWER SHOW CREDENTIALS

Susan Billmayer, Chairman

SYMPOSIUM CHAIRMAN

Susan Billmayer

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Christi Mock, Chairman

Mary Olsen, Advisor

MFGC LIFE MEMBER

SCHOLARSHIP Susan Woods

NGC AND MURPHY

SCHOLARSHIP Fay Weber

MEDIA LIBRARY / SPEAKERS

BUREAU Linda Clark

HORTICULTURE

BIRDS AND HABITATS

Nelone Nilson

BUTTERFLIES AND HABITATS

Kathy Waters

PENNY PINES

Marie Hoyer

COMMUNITY GARDENS & GROWING EDIBLES

Susan Woods

CONSERVATION/

SUSTAINABILITY Cindy Carlton

GARDEN THERAPY

JoAnne Gibbons

NATIVE PLANTS; WILDFLOWERS

Sue Leferink

XERISCAPE GARDENING &

WATER CONSERVATION

Sue Leferink

CROWN BEES (MASON BEES) ENDANGERED SPECIES

Sue Leferink

SMALL SPACE GARDENING

Jim Sadler

MFGC SPONSORED GROUPS

JUDGES COUNCIL

Glenna Waltee

LIFE MEMBERS

Susan Woods



YOUTH

YOUTH POETRY & ESSAY

Greg Cooper

DUE: November 1, 2016, 2017

POETRY - 2016

"CROAKING LEAPING FROGS"

ESSAY- 2016

"DON'T LET THE FROGS CROAK"

POETRY - 2017

"WE THREE: BEES,
BUTTERFLIES, and ME"

ESSAY - 2017

"WE NEED OUR POLLINATORS"

YOUTH COORDINATOR

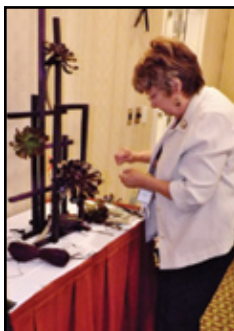
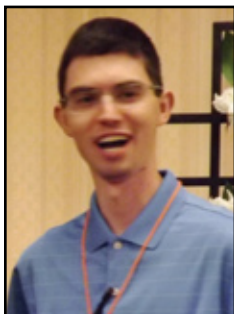
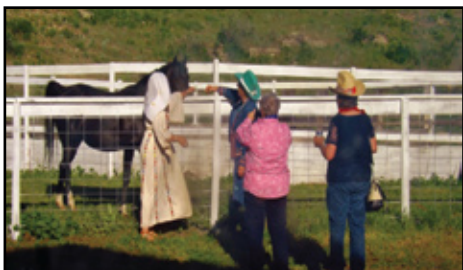
JUNIOR CLUBS Toni Ziegler

YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST

Greg Cooper

SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL

Jennifer Strzelczyk



Top to bottom: MAFB Color Guard, Mayor talks at Vets Memorial, East Meets West BBQ, Phillip Williams (l) and Melissa LaFontaine Scholarship Winners, Succulent Workshop, Mike Dalton, Missoula 2016 Presentation.

2015 CONVENTION

78th Annual MFGC Convention

Hilton Garden Inn Great Falls, Montana

Friday, June 12, 2015 Call to Order 9 a.m. MFGC President Denise Fink presiding

Welcome and Introduction of Head Table and Guests: Officers

Invocation – Norm DeNeal- MFGC Chaplain

Presentation of Colors – Malmstrom Air Force Base Color Guard

“America the Beautiful” – Sylvia Harant; Kathleen Rockeman, Sign Language

Welcome: Mayor Mike Winters, Great Falls

Memorial Service – Norm DeNeal, Chaplain

Reading and Adoption of Convention Rules: Darlene Skari, Parliamentarian – Approved

Preliminary Registration Report: Sherry Meadors, Registrar – 109 registered attendees

Preliminary Credentials Report: Jim Sadler – voting strength of 57

Declaration of a Quorum: Darlene Skari, Parliamentarian

Appointment of committee to Approve 2015 Convention Minutes:

Diane Ward, Pat Biggs, Joyce Hendricks

Introduction of 2015 Convention Co-Chairpersons –

Myrna McCollum and Patty Schlaeger

Introduction of Pages: Page for NGC President Sandra Robinson, Helen Shewman;

Page for MFGC President Denise Fink, Kathy Austin

Adoption of Convention Program – Patty Schlaeger moved the adoption of the Convention Program as amended, approved

Garden Club Member of the year: Marialyce Martin, Great Falls Flower Growers

Appointment of Tellers – Diana Meyers, Elaine Wood, Delores Gregory

Appointment of Timekeepers – Cheryl Carrol, Gail Zarr, Kathy Waters

Report of Committee to Approve 2014 Convention Minutes: Joyce Hendricks, Chairman, approved with name spelling (Henderson to Hendricks) correction

Report of MFGC Officers- filed

President: Goal is to ease transition into State offices

President-Elect: Explained her theme for presidency next term

2nd V-P: Working on a new NGC President's Award

Treasurer: 2014/2015 Financial Report – Glenna Waltee – approved

Recording Secretary: Compiled a binder with Guidelines; sent materials to archive

Corresponding Secretary: Delegate registration

Nominating Committee Report: Phyllis White, Chairman, introduced the Committee members and the slate of officers for 2015-2017: 1st Vice-President, Joyce Hendricks; 2nd Vice-President, Sherry Corneliusen; Treasurer, Jane Ereaux; Recording Secretary, Diane Ward

Election of Officers: There were no officer nominations from the floor.

All of the above slate were elected to serve.

Reports of District Directors and Club Presidents (reports on file)

District # 6- Northern – Vanette Nagamori District # 2- Western – Cheryl Carroll

District # 3 – Southwestern – Nancy Johnson

Recess – 11:30 Reconvened -- 1:15 p.m.

President's Awards: Mary Olson, Landscape School; Sue Leferink, Native Gardening/ Conservation/Mason Bees; Phyllis White/Erika Madden Website; Annie Mollock, Facebook.

Reports of District Directors and Club Presidents (continued):

District # 4 – Lewis & Clark – Judy Rente

Adjourned – 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 13, 2015

Call to Order: 9:05 a.m. by MFGC President Denise Fink

Reports of District Directors and Club Presidents (Continued):

District # 7 – Hi-Line –Jane Ereaux/Sharon Miller; District # 12- Eastern

Gateway – Sherry Corneliusen; District # 10- Yellowstone – Joyce Hendricks

District # 5 - Central– Pat Biggs

State Chairman Reports:

Penny Pines, Marie Hoyer, \$476 sent from MFGC to reforest in Montana

Montana Gardens: Patty Schlaeger, Editor; Diane Ward, Circulation

Website, Phyllis White. Zone 4 has been renamed Rocky Mountain Gardening.

Five dollars of each subscription is returned to the MFGC Awards fund. The MFGC website has been redesigned by a professional web designer

MINUTES

Financial Audit Review, Gail Zarr and Norm DeNeal moved to approve the MFGC books. Approved

Historian, Doris Richard

Long-Range Planning, Jane Ereaux

Member Services, Carol Works

Membership, Vanette Nagamori, Malta Dirt Daubers won best MFGC brochure

Blue Star Memorial Markers, Kathy Austin, 15 Markers and 2 in the works

Judges Council, Sherry Corneliusen, Sold Shirley Spilde's design materials to raise money

Life Members, Susan Woods, Scholarship awarded to Christian Gunther, Helena

Flower Show School, Symposium, and Credentialing, Susan Billmayer,

Next school will be in Bozeman August 21-23

Media Library, Denise for Lawana McCollough, New chairman is Linda Clark

NGC/Murphy Scholarship, Fay Weber, NGC scholarship increased from \$3500 to \$4000; Melissa Lafontaine was awarded this scholarship and spoke before us

Speakers Bureau, Linda Clark

Birds and Habitats, Nelone Nilsen

Native Plants/Wildflowers, Sue Leferink,

Tested three new plants that survived our harsh winters

Xeriscape Gardening/Water Conservation, Sue Leferink, Learning about bioswales that collect and purify water for recycling purposes

Crown Bees, Sue Leferink, Continues to give presentations and sell supplies

Junior Garden Clubs, Tony Ziegler

Meeting Recessed: 11:30 a.m. Meeting Reconvened: 1:30 p.m.

New Business – Recommendations from Executive Committee:

The approximate cost to attend the 2016 Seattle Flower Show via bus is \$200 plus lodging for \$105/night/room. The bus will accommodate 45 people.

The Executive Committee proposed to change By-Law VIII.4.g. having the Treasurer submit written Financial Statements to the MFGC Webmaster within 30 days of Fall Board and Convention. Motion approved.

The proposed change to add By-Law VIII.5.c., wherein the Recording Secretary submit minutes for publication in the Montana Gardens and in the members-only Website within 30 days of Fall Board/Convention was tabled until Convention 2016. The Executive Committee will review a change from 30 to 60 days for the review cycle.

A change in Policy/Procedure was proposed to cut costs by publishing three hardcopy Montana Gardens (Spring, Summer, Fall) and electronic communications from the President as needed. Motion approved.

An amendment to publish only electronic communications quarterly failed.

Proposed 2015-2016 Budget – Glenna Waltee MFGC Treasurer- approved

Meeting Recessed: 2 p.m. Meeting Reconvened: 6:30 p.m.

Invitation to the 79th MFGC Convention in Missoula June 23-25, 2016 –

Hosted by Missoula Garden Club

Invitation to Fall Board Meeting in Fort Benton October 10, 2015 –

Hosted by Fort Benton and Chester Garden Clubs

National and RMR Awards Dinner

NGC President Sandra Robinson spoke about getting new members involved in garden club

Awards Chairman Linda Sadler presented National awards to Clubs.

Installation of 2015 – 2017 MFGC Elected Officers: Sandra Robinson, NGC President installed Linda Sadler, President; Joyce Hendricks, 1st Vice President; Sherry Corneliusen, 2nd Vice President, Diane Ward, Recording Secretary; Jane Ereaux, Treasurer.

Final Registration Report – Sherry Meadors – 116 individuals registered

Final Credentials Report: Jim Sadler

7 State Officers, 7 District Directors, 20 Club Presidents, 7 Past State

Presidents, 18 State Chairmen, 61 delegates, Total Voting Strength – 61

Courtesy Resolution: Mary McLane

Winner of Counted Cross Stitch: Darlene Skari

Benediction: Norm DeNeal

Convention Adjourned- 9:30 p.m. Sine Die

Lynne Mahan, Recording Secretary

Approved by /s/ Pat Biggs /s/ Diane Ward /s/ Joyce Hendricks



Top to bottom: Woldvedt children sing "Farewell, Good-bye"; NGC President's gift; Glenna Waltee presents quilt to President Linda Sadler; Darlene Skari (r) winner of cross stitch made by Myrna McCollum (l)

GARDENER OF THE YEAR



Jan Gorman, a member of Rainbow Garden Club (pictured with some of her garden produce) was awarded the Gardener of the Year Award at the 2015 annual MFGC conference. Jan and her husband, Dale, produce

a picture-worthy garden each year a great example of how much a home garden can truly produce.

Their garden is planted with a plan. Sunflowers offer support for the corn and the maze of squash vines help discourage deer. An electric fence and scarecrows keep most of the predators out. Jan adds a little prayer for rain and sunshine, and for early chills and hail to stay away. Produce that is not consumed by their family is donated to charity, including a special "harvest basket" that is used for the annual Rainbow GC fundraiser. Congratulations, Jan, for being 2015 Gardener of the Year!

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

PHILLIP WILLIAMS

Phillip Williams, Stevensville, Montana received a \$1000 scholarship from the Great Falls Flower Growers and a \$3000 scholarship from the Rainbow Garden Club during the MFGC Convention. Phillip is majoring in forestry and minoring in ecological restoration at the University of Montana in Missoula. Williams is from Stevensville where he is a tour guide at the St. Marys' Museum and Mission, a volunteer Hunter Education Instructor with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and a volunteer speech instructor for home schooled Stevensville children. He is a member of the Davidson Honor College at UM.

KYLE ANDERSON

Kyle Anderson from Bozeman, Montana received a \$1000 Scholarship from the Great Falls Flower Growers. Kyle is a student at Montana State University in Bozeman where he is studying environmental horticulture, with an option in landscape design and a horticulture minor. He belongs to the Landscape Design Club and Horticulture Club. He is also a member of Rotary Club and

recently attended the American Society of Landscape Architects National Conference.

CHRISTIAN GUENTHNER

The Life Member's Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to Christian Guenther of Helena, Montana who is a student at Montana State University in Bozeman. He is pursuing a degree in plant science. He belongs to the Landscape Design Club and Horticulture Club. He is also a member of Rotary.

MELISSA LAFONTAINE

Melissa LaFontaine was the recipient of the NGC \$4000 Scholarship and the \$500 Murphy Scholarship. She is getting her Master's Degree in environment studies at the University of Montana in Missoula. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado and received a French Proficiency Certification at McGill University in Montreal, PQ. She is a graduate assistant at UM for community, environment, nature and society courses. She recently worked as a youth farm educator at BK Farm Yard in Brooklyn, New York where she led youth in daily farm tasks and nutrition.

MINUTES

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs Board

First Board Meeting, 2015-2017
Hilton Garden Inn, Great Falls, MT
Saturday, June 13, 2015

Call to Order: 9:30 PM by

Linda Sadler, President

Introductions: Elected Officers, National President, Regional Director, Club Presidents, Appointed Officers

Quorum: Phyllis White, Parliamentarian, declared a quorum was present.

Appointment of Committees: Judges Council chairman was corrected to read Glenna Waltee. Appointment of committees was ratified and approved.

Committee to Approve Minutes:

Glenna Waltee, Jim Sadler

Announcements:

*Clubs to send copy of Club Yearbook to State President.

*Send Club Yearbook award applications to Annie Mollock by December 1, 2015.

*Club Presidents to forward any address and/or e-mail address corrections to State President.

*Arrangements are being made for the trip to the Seattle Flower Show, February 17-21, 2016.

*Fall Board will be in Fort Benton on October 9 & 10, 2015. Members are encouraged to make lodging arrangements as soon as possible.

* Notify State President of club member deaths, special birthdays or seriously ill.

*Gail Zarr reported Pamela McKeever is donating a portion of her jewelry sales to the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs.

*Phyllis White reported the National Board voted that there will no longer be a printed hard copy of the "Keeping In Touch" publication, electronic copy only. Club Presidents are asked to distribute an electronic copy to all their members with email addresses and let others know of any major news and projects.

A warrant was approved to pay bills for 2015-2016, fiscal year.

Benediction: Cheryl Carroll.

Adjourned Sine Die: President Sadler adjourned the First Board Meeting of 2015-2017 at 10:00PM on Saturday, June 13, 2015 sine die.

Respectfully

Diane Ward,

Recording Secretary

June 13, 2015

Recognize the Forest Fire Danger Colors



During the summer days some of us enjoy heading to the forests to enjoy camping or other activities. Traveling along highways one may see a Forest Service sign with five different colors that indicate fire levels because of environmental conditions. Signs in different locals indicate the fire danger in that area to make campers aware of forest and weather conditions that might curtail certain activities.

The arrow in the **GREEN** area indicates **LOW FIRE DANGER**. Fuels will not ignite easily although lightening may start a fire. Lightning strikes are the same in all colors. Grass fires may burn quickly for a few hours. Wood fires spread slowly so the control is easy.

The arrow in the **BLUE** area indicates a **MODERATE** danger level. Grass type fires burning in the moderate area will burn and spread rapidly while timber fires spread slowly to moderately fast. They generally are not serious.

The **YELLOW HIGH** level indicates dead fuels ignite easily and may be caused by unattended brush or campfires. Control may be difficult as the fire spreads quickly.

The arrow on the **ORANGE** color, or **VERY HIGH**, means a fire can easily spread rapidly and increase quickly in intensity and control may be difficult.

With the **RED** color highlighted fire danger is **EXTREME**. Fires will burn intensely and fast so direct attacks are rarely possible and may be dangerous while burning conditions last. Control along the flanks is the only option. Weather or back burning the fuel supply will halt it.

The next time you drive by a Forest Service Fire Danger sign, know the dangers involved and tip your hat to the rangers and firefighters who are so vigilant to keep the forests alive for our pleasure.

Have a lovely summer,

MARIE HOYER
CHAIRMAN PENNY PINES



NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS

We have received three applications for National Life Membership since our June convention. Do you suppose we (MFGC) could possibly again win the NGC award, based on the percentage increase in new National Life Members during the 2015-2016 term? If you have ever considered paying the \$200 one-time fee to join, now is a great time to do so! You may receive the National Gardener for life (*as long as you remain a garden club member*). The money is used for scholarships, a portion is invested, and \$119 is tax deductible.

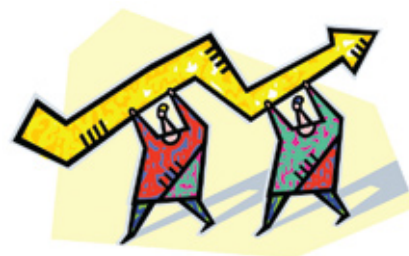
The scholarships are very worthwhile as they are \$4000. Many Montana

students (*including Melissa Lafontaine this year*) have received this scholarship in the past, and you never know when another will apply and win it.

National Life Membership is an easy process: download a National Life Membership application from www.gardenclub.org, or I can mail one to you. Fill it out, enclose your check made out to National Garden Clubs, Inc. and return it to me. I have to sign it and send it on to the NGC Chairman. **Thank you for considering!**

CAROL WORKS
Chairman National Life Members

MEMBERSHIP CORNER



Use the many forms of media! At your fingertips, you can reach a large number of people. All you need to do is list your club name and contact person on web sites of local organizations: Chamber of Commerce, newspaper, library and other non-profit organizations.

This is a great way to notify the public when and where your next meeting will be and your program. Openly invite anyone interested in gardening to attend. *You might be surprised when new faces show up!*

VANETTE NAGAMORI
CHAIRMAN MEMBERSHIP

CALLING ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS!

It is the middle of summer and the children are getting restless and wanting new activities. Let them be creative by writing a poem for the Youth Poetry Contest. The theme for this year for the grade school poem is "**Croaking Leaping Frogs.**" The high school essay theme is "**Don't Let the Frogs Croak.**"

Submit poem or essay with the child's name, age, your garden club, city and state to:

Greg Cooper,
500 Trista Dr.
Dillon, MT 59725

Deadline is November 1, 2015

*Let's get the children's
creativity flowing!*

The Fort Benton & Chester Garden Clubs
Invite you to join us in Historic Fort Benton
MFGC 2015 FALL BOARD
"Fairies in the Succulent Garden"
October 9-10th, 2015



Meetings: Community Hall, Next to the Community Bible Church, 1600 Main Street, Fort Benton MT

Design Challenge: Theme interpretation: Bring a fairy or a succulent garden, or both for our casual design competition. *No restrictions on size or plant use; go wild!* Prizes will be awarded.

Catering: Bomgardner Catering, Loma, Montana

Accommodations: Various accommodations are available in the area in all price ranges.

Lodging information call Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce 406-622-3864

For More Information: Nancy Lachapelle 406-868-6210 Nancylach1@netzero.net

Registration Form

Name: _____ Garden Club _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

I will be attending: _____ Friday Meetings (MFGC Board, Committees and Judges)
 _____ Friday Dinner (\$20 per person)
 _____ Saturday Meetings (\$20 per person includes snacks and lunch)
 _____ Saturday afternoon Fort Tour (\$10 per person includes three museums)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

(Make checks payable to Fort Benton Garden Club. Mail to Box 906, Fort Benton, MT 59442)

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL DEDICATED IN MILES CITY

On July 4th, Jim and I drove to Miles City to dedicate the Miles City Blue Star Marker. It was a moving and beautiful dedication. Even though the temp was 106 degrees, a good crowd was present. Heading back to Missoula before dark we missed the fireworks display, however while driving home down Homestake Pass nothing could compare to the fabulous sunset. The sky from horizon to horizon was the most spectacular red and red orange I have ever seen. With the far west mountains, and the twinkling lights of Butte, no fireworks display could compare to this scene of nature. Hope you had a great day.

LINDA SADLER
MFGC PRESIDENT



(left to right) Joyce Hendricks, Linda Sadler and Sherry Corneliusen at the July 4th dedication of the Miles City Blue Star Memorial at Pine Hills Park

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION NEWS

The eight states of the Rocky Mountain Region cover a very diverse part of the United States. Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado are usually considered to be part of the west, while North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska are more the mid-west. Much of the area was once labeled on maps as The Great American Desert, an area to be traveled through as quickly as possible. While there are garden clubs in large metro areas such as Denver, Salt Lake, and Omaha, most garden clubs are in fairly isolated rural settings.

What all members have in common is a real desire to educate and spread the knowledge of the many aspects of gardening to improve the part of the world they inhabit. The areas may be different, from the high mountain

valleys surrounded by forests to the short grass prairies and the deep soil of the Red River Valley in North Dakota. Garden club members are leaders in education in their areas as they understand local conditions. Learning to deal with droughts, wind, poor or little water, insects and diseases is understood best at the local level as conditions vary so much.

A pressing problem for the clubs of the region, especially rural ones, is membership. Members are aging, family members are busy and younger generations are less likely to join any volunteer organization. Sharing ideas can help us **"Advance Our Horizons"**.

The Awards Committee of the Rocky Mountain Region believes that each of our garden clubs needs to be

recognized for the outstanding work each provide for their communities. The Recognition Awards Program is intended to do this. Please submit your regional applications to MFGC Awards Chairman, Sherry Corneliusen

1014 Road 248, Glendive, MT 59330
sher@midrivers.com by August 20, 2015 so she can meet the September 1 deadline. Complete information on the awards program, including the application form is available on the Rocky Mountain Region website.

The annual Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting will be held on September 11-12, 2015 at the Holiday Inn City Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The theme for the meeting is "Strutting Your Stuff."

DARLENE SKARI
RM REGIONAL DIRECTOR

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL COURSE I

hosted by the Gallatin Empire Garden Club

Bozeman, Montana - August 21-23, 2015

PHYLLIS WHITE, CHAIRMAN gardens@bresnan.net

SUSAN ANDREWS, REGISTRAR sugar30@latmt.com

SUSAN BILLMAYER, FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS CHAIRMAN
gsee@itstriangle.com



UNDER MONTANA'S BIG SKY

MILES CITY GARDEN CLUB

The Miles City Club has been very busy these past several months. In April the club hosted the Eastern Gateway District Garden Clubs annual meeting. The club had its annual spring membership drive tea and luncheon in May. A skit on bees was performed and the event was a success with an addition of nine new members. All the club planting projects were completed in one day with a potluck afterwards. The big news of the club is that the replacement Blue Star Memorial arrived and July 4th dedication was held at the Pine Hills Park. Two scholarships awardees have been selected with the presentation date pending at this time. The Yard of the Week project is well underway. September 12th, 2015 has been chosen for their 2nd annual floral show. The floral show's theme is "Fall Harvest" and will include vegetables. The club will keep the Federation informed on the new wonderful MFGC website in the events schedule. Two members attended the state convention in Great Falls - President Lynne Weischedel and Secretary Donna Zimmer.

GREAT FALLS GARDEN CLUBS SET DATES FOR ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS

The Rainbow Garden will hold their annual Style Show Luncheon on Saturday, October 24 at the Great Falls Elks Lodge. The Theme for the show is "Fashion Shoot-Out." The program includes social hour, BBQ luncheon, a western photo booth, raffles, silent auction, 50-50 and great fashions for all sizes, ages. Tickets are \$25 per person. The social is at 11 AM and the Luncheon/show at Noon.

The Great Falls Flower Growers will host their 40th (Ruby Anniversary) Christmas Tea on December 3 at the Central Assembly of God Church from 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The theme is "Candy Land Lane" and the program includes handmade crafts, greeting cards, holiday floral arrangements, raffles, silent auction and a bake sale. There is no charge for tea and treats on the holiday tea table.

DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB

The club honored Charter member Mildred Hicks and two Honorary members: 96 year-old Barbara Rumford and 95 year-old Elsie Berger at the May meeting. The program speaker was Luana Maxwell, Great Falls. Luana is a National Garden Accredited Master Judge. June's speaker was Patrick Platenberg, Mountain Urban & Community Forestry Association on Xeriscaping. July's meeting was a potluck picnic for members, husbands, and guests held at the home of Co-President Peggy Sloan.

Seven members were able to attend the Montana Federation State Convention in Great Falls. They had a chance to visit with National Garden Club President Sandra Robinson who said Montana was the 30th state she had visited.



The Chester Garden Club held their annual plant sale on May 17, 2015 at the Our Savior's Lutheran Church (**pictured above**). They had a great turnout and would like to thank the community for its support. We would also like to thank the Riverview Greenhouse in Fort Benton for supplying the plants. The Chester Garden club used the proceeds of the plant sale to purchase plants and maintain the Chester City Park Garden Club Corner. Be on the lookout for the next big project to be installed in the park. It will be an arbor with planters.

At the May meeting which was held during the plant sale, the officers were elected. On June 1st they met to plant at the park. There were several members in attendance who put their gloves on and got to work!

GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOWS



Central Montana Fair
(Above) Marie Jones, Central Montana Fair Flower Show Chair, July 21, 2015 Lewistown, Montana



Stevensville Flower Show
The Stevensville Flower Show was held at the picturesque Saint Mary's Mission on July 17-18. **Pictured above** are Linda Clark President Stevensville Garden Club and Mary Baughn, Chairman of the Flower Show.



Billings Flower Show
Arabian Nights was the Flower Show sponsored by the Thumbs R Green Garden Club in Billings, Montana on July 17-18. **Pictured above** is Diane Halverson, design excellence award.

MEMORIALS AND ENDOWMENTS

Award Fund

In Memory of Dennis Hamel, deceased son of Esther Hammel,
from the Estate of Esther Hamel - **\$5,906.00**

Memorials

In Memory of Natalie Fitzpatrick, Anaconda Garden Club
by Denise Fink, **\$5.00**

In Memory of Walt Laird husband of Priscilla Laird,
Sow and Grow Garden Club
by Denise Fink. **\$5.00**

In Memory of Mary Lee, Whitehall Garden Club
by Denise Fink, **\$5.00**

In Memory of Diana May, Missoula Garden Club
by Denise Fink, **\$5.00**

In Memory of Delsie Marineau, Missoula Garden Club
by Denise Fink, **\$5.00**

In Memory of Lawana McCollough, Sow & Grow Garden Club
by Denise Fink, **\$5.00**

New Life Members

Gloria Tilleman, Havre, MT
Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club
Judy Ward, Havre, MT
Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club



Penny Pines Program

Rainbow Garden Club, Great Falls, MT - \$136.00

MFGC Members are reminded to send contributions for Big Sky Stars and Memorials. This is a great way to honor a friend or club member for a birthday, anniversary or to acknowledge a great achievement!

— Keeping in Touch —

CORRECTIONS TO EMAILS, ADDRESSES, ETC.

Donna Arvidson - PO Box 222. Brady, MT 59416 753-2331
dnnalee.a@gmail.com

Diane Ward - Want to let you know that our e-mail address has changed. Send your e-mails to mydoubleheartranch@gmail.com.

Carol Works: New Lot #181 for our Arizona mailing address
(November - March)
7750 East Broadway Road, Lot 181
Mesa, AZ 85208

WRAPPING IT UP

I can't believe that two years have gone by since I have been Editor for *Montana Gardens*. It seems as though I just started working on the magazine with President Denise to create a new format. I have been asked to continue as Editor for President Linda's term and look forward to continuing to bring you the news from MFGC in an attractive and easy to read publication.

Due to the high printing costs and increasing postal fees, it has been necessary to cut our publication from four issues a year down to three. We will publish an issue on August 15, December 15 and April 15. Our new deadlines for material submitted will be July 1, November 1 and March 1. Our President will be using an electronic newsletter to get information to club presidents in between issues as necessary. We encourage more members to switch from a printed copy to the electronic version via email to help keep the costs down. *Montana Gardens* is available on the website in full color and is easy to forward on to prospective new club members and share with family.

PATRICIA SCHLAEGER
EDITOR

**A Special
Thank You to the
District 5 Clubs
for an Outstanding
2015 Convention!**

**Dearborn Garden Club
Great Falls Flower Growers
Rainbow Garden club**

— NGC PRESIDENT'S PROJECTS —

Increase Awareness and Encourage Conservation

The 2015-2017 NGC President's Special 2-Year Project, "Service in Action," is intended to increase awareness of the seriousness of the demise of pollinators and amphibians and encourage conservation and protection efforts by clubs, the general public, and governmental agencies.

Sandra's challenge to us is to take that concern, that passion, that desire for change and join hands as we **"Leap into Action."**

SANDRA ROBINSON
NGC PRESIDENT



Visit our website at www.MTFGC.org



find us on facebook!
facebook.com/MontanaGardens

CIRCLE OF GREEN THUMB 2015 WINNERS

ANACONDA GARDEN CLUB - Min Verstraete
BELGRADE BLOOMERS GARDEN CLUB
Julie Mattson
BULLHOOK BLOSSOMS GARDEN CLUB - Judy Ward
BUTTE GARDEN STUDY GROUP - Toni Seccomb
CHESTER GARDEN CLUB - Rea Englund
CONRAD GARDEN CLUB - Carol DeBoo
DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB - Carol Brady
DILLON GARDEN CLUB - Marion Zink
FORT BENTON GARDEN CLUB - Phyllis Smith
GALLATIN EMPIRE GARDEN CLUB - Susan Andrews
GLEN DIVE GARDEN CLUB - Lila Flesjer
GREAT FALLS FLOWER GROWERS GARDEN CLUB
Inga Bradley
GUMBO GALS GARDEN CLUB - Connie Tveten
HELENA GARDEN CLUB - JoAnne Thumb
MALTA DIRT DAUBERS GARDEN CLUB
Wilma Mavencamp
MILES CITY GARDEN CLUB - Emilee Qualman
MISSOULA GARDEN CLUB - Fred Frey
RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB - Jane Snowberger
SACO GARDEN CLUB - Carol Pippin
STEVENSVILLE GARDEN CLUB - Virginia Coleman
THUMB-R-GREEN GARDEN CLUB - Rosemary Power
TOWNSEND GARDEN CLUB - Connie Leatherman
WHITEHALL GARDEN CLUB - Mary Ann Carey



DATES TO REMEMBER

August 20 - Deadline for Rocky Mtn Regional Awards

August 21-23 - Flower Show School in Bozeman

September 11-12 - Rocky Mtn Regional Meeting in Sioux Falls, SD

October 9-10 - Fall Board Meeting In Fort Benton

November 1 - Youth Poetry Contest to Greg Cooper

December 1 - Deadline for Yearbook NGC Awards to Annie Mollock

