

## **Petals in the Wind**

### **Montana Federation of Garden Clubs Newsletter March 2018**

Winter seems to be slowly leaving the state and spring is on it's way. Crocus, tulips and daffodils are poking their heads up which is so cheery. It seems like I hibernated all winter and now it is time to move! Though the moisture is wonderful, the sun shine and warmth feel so good!

It is almost time for our **District Meetings**. I look forward to seeing many of you and hearing about your club activities. Just a reminder of the Dates for these meetings.

Eastern Gateway: Glendive: April 11

Hi-Line: Malta: April 12

Yellowstone: Billings: April 13

Northern: Chester: April 25

Central: Great Falls: April 26

Western: Missoula: April 27

Lewis & Clark: Butte: April 28

By now club presidents and MFGC committee chair have received the beautiful invitation to our state convention being held in Helena, June 15 & 16. I hope many of you are making plans to attend. The tours planned are interesting, educational and inspiring. There are workshops to increase our knowledge and awareness. We will have an opportunity to honor our members and clubs as awards are given and a scholarship winner announced. Best of all, we will have time to enjoy the friendships we have developed among those who share our love of gardening.

#### **Social Media: Phyllis White, MFGC Webmaster and NGC Social Media Chairman**

Creating new social media communication methods connects clubs with potential and current members, drives people to the MFGC website and quickly allows information dissemination and interactions within our gardening network. See our Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/MontanaGardens/>. Several of our clubs have their own Facebook page, too. Please **like** and **follow** the MFGC Facebook page and NGC media below and recommend that your gardening friends do, too. **Facebook** is a popular, free social networking website that allows registered

users to create profiles, upload photos and video, send messages, and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues. Facebook features: Pages-allows members to create and promote a public page built around a specific topic. Groups- allows members who have common interests to find each other and interact. Events-allows members to publicize an event, invite guests and track who plans to attend.

**Pinterest** is a free online pinboard with visual images to share ideas. NGC has “boards” of images showing items from Member Services, floral design, project ideas, horticulture, etc. (search National Garden Clubs)

**Instagram** is a free social networking application made for sharing photos and videos from a smartphone. (research national garden)

An introductory Power Point presentation in the members’ section of the National Garden Clubs’ website explains how to create or add “spark” to a club’s Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and website. I encourage all members to connect to social media venues.

#### **Flower Show Judges: Susan Billmayer**

Susan Billmayer, Flower Show School chairman, proudly announces that our Federation has five new Accredited Judges. They are: Jeannie Bennett and Sue O’Leary of Great Falls, Mary Ann Carey of Boulder, Judy Rente of Belgrade, and Diane Ward of Whitehall. **Congratulations!** Please consider inviting these new judges to your Flower Shows.

#### **Club News**

**The Gumbo Gals of Nashua** enjoyed a busy and interesting 2017. Drought conditions were a major factor in our area. Highlights of the year were attendance at the District #7 meeting in Chinook, sponsoring and volunteering at Valley County Free Tree Day, a couple of garden tours, programs featuring birds and making patio bird feeders, and a special presentation from guest Ellen Gunderson of Fort Peck, Montana on drying, dying and decorating garden gourds. Ellen has won artistic awards on her beautifully carved and painted gourds. Such a wonderful hobby. We enjoyed having our District Director, Gloria Tilleman, in attendance at this meeting. The Gumbo Gals had great success with their annual fundraiser of selling homemade fruit pies at the Nashua Bazaar. Also, we had a great Christmas gathering with a potluck dinner and Food Bank donations. We will have our first meeting of 2018 on March 13. We are all snuggled down

right now with February's cold weather and snow anticipating a joyful Spring and all the excitement the Easter season brings. Happy Springtime to all our gardening friends. May your planting dreams come to life.

**Glendive Garden Club** is anxiously awaiting spring. Winter has been way too long with lots of snow and cold temperatures. We filled out our program books and updated our by-laws in January. Festive floral arrangements were made at our December Christmas potluck meeting. We had a gourd lesson in November and watched a video on new annuals for 2018 at our February meeting. Our next program will be on soils and how to interpret results from our County Agent, Bruce Smith. We donated to Penny Pines and are working on ordering memorial stepping stones for our Priscilla Hudson Garden and hope to complete that project this year.

2018 finds our club celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The club organized on April 8, 1948 and became federated May 21, 1948. To mark this special occasion, we are going out to dinner using the funds we made from our ways and means table at Fall Board.

Looking forward to warmer weather and thought of tulips and daffodils dancing in the sunshine. Happy gardening.

**Belgrade Bloomers:** Members are working on designing and educational pollinator garden inside Lewis & Clark Park in downtown Belgrade this summer, as well as hosting a spring flower show on June 8-9 at the Gallatin Valley Mall. We are sending Mary Ann Byerly and Annie Mollock, flower show students, to judge the Philadelphia flower show at the beginning of March (with the financial help of the MFGC Judges Council). Club member Phyllis White will be attending, too, to judge the show and to create social media with NGC President Nancy Hargroves and P. Allen Smith, author and television host. Our club is working on co-hosting with Whitehall GC the MFGC Fall Board meeting to be held in Ennis this fall. We are also partnering with the Townsend GC for our annual pumpkin/succulent fundraiser.

**Great Falls Flower Growers** has 6 new members. Our goal was to increase by 5 so we are thrilled! March 10<sup>th</sup> we are celebrating 85 years of our club. We are working on Books of Evidence for submission in April. We are sponsoring a Great Falls Spring Garden contest during the months of March, April & May. Photos must be submitted by May 31. We have reviewed and updated our By-Laws and had a successful Christmas tea to support scholarships.

**WEB SITE:** Phyllis White has resigned as our MFGC Webmaster. If you would be interested in helping out our organization by using your talents in this area please let Joyce Hendricks know. You can call (406-259-9610) or send me an email ([rnjhend@charter.com](mailto:rnjhend@charter.com)).

**REMINDERS;**

Get your awards entries in as soon as possible. It is great to be able to recognize and reward your efforts.

Register for the Convention!

Order your flowers from P. Allen Smith before June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Check out the MFGC Web site and the NGC Web site.

Order the children's book, "The Saved Seed" for your local library or school.

Be thinking about what your club might do to celebrate Garden Club Week, June 3-9.

See you soon at the District Meetings: Joyce