



MONTANA



One of the Beautiful Picnic Grounds at Tizer Gardens, Site of Our Picnic Dinner at the 2018 Helena Convention



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joyce Hendricks MFGC President 2017-2019



The seed catalogues have begun to arrive; *can spring be far behind?* Spring means that the District Meetings will be occurring soon. These meetings are such a nice opportunity to touch base with members, find out what they have been doing throughout this cold, snowy winter and what they plan for the upcoming growing season. It is always amazing to me all the activities that garden club members participate in even when they are not able to be outside. I look forward to the opportunity to learn more and to greet many of you at these meetings.

Several items have come to my attention from our National Organization. One is that the AMES Tools for club's gardening projects application deadline has been moved to April 15th so you still have time to apply for tools for your club. The application and details are on the NGC website. I hope some of you will apply. This company has great tools which could be of help as you work on your planting projects.

NGC is raising funds for the PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants by selling plants in cooperation with P. Allen Smith. Several types of plants are available for purchase online at www.ShopGardenClub.org or by accessing the mail order form on the NGC website. Orders must be in by June 1st. The order includes planting instructions and a free mystery daylily. I sent information out to all of the club presidents with pictures of the plants, etc. so you can see what is available. *How fun to have plants especially chosen for us!!*

The state convention is coming up June 15 -16 and I know it will be a great event. The Helena Garden Club has been busy making plans to provide us with some wonderful tours, great educational sessions and fun events. I have my jams ready to bring for the contest!! The conference information and registration is included on page 6-7 in this issue. On Thursday, June 14, just before the convention, we will be celebrating the dedication of the Helena Garden Club Blue Star Memorial. I hope to see many of you there.

This is the year that we vote on our nominating committee at our state convention. Please consider whether or not this would be a way you might serve our organization and let Linda Sadler know of your interest. This is a vital committee as new officers are crucial to ensuring we continue to function as a great organization.

- Joyce Hendricks, MFGC President

MFGC 2017-2019 OFFICERS & DISTRICT DIRECTORS

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Southwestern District #3

Cathy Speich-Ferguson

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Central District #5

Ivy Jackson

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Lynne Weischedel

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Darlene Skari

Ruth Layton

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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

DEADLINE / ISSUE

July 1, 2018 – Summer/Fall 2018
November 1, 2018 – Winter 2018-2019
March 1, 2019 – Spring 2019

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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The Unexpected Garden

*It was not my intention to start a
garden that encompasses my
whole back yard.
It came as a surprise!*

The garden started as the result of my teenage son's over ambitious plans to support his FFA chicken project. I was away at school in Portland when he called me and asked if he could expand the vegetable garden so he could plant corn for his chicken project. I gave him permission and did not regret my answer until late June when school was out and I had returned home.

Our home sits on an acre with the vast amount of the space in the back yard. It seems his FFA team showed up one day with a disk and tractor and plowed up all of the grass. When they hit the cable TV and underground telephone lines they became concerned and stopped. The rains came and the whole backyard became home to every weed imaginable. His Grandmother who was caring for my son kept his secret until it was obvious when I looked out the window after I returned from Portland and saw the mess. I thought I could either kill the kid or in the alternative create an English garden. My son agreed to help and so the garden was born.

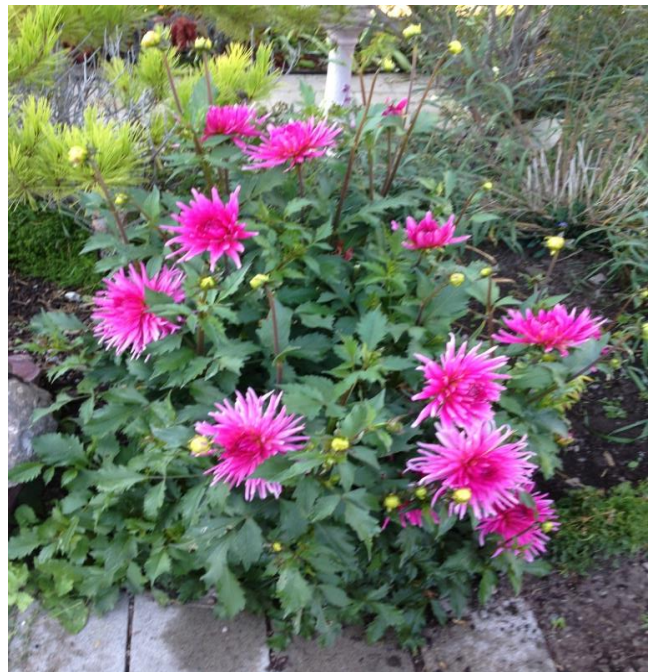
Those who are brave enough to have a garden in Missoula know the soil is alkali and needs the amendment of compost to support healthy plants. We trenched where I wanted my flower beds and used a screen to remove the rocks. We filled the trenches with compost and the screened dirt with added top soil. The gravel was used to create a base for the paths that were developed. With such a vast area to plant, it was a challenge, as I had little money. With the help of my son, and elbow grease and effort, the garden was created.

With my determination and of course my teenage son's often reluctant help, the garden grew into a show stopper. The garden has been featured in newspaper articles and garden tours. The queen of the garden in July to September is the Dahlia. The color and interest Dahlias bring to the garden is stunning. They are easy to grow and propagate easily.

I was fortunate that my wife and I were acquainted with members of the Montana Dahlia Society and their spring tuber sale. With meager funds we were able to plant Dahlia borders with sufficient blooms to enable me to enter local Dahlia shows. I am more into design than entering blooms in the horticulture division of the flower show. I do have difficulty in picking the blooms as I enjoy the color in the garden.

My son has long since made a life of his own in Washington DC. He gardens with his wife with in view of the Capitol building. His garden is well tended and like mine, encompasses all of the available yard space. Lessons learned here in Missoula are practiced in his garden. Dahlias from the Missoula dahlia sale are featured in his garden. The bond that was developed with the "unexpected garden" was well worth it.

Jim Sadler
MFGC Habitat Chairman



*Beautiful Dahlias grace the
Sadler's English garden*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION PHOTO CONTEST

The Rocky Mountain Region is having a photo contest. There is no charge for entering! The theme is "Wildlife of the Rocky Mountain Region". All digital photos are to be sent to donna@rouchpartners.com. The deadline is June 1, 2018

Wildlife of the Rocky Mountain Region Rules & Guidelines

Submit up to 2 images by June 1st, 2018 uploaded to donna@rouchpartners.com along with the completed entry form and the signed release form, or send photos with forms to the address below.

Your images should be a high resolution (300 dpi) image with a file size of at least 2 megapixels with a minimum dimension of 1600x1200 pixels. Smart phone photos generally are large enough files. Image should be labeled with your last name, first name and title of your photo: **for example: dane-arabella-raindrops.jpeg**

MANIPULATION of the image by the exhibitor, in camera, and or in post processing is allowed. The digital images will be juried, and the finalists will receive ribbons. The committee will print the finalists, which will be displayed at the Rocky Mountain Region Annual Meeting at Fort Robinson, Nebraska.

Image Release Agreement

By entering this contest, you agree to the terms of this agreement: You grant the Rocky Mountain Region the use of any images that you upload for educational and promotional purposes only on a royalty-free basis and without compensation. Including any reproductions of those images, which are deemed necessary. You will be given full credit for any of your images used for these purposes. You retain your copyright to any images that you upload. You also agree that the images that you upload were captured by you and they are your possessions.

Signed by: _____ Date: _____

Rocky Mountain Region Photo Contest Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Picture #1 Name _____

Picture #2 Name _____

SEND TO: .Donna Rouch, Rocky Mountain Region, Inc. Awards Chairman - 939 South 106th Plaza, #305, Omaha, NE 68114-4698 **Phone** 402-676-0906

Wyoming Kittentails

One of the early wildflowers to bloom in Montana.



Wyoming Kittentails are one of the earliest blooming wildflowers in Montana. They appear soon after the snow melts and are found on open slopes from the foothills to the mountains. They first appear in April and may flower into July. The flower is a dense spike on top of a single stem. The flowers have no petals but have 2 hairy sepals and two long stamens with purple filaments that present the signature color. The large waxy leaves are coarsely toothed and are easily identified after the blooms are gone.

I look forward to showing you more of Montana's wildflowers as they bloom this summer.

**Wyoming Kittentails -*Besseyia*
*wyomingensis***



Susan Andrews
MFGC Native Plants and
Wildflowers Chairman

This and That by Sherry Corneliusen

According to the weatherman's calendar, March 1 is their first day of spring. However, looking out my window at the snow covered prairie, I do not believe spring is just around the corner. We have had lots of snow this winter, and I am getting pretty tired of it, but we hope it brings us the much needed moisture this spring. The cold temperatures we have been enduring this winter should have killed all the diseases and insects also, so here's to a wonderful growing season.

I was at a big box store yesterday to do a bit of shopping and saw they had all the cannas, dahlias, lilies, peonies, and other bulbs out on display and I just had to buy a few, even though I cannot start them yet. I have been browsing the seed catalogs, but when I can actually feel and touch a plant, it brings happiness to my soul. That dormant plant I felt in my hand would someday turn into that beautiful flower pictured on the package. *Dreams are what the garden is made of.*

District Meetings are coming up in April and I would like to remind all of you to attend the meeting in your area. April 11 we will be in Glendive, April 12 at the Sleeping Buffalo Resort (Malta) and April 13 in Billings. We take a week off and then continue with the meetings in Chester on April 25, Great Falls on April 26, Missoula on April 27 and the Southwestern and Lewis and Clark Districts are combining for one meeting in Butte on April 28. Your MFGC officers put many miles on their vehicles traveling to these meetings, but it is so encouraging to meet with all of you and learn of your club's many gardening efforts.

I encourage each of your clubs to apply for the various state awards found in the directory and on the web at mtfgc.org. Send your awards into Connie Leatherman, P O Box 547, Townsend, MT 59644 by the due date please.

I look forward to representing Montana at the National Garden Club Convention in Philadelphia May 19-24. Joyce has a grandson graduating that same weekend and cannot attend, so as vice president I will stand in for her. I will give you a full report at our State Convention in Helena, June 14-16.

Spring should be arriving soon and I look forward to the tulips and daffodils dancing in the warm spring breezes. Until then, keep browsing those seed catalogs or take a trip to your local greenhouse and think spring.

Sherry Corneliusen
First Vice President MFGC

FALL FLING MINI FLOWER SHOW A SUCCESS

October 6 & 7, 2017 were the dates for the "Fall Fling", a Horticulture Specialty Flower Show presented by the Great Falls Flower Growers with help from Dearborn and Rainbow Garden Clubs. The show was held at the home of Pat Biggs in Great Falls and open to the public following judging. The show was organized and presented in 10 days mostly to accommodate the need of a student judge for a flower show credit. *Congratulations to our new judges Sue O'Leary and Jeannie Bennett.*

(below) One of the winning entries in the Horticulture Specialty Flower Show



(above) District 5 Director Ivy Jackson's son's entry "The Beet That Ate Great Falls" was so delightful and, when cut open, was perfect!

This was a fun experiment and wound up to be a popular affair in the community. Expecting around 40 entries, the group was very excited when 100 showed up. Most were from garden club members, but about 20% were from the community. Expecting to open the garage door and let people enter through that door into the showcase of flowers and plants, the Montana wind blew as hard as it could to prevent that from happening. People entered Pat's home through the front door and were greeted with refreshments, educational tri-folds, then on to the patio for botanical arts garden division and then into the large garage with tables full of the most inviting vegetables, fruits, flowers and plants.

Jeannie Bennett won the door prize of a pumpkin filled with succulents made by Phyllis White, who presented a program to the GFFG garden club the day before. Awards were given per NGC standards and everyone had a good time.





Registration Form

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. 81st Annual State Membership Convention

June 15 & 16, 2018

Radisson Colonial Hotel, 2301 Colonial Drive, Helena MT Call

(406) 443-2100 and reserve your hotel room before **May 15th** ask for

"Montana Federation of Garden Club" rate for Single/Double \$129 + tax or Quad \$139 + tax per night

<http://bit.ly/MFGCRadissonReservation>



Make checks payable to Helena Garden Club – c/o Lesley Strausbaugh, 8425 Green Meadow Dr, Helena, MT 59602

Name: _____ Club: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____ District: _____

Please **circle** all applicable titles: *indicates voting member - name must appear on delegate Registration Form

Garden Club Member	Club President*	District Director*	Regional Board Member
Club Delegate*	Flower Show Judge	State Chairman*	Regional Officer
Alternate Delegate*	Student FS Judge	Elected State Officer *	Regional Director
State Life Member	Landscape Design Consultant	Appointed State Officer*	National Life Member
First Time Attendee	Student LSD Consultant	State President*	National Board member
Guest	Advisory Council Member	Past State President*	National President

Registration: Registration deadline is **May 15, 2018**. Hotel registration deadline is **May 15** to get the convention rates. No refunds after **June 1, 2018**. All MFGC Members must register to attend any function.

Full time registration June 15 & 16	\$35.00	_____
Full time registration postmarked after May 15	\$45.00	_____
One Day Registration Friday (Add \$5.00 if postmarked after May 15)	\$25.00	_____
One Day Registration Saturday (Add \$5.00 if postmarked after May 15)	\$20.00	_____

Meals: Select all that apply (tips included in price) Vegetarian or Gluten Free? _____
Any **Life-Threatening** food allergies? _____

Friday Life Members Lunch	\$17.00	_____
Friday Judges Council Banquet	\$28.00	_____
Saturday Awards Luncheon	\$20.00	_____
Post-Convention Saturday Night 6:00 pm		
Evening Picnic at <u>Tizer Gardens</u> (for Fried Chicken only)	\$ 5.00	_____

Circle your choice for the Sandwich at the Friday Lunch:

1. Beef & Cheddar 2. Ham & Swiss 3. Turkey & Pepper Jack

Circle your choice for the main course at the Friday Banquet:

1. London Broil of Beef (Marinated and Flame Seared, Sliced at Medium)
2. Black Forest Wellington (Roasted butternut squash, wild mushroom ragout, celery, onion, and fontina cheese wrapped in puff pastry and baked)

Total from Page 1 \$ _____

Contests and Challenges: Check the items you would like to participate in

☐ **Jazzercise with Judy** (no entry fee)

Join us at 8 am Friday and Saturday morning for 20 minutes of fun songs and very low impact routines. No hopping & no special shoes or clothing needed. Just comfortable and fun. A great way to start the day.

☐ **Life Members Smashing Good Time Jam Contest** (no entry fee) # Entries _____

Smash up that Montana grown fruit into jam, jelly, preserves, chutney, compote, conserves or fruit butter and bring at least 1 tasty pint worth with you to the 2018 convention. The only rule is that at least one fruit that can be grown in Montana must be used. Everyone else, bring your “dollars for scholars.” One dollar per vote, vote as many times as you want. The winner will take home this unique cast iron enameled Patriotic Lodge® Red Apple Shaped 3.5 Quart Dutch Oven. Life Members are encouraged to “Bee Fruitful” and wear fruit or pollinator themed hats, clothing or accessories. Jam tasting will be Friday during Life Members Luncheon



☐ **Quilting Challenge** (\$5.00 entry fee per person, can enter multiple items) # Entries _____

Enter the fundraising quilting contest and create a table centerpiece OR placemat setting (2 to 6 mats). The item must contain at least one fruit that grows in Montana (fabric or applique) OR red, white, and blue fabric in honor of the Helena Garden Club's Blue Star Memorial celebration. Throw in some pollinators for good measure! The winner will be selected by people's choice. Each attendee will get 3 voting slips when they register. **Winner will receive \$100 in cash.** All entries will be placed in the silent auction fundraiser and attendees can bid on them throughout the convention. Auction will be closed Saturday at noon.

Events, Tours, Workshops: Check the box next to items you would like to participate in below for planning purposes

☐ **Thursday Pre-Convention Townsend Area Garden Tour on your own 11-3 including Private Stock Perennials with owner Bryan Flynn** (no fee) <http://www.privatestockperennials.com/>.

Gardens contain some of the most unique and collectable peonies available; many varieties of Lilies, Daylilies, and Hostas; and several varieties of Haskaps (Honeyberries). (**Note: Location is 45 miles from the hotel in Helena between Townsend and Toston**). Additional gardens in Townsend along with Farmer's Market.

☐ **Thursday Pre-Convention Flag Day Blue Star Memorial Dedication and Celebration** (no fee)

7:00 pm, Montana State Veteran's Cemetery, 3550 Heroes Way, Fort Harrison.

Friday Tours 2:30 – 5:00 pm (carpooling, maps will be provided, route is less than 20 miles round trip)

Tour will include the Lewis and Clark Test Orchard and Small Fruits at Johnson's Nursery and Gardens located at 5935 McHugh Lane, <http://www.johnsonsgarden.biz>; Sixth Ward Edible Forest Community Park located at 1235 Bozeman St, <https://6thwardgardenpark.com>; and Chadwick Nursery Test Orchards and Small Fruits at Chadwick Nursery, 3010 East Custer Avenue, <https://www.chadwicknursery.com>.

☐ I would like to go on the Friday tour and I have a vehicle and can drive. I can take _____ people

☐ I would like to go on the Friday tour and I need a ride

OR

Friday Workshops 2:30 – 5:00 pm

☐ Learn about Food Preservation with Kim Lloyd, Lewis and Clark Extension Office

☐ Learn about Native Bees with Sue Leferink, Helena Garden Club

☐ Learn about Heritage Orchard Program with Brent Sarchet, Lewis and Clark Extension Office

Members and Guests can also take complimentary hotel shuttle to Downtown Helena or to the Capitol Complex/Museum.

☐ If State Chairman, are you bringing a display? If checked circle poster size 24" wide (single) or 36" wide (tri-fold).

Convention Information and Details are online at <https://bit.ly/MFGC81stConventionInfo>

Sue Leferink, Convention Chair, HelenaGardenClub@gmail.com or 406-439-5206

Total from Page 2 \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

2018 MFGC CONVENTION AGENDA



Thursday: June 14th

1:00-6:00 Registration, Check in, Visit Tizer Gardens on your own
2:00 p.m. Finance committee
3:00 p.m. Executive committee
4:00 p.m. Advisory Committee
4:30 p.m. Club Presidents and District Directors
5:00 p.m. Judges Council
7:00 p.m. Blue Star Memorial Dedication

Friday: June 15th

8:00 a.m. Registration
Jazzercise (20 minutes)
9:00 a.m. Formal Opening of the 81st MFGC Convention and Business Meeting
12:00 noon Life Members Lunch
Circle of Green Thumbs Recognition
Jam Tasting Competition
2:30-5:00 p.m. Garden Tours, Workshops
6:30 p.m. Judges Council Banquet

Saturday: June 16th

8:00 a.m. Registration
Jazzercise
9:00-11:30 Business meeting resumes
11:45 -2:30 Award Luncheon and news from our RMR Director, Jackie Watts
Adjournment
6:00 p.m. Post Convention Picnic Tizer Gardens



**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB
CHILDREN'S BOOK
HAS BEEN DONATED TO
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES
IN MONTANA
BY MFGC CLUBS!**



Eleven clubs in the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs have purchased books and donated them to either schools or libraries or both. What a great thing!

Joyce Hendricks
MFGC President

LIFE MEMBER'S CHALLENGE

Montana Life Members are always looking for ways to add to our Scholarship fund. A few years ago the "Red Rose" pin/certificate was created to boost our income. Each \$50 donation nets the donor a rose pin and certificate at the Life Members Program at our annual conference. Since all clubs or districts do not have a monthly or quarterly Life Members program meeting, I have asked each MFGC Club president to consider holding a "raffle" for a rose pin/certificate at each of their meetings. During the monthly club meeting I have suggested an envelope or basket be passed around for members to purchase any number of \$1 chances. When the dollars in the envelope add up to \$50, one of the names will be drawn and this person will be awarded the \$50 rose/pin certificate at the June meeting in Helena. As soon as this envelope reaches \$50, please start the tickets around the room for an on-going fundraiser.

In addition to our "dollars for scholars," luncheon proceeds and fund-raisers from the convention, the Red Rose Program is important to fund our scholarship.

In 2017 I purchased a bronze rose statue and would like to use this as a traveling trophy to be presented to the garden club in Montana with the most new Life members during the 2017-18 year. So encourage your new members to join Life Members! The traveling trophy will be presented to a club when we gathered at the Life Members Luncheon festivities.

Our "*Smashing Good Time Jam Contest*" is another fun way we are raising money for our scholarship. One dollar per vote will go to our "dollars for scholars." The jam winner will win an apple-shaped Dutch Oven. We encourage all our Life Members to "*Bee Fruitful*" bring jam and dress fruit or bee themed!

Patty Schlaeger, Chairman
State Life Members





2018 Rocky Mountain Region Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Contest Winners



Many wonderful posters were entered into the poster contest this year and it is always hard to pick the winners. The 2018 winners selected to enter the national contest were:

1st Grade	Zoe Becker	Utah	Neighborhood Garden Club
2nd Grade	Isadora Thueson	Utah	Neighborhood Garden Club
3rd Grade	Madelyn Nebelsick	South Dakota	Michelle Area Garden Club
4th Grade	Amy Diep	Kansas	Garden City Garden Club
5th Grade	Lena Robinson	Utah	Neighborhood Garden Club

I had the great pleasure to have the local forester Jami Seirer and retired forester Jim Strine help judge all the posters. Congratulations to all the winners at Rocky Mountain Region and good luck at National. National winners will be announced at National Convention May 20-24, 2018.

Brenda Slaughter

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairman bj7slaughter@hotmail.com

MFGC AWARDS ARE DUE APRIL 15-30, 2018

You work hard on your club projects all year long and now is when you get to reap the rewards! Its time to apply for all the awards that are listed on the web at www.mtfgc.org. The awards are due from April 15 through 30. We have extended our April 15th deadline so that we can pick up scrapbooks and other larger award booklets as we travel around the state for the district meetings. An award application is online and may be downloaded. The application form is also listed in the state directory that all Presidents and District Directors have in their possession.

The awards are now stream-lined to 3 pages instead of a whole book of evidence. Just clip the three pages together. The awards are divided into five categories – Commemorative, Individual, State, Youth and Flower Show. **All of these A,B,C,D and E categories are to be sent to me, Connie Leatherman at P.O. Box 547, Townsend, MT 59644-0547. However, one B award, B-10, the Cathy Atkinson Creative Design Award is to be sent to Vicky Barbieri, 504 Howie Road, Big Timber, MT 59011-7835.** The cash incentives range from \$10 to \$25 for most and the Gardener of the Year gets \$100. If you have any questions, email me at steve5connie@mt.net or phone 406-582-4135.

ELIGIBILITY – Montana Federation of Garden Clubs dues paying members are eligible to apply for MFGC awards unless otherwise stated. Members, garden clubs, study groups or groups of clubs must be in good standing in MFGC to apply. Junior, intermediate, high school clubs and individual youth must be sponsored by a member of a federated garden club to be eligible for specific awards or contests. Member clubs or individuals may make application for each award and category, if qualified.

APPLICATION – A blank application form that may be filled in on your computer is on the MFGC website, www.mtfgc.org.

AWARDS YEAR - The awards year for state awards is May 1 to April 30 annually. (5-1-17 to 4-30-18)

MEMBERSHIP BASIS – For all state awards except Awards C-9 and C-10, the following membership classes are established: A) up to 30 members; B) 30-59 members; and C) 60 and over members.

AWARDS IF MERITED – A first in each membership category will be awarded unless otherwise stated.

DEADLINES – All applications and supporting evidence are to be in the possession of the specific chairman on the deadline no later than April 30, 2018.

AWARDS CHAIRMAN - CONNIE LEATHERMAN, MFGC 2nd Vice President

UNDER MONTANA'S BIG SKY

GREAT FALLS FLOWER GROWERS CELEBRATE 85TH ANNIVERSARY

Members of the Great Falls Flower Growers celebrated their 85th Anniversary on March 10. MFGC President Joyce Hendricks and her husband, Ron, were in attendance. Ron entertained the ladies with special songs. Six ladies started the club in 1933 with membership swelling to 312 at one time in the early 1950's. The club split, with a group of ladies starting the Rainbow Garden Club, in 1957. The focus in the early days was strictly on design. *How GFFG has grown!!*



Pictured (above left) four of the six founders: Mrs. A.D. Doull, Mrs. H. J. Sherman, Mrs. J.E. Buehler and Mrs. W.A. Finlay pose during a 1955 newspaper article promoting the club's annual Christmas Tea. (above right) Club members gather for a group photo in October 2017. Pictured (below left) Patty Howse puts finishing touches on the 85th Anniversary refreshment table (below center). (Below right) Ron Hendricks, husband of MFGC President Joyce Hendricks, serenaded the celebrants with "Precious Memories" and "The Rose."



The club reports their Holiday Tea was a success and the profits will be used for scholarships given to students who are studying in areas that relate to horticulture. GFFG also enjoyed the dried flower demonstration given by Carol Brady at our January meeting. Now that their anniversary festivities are over GFFG is up and running with another project. They are having a Great Falls "Best Spring Garden Contest". It is open to anyone in Great Falls except GFFG members. They ask contestants to simply take a picture of their spring garden, containers, creative fence, etc. and mail it with the application to GFFG's Sherry Meadors. Prizes will be awarded and "Winner" Signs will be posted in yards. Deadline to submit a photo is May 31.

THUMB-R-GREEN

Thumb-R-Green Garden Club in Billings is the proud home of our state president, Joyce. For the past few years our club has decorated a Christmas tree at Moss Mansion, a historic mansion in Billings. This year our theme was "Homespun Montana." More than 80% of the decorations were made by our club members. We hope you enjoy seeing our special project even if it is well after Christmas!



Pictured at right is the special "Homespun Montana" theme tree decorated by Thumb-R-Green



MEMORIALS AND ENDOWMENTS

MEMORIALS

\$10 memorials to the scholarship fund in the name of:

Marie Mares, Elethea Scow Great Falls Flower Growers
and Rainbow Garden Club

Nadine Ritter, Rainbow Garden Club

Diane O'Reilly, Dearborn Garden Club

Ruth Schwarz, Glendive Garden



(Pictured above – The great-granddaughters of Elethea Scow hide among hundreds of rolls of toilet paper donated. At her “celebration of life” she requested everyone bring toilet paper and wear leis and bright colors. Elethea was known for requesting members bring rolls of toilet paper for the homeless at Life Members and garden club functions.

Montana Gardens has received information that the Anaconda Garden Club has lost a long time member Betty Lodell.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Rosemary Veseth, Malta Dirt Daubers

Mona Peterson, Rainbow Garden Club

Michelle Roseburg, Rainbow Garden Club

LIFE MEMBERS ROSE

- **Bullhook Blossoms** - \$100 for two rose pins from **Vicki Niederegger** and \$50 for **Norma Ralph** from the drawing the club held.
- **Joan Morris**, \$50 Anaconda Garden Club

NEW MEMBERS

Great Falls Flower Growers

May McGovern, Lynda Aafedt, Shirley Lots

Glendive Garden Club

Cindi Byron, byron@midrivers.com

Diane Leath, Leath53@yahoo.com

Myrna Sadorf, msadorf@midrivers.com

Helena Garden Club

Mary Jane Clark, maryjclark50@gmail.com

CORRECTIONS

Corrections from Gumbo Gals:

Shelia Malone, 920 Jet Drive, Glasgow, MT, 406-228-4016,
smalone@nemont.net

Linda Sibley, 65 Black Walnut Road, Nashua, MT 59248, 406-785-2271

Traci Sibley, sibleygrainandhay@gmail.com

Correction from Glenna Waltee: I just finished setting up a new email address: glennawaltee18@gmail.com. Please use my new email address from now on and don't forget to update your address books! Glenna

Linda Clark - lindaclark113@msn.com

Becky Morris - rsmorris2011@gmail.com

Judy Ward - jimtaz@gmail.com

HONORING MAE BRENNAN

In 2017 Rainbow Garden Club in Great Falls lost Mae Brennan, who was the 22nd president of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs. She served as president of Garden Clubs. She served as president for two years from 1981 to 1983. Her Theme was **“HELPING, The Key Word to Success”** and her motto was **“Join a Garden Club.”** During her term a State Standard Flower Show titled **“Montana Heritage”** was held by Judges Council in Great Falls on June 8th and 9th of 1983.



Mae Brennan

Blanche Burns and Shirley Spildie were the Co-Chairman. MFGC President Brennan created a one year award on Groundwater and she sponsored a Publicity Press Book award. I hope MFGC members will find a fitting remembrance of this long serving and long lived State President. May she live in our memories.

Denise Fink, M.F.G.C. Historian

WRAPPING IT UP

Its hard to believe under all this drifted white snow in Montana there is something green trying to rear up. Easter was early this year so many members didn't have to bother dying Easter eggs – *they could just lay white hard-boiled eggs out on the snow for a very challenging Easter Egg Hunt!*

With sunny days it is easy to want to rush out and put seeds in the ground. I just couldn't stand it any longer and had to do something with some forgotten potatoes that were sprouting away in a wire basket behind a larger basket of newer potatoes on a window sill. They were a few old potatoes planted last year among my petunias. They grew oddly misshapen and had been a conversation piece since they looked like little people. Now, they looked like little people carrying trees. I cut them up and planted them in some cracked 5-gallon buckets. Since they have a good 6 inches of stem and leaves, I can just have someone carry the buckets into the garage to prevent them freezing during the cold single digit nights still forecast. **The benefit?** When everyone else is planting gardens in May, I can kick over my buckets and harvest new potatoes. **I'm giving new meaning to the term, “Kicking the bucket!”**

I hope all our clubs are **“talking up”** the Helena convention. Sue Leferink and her committee have really planned a great time for all of us. **Do come to Helena!**



PATTY SCHLAEGER
Montana Gardens Editor

(pictured left) My “little potato people” ready to be bucket planted in some beautiful soil. This year they can grow nice and big without having to compete with all the rocks.



REMEMBER TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB WEEK JUNE 3-9, 2018

**ORDER YOUR FLOWERS FROM
P. ALLEN SMITH before
JUNE 15TH at ngc.org**



Visit our website at www.MTFGC.org



SMOKEY THE BEAR AND WOODSY OWL WINNERS

All winners are from Malta! 1st grade, Sophie Sammons; 2nd grade, Trevor Knowles, 3rd grade Renzey Raymond, 4th grade Alex Oshio and 5th grade Jude Imlay. *Congratulations!*



Sophie Sammons, 1st Grade



Trevor Knowles, 2nd Grade



Renzey Raymond, 3rd Grade



Alex Oshio, 4th Grade



Jude Imlay, 5th



*Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl thank
these special friends for submitting
posters!*

DATES TO REMEMBER:

District Meeting Schedule for 2018:

April 11 – Glendive Eastern Gateway District #12 Meeting in Glendive. 9:30 am - 4:00 pm Meeting will be held in the Courthouse Community Room. Registration is at 9:30 and the meeting convenes at 10:00 am.

April 12 – The Hi-Line District #7 Meeting will be held at the Sleeping Buffalo Resort. 9:30 am - 4:00 pm. Registration opens at 9:30 and the meeting convenes at 10:00am.

April 13 – Billings Yellowstone District #10 Meeting The District Meeting will be from 9:30 am - 4:00 pm.

April 25 – Chester Northern District #6. 9:30 am - 3:00 pm "We're Glad It's Spring!" Registration at 9:30 with the meeting opening at 10:00am. Lunch included with registration. Carol Works will present a program on Gladiolas.

April 26 – Great Falls Central District #5. 9:30 am - 4:00 pm Christ United Methodist Church, 2900 Ninth Avenue South. Registration at 9:30 and the meeting convenes at 10:00am.

April 27 – Missoula Western District #2 9:30 am - 4:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Southgate Mall and include a flower show.

April 28 – Butte/Bozeman Southwestern District #3 and Lewis & Clark District #4. Meeting will be held at the Butte Silverbow Archives Building, upstairs, 17 W Quadtz St, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Registration starts at 10:00am. The "featured speaker" will be Padraig (Pat) Cunneen presenting an overview of reclamation and restoration of the Butte Mining Hill. Registration includes lunch.

APRIL 30, 2018 – MFGC Awards Due Send Sections A,B,C,D, E to Connie Leatherman

APRIL 30, 2018 – State Award B-10 Cathy Atkinson Creative Design Award. Send to Vicky Barbieri

JULY 1, 2018 Vision of Beauty Calendar Photos. Send to Brenda Bingham – bbing@comcast.net