

MONTANA

Gardens



"Blooming on the Prairie" MFGC Convention, Miles City, Montana June 21-22, 2019



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**The Official Publication of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although it is cold and snowy outside I know you all are busy thinking of spring, District Meetings, and dreaming of gardening activities to come. The pictures of gardens and flowers shared on face book by many of you are fun, inspiring and kindle hope of what is to come. Ideas for my gardens are floating around in my head!

I hope many of you are planning to remember National Garden Club week, June 2-8, 2019, in some manner. This is a good time to have an event, put up posters in public places and let people know you are in the community.

District Meetings are coming up in April. I look forward to meeting with many of you and learning more about your clubs. Spring should have arrived by then and it will be a great time to gather together and shake off the winter blahs. We will hopefully see



Joyce Hendricks
MFGC President 2017-2019

many wild flowers in bloom and lots of new life in the fields as Sherry, Glenna and I travel around the state.

Miles City Garden Club with Liz Smith as Chair, has been very busy making preparations for a great convention! June 21-22 we will experience, "Blooming on the Prairie". What a great time to enjoy the company of gardeners from across the state, visit interesting gardens,

learn about an orchard and vineyard growing near Miles City and participate in the business of MFGC. I hope to see many of you there. Our national president, Gay Austin, will be attending and share her theme and goals.

As the snow melts, the cold days turn warmer, and green appears on the earth I hope it brings new vitality to each of you and your clubs.

Shake off the cold of winter and begin anew with your plans for a wonderful spring and summer!



MFGC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Joyce Hendricks
rnhend@charter.net

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Sherry Corneliusen
sher@midrivers.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Glenna Waltee
Glennawaltee18@gmail.com

TREASURER

Vicky Barbieri
Vqbar@itstriangle.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lynne Weischedel
Lynne@midrivers.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Linda Walters
Ldwmt@aol.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Phyllis White
Gardens@bresnan.net

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Western District #2
Donna Dowell
Southwestern District #3
Cathy Speich-Ferguson

DISTRICT

DIRECTORS

Lewis and Clark District #4
Connie Leatherman
Central District #5
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MONTANAGardens

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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:

Patricia Schlaeger, MT Gardens Editor
The Columbus Center - Suite 531
1601 Second Avenue North
Great Falls, Montana 59401
406-727-7633

tamarackgroup@yahoo.com

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

DEADLINE / ISSUE

July 1, 2019 – Summer/Fall 2019
November 1, 2019 – Winter 2019-2020
March 1, 2020 – Spring 2020

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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Election of New Officers

This is the year we elect new officers for our state. Positions we are looking to fill are: Second Vice President, First Vice President (*as we have had a vacancy which was filled for this term by Glenna Waltee*), Recording Secretary and Treasurer. If you think you would like to serve in one of these positions please let Linda Sadler, nomination committee chair know. You can contact her by her email address, lindahillsadler@gmail.com or phone her at 406-728-4743. Other members of this year's nominating committee are: *Nina Eadie, Stevensville; Susan Andrews, Bozeman; Gloria Tilleman, Havre; Mary Davis, Billings; Carol Graves, Miles City; Carol Works, Chester and Patty Schlaeger, Great Falls.*



Linda Sadler,
Nomination
Committee Chair

Delegate Registration



The Club presidents will be receiving the delegate registration form at the District Meetings. Please be sure and fill out who your delegates and alternates will be at the convention so they can be recognized. These will need to be sent to Donna Schmidt, 209 S. 4th, Miles City, Mt. 59301 by June 1st 2019. Each Club President has a vote; each District Director has a vote, each State Chairman has a vote and each member of the Advisory Committee has a vote.

Additionally, the number of voting delegates allowed from each club is as follows:

Clubs up to 50 members: 2 delegates, 2 alternates

Clubs 51-100 members: 3 delegates, 2 alternates

Clubs 101-150 members: 4 delegates, 2 alternates

***No one has more than one vote!
Even if you hold two or more
positions, you only have one vote.***

AMES Tools Grant Deadline April 15, 2019

The application process for grants from AMES tools has started, as of March 2, 2019. The application form, guidelines and list of tools available can be found on the NGC website at www.gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools.aspx
<<http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools.aspx>>.

Don't miss the opportunity to acquire some very fine gardening tools to assist with their civic planting and other gardening projects. I hope some of you will consider applying for these grants. The tools are very nice and would be helpful for your work on your projects.



SEND APPLICATION TO:

AMES Tool Grant Program Chairman,
Flossie Narducci
at NGCtoolgrant@gmail.com

Thank you,

Jane M. Waugh,
NGC Sponsors & Partnerships Committee
waugh@optonline.net

Awards Funding Needs Your Help!

Have you had a garden club member pass on to Heaven's Gardens? Would you consider giving a memorial in their honor to the MFGC awards funding program? Most of our previous Presidents had an award fund set up in their honor when they retired from the presidency. Many have passed on and their award is no longer funded. In order to continue with their awards and some of the other awards, we are in need of some money. *Would you or your club be willing to donate to the awards fund of MFGC?* If so, send a check to our treasurer, Vicky Barbieri, 504 Howie Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011 and earmark it "*Awards Fund Donation,*" and you can also designate who you are honoring.

If you have no need to sponsor a memorial award, would your club consider just sponsoring one of the awards? Let Vicky or the Award Chairman, Myrna McCollum know your desires.

Thank you for your support of MFGC!

Put Your New Members on the Convention Bandwagon!

There is no better way to indoctrinate new club members than to take them under wing and bring them to our state convention! Having a new member at your side gives you an opportunity to explain what membership in MFGC is all about where they can see us "*in action!*"

Offer to share a room and/or a ride to Miles City this year. The Miles City Garden Club has gone all out with outstanding convention tours, workshops and dinners. This is a great way to partner and share ideas on the ride home.



Vanette Nagamori
Membership Chairman

MONTANA WILD FLOWERS

Rocky Mountain Douglasia – *Douglasia montana*

This plant is a member of the Figwort Family Scrophulariaceae



This plant blooms in March and April. It is found on dry, open wind swept ridges and scree slopes from the foothills to the alpine regions. It is a small ground hugging perennial. The plant grows as a dense cushion from a long taproot. The single flowers grow on a short leafless stem. The five lobed petals are pink to violet. It is sometimes mistaken for Moss Campion but Moss Campion grows at higher elevations and has stamens that protrude from the flower center. The leaves are linear and somewhat prickly. They are maroon when they first emerge and then turn green.

SUSAN ANDREWS, CHAIRMAN WILDFLOWERS

THIS AND THAT

I have enjoyed browsing all the new seed catalogs this winter and my husband reminded me to get the cucumber and tomato seeds ordered. I did get that done this week along with ordering a yellow peony that I have been trying to grow for the past couple years. *Third time's the charm, right?*

District Meetings are coming up in April and I need to remind all of you to attend the meeting in your area. April 10 we will be in Miles City, April 11 in Glasgow, and April 12 in Billings. We take a week off and then continue with the meetings in Shelby on April 24, Great Falls on April 25, Stevensville on April 26 and Bozeman on April 27. 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. We will be taking orders on a nice cardigan sweatshirt that we are selling for our fundraiser this year. See the article on page 8 in this *Montana Gardens* issue.

Plan to attend our 82nd MFGC Convention in Miles City, June 20-22, where I will be installed as your new President. The registration form is enclosed in this issue. Miles City has been planning a fun filled weekend, so please join us. I am looking to fill the various state chairman positions so when I call upon you, please say "yes" as we need your leadership to keep "*Montana Growing*" as we "*Plant America*".

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 Myrna McCollum, 4413 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59405, by April 15 please.



Thank you, Myrna for doing our awards this year.

Joyce and I look forward to representing Montana at the National Garden Club Convention in Biloxi, Mississippi from April 29 to May 3. We will give you a full report at our State Convention in Miles City, June 20-22.

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 warm thoughts as it might melt the snow!

Sherry Corneliusen, President Elect MFGC

2019 AWARD APPLICATION

Don't forget to get your awards applications in to our Chairperson, Myrna McCollum. She and her committee are looking forward to receiving many wonderful applications. Please send your applications to Myrna McCollum, 4413 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59405-1643. **The Deadline is April 15th**. Below is the revised 2019 Award Application which is to accompany all Books of Evidence (BOE). If there are any concerns or questions, please contact **Myrna McCollum** at 406-452-1431 or Email to mccollum@bresnan.net.

2017 – 2019 Award Application Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Award #: _____
Award Name: _____
Name of Club: _____ City: _____
Submitted by: _____
Number of Members: _____ Date: _____

(Enter name above exactly as it should appear on any award received)

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Send to: Myrna F. McCollum, 4413 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59405-1643 Phone: (406) 452-1431

or Email your application to: mccollum@bresnan.net

Application form is limited to 3 printed pages. Use front of pages ONLY. (NO report cover/binders)

Please complete each topic below, if applicable. Use numbering as below when completing form.

1. New Project: Yes ___ No ___ Beginning Date: _____ Completion Date: _____
2. Brief summary and objectives of project:
3. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:
4. Project expenses and means of funding:
5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance:
6. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan (does not need to be professionally drawn)

NOTE: Flower Show Award applications should be sent to

Susan Andrews, 2429 Bridger Hills Dr., Bozeman, Mt. 59715-7654

C-12 Photography Contest Award applications should be sent to

Donna Dowell, 6045 Meininger Dr., Missoula, MT 59808-3910.



Registration Form

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. 82nd Annual State Membership Convention



June 21 & 22, 2019

Sleep Inn and Suites, 1006 S. Haynes Avenue, Miles City, MT, 59301,

Call (406) 232-0054 and reserve your hotel room by May 15th.

Ask for "Garden Club Convention" rate of \$95 + tax for a double room. (Blocks of rooms will be held until June 6th)

Hotel registration deadline is **June 6th** to get the convention rates. <https://www.sleepinnmiles.com/>

Make Checks payable to: Miles City Garden Club - c/o Mary Wambolt, 2222 Dickinson, Miles City, MT 59301

Name: _____ Club: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email 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: Convention registration form deadline is **May 15, 2019.** No refunds after **June 1, 2019.**

All MFGC Members must register to attend any function.

Full time registration for June 21 & 22 \$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 _____

Registration times at Sleep Inn & Suites: Thursday 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday 8 a.m. – 6:30 pm

Meals: Select all that apply (*gratuity included in prices*) Vegetarian or Gluten Free? _____

Any **Life-Threatening** food allergies? _____

All meals, except Friday evening picnic, will be served at the Sleep Inn & Suites.

Friday - Life Members Lunch: Croissant Sandwich (*catered by Airport Inn*) \$11.00 _____

Circle your choice 1. Beef 2. Chicken 3. Ham 4. Egg salad.

Tossed salad w/ choice of dressings; Cupcakes; Iced Tea and Lemonade

Friday Evening Picnic at Riverside Park: Fajita Bar (*catered by Road Runner*) \$ 20.00 _____

Steak or chicken & "fixin's"; Dessert; Iced Tea and Lemonade

Saturday Awards Luncheon: Taco salad bar (*catered by Airport Inn*) \$11.00 _____

Meatless available; Dessert; Iced Tea and Lemonade

Saturday Night Dinner 6:30 p.m: Cast Iron Cooking (*catered by Lynn Miller*) \$28.00 _____

Circle your choice for the main course:

1. Meat Loaf Supreme (*blend of pork and beef, salsa, bits of sweet onion and bell peppers, bacon bits, seasoned bread crumbs and parmesan cheese*); Dirty Blue cheese potatoes (Red and gold potatoes, sweet onions, herbs and blue cheese); Peach raspberry rhubarb cobbler.
2. Mediterranean Chicken (*with pineapple, sweet peppers, onion*); Artisan roll; Artisan Salad (*romaine spinach, and other greens, topped with feta cheese, shredded carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, and dressing*); Chocolate Decadence bars

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Thursday Pre-Convention Miles City Area Garden Tours on your own.

There are several area gardens to choose from:

- ☐ Miles City Post Office at 106 N. 7th ☐ Miles City Public Library at 1 S. 10th ☐ Spruce Drive Cul-de-sac

Please visit and thank these local businesses for their support of the MFGC State Convention:

600 Café & Hole in the Wall, Arby's, Community 1st Credit Union, Dairy Queen, First Interstate Bank, Frank's Body Shop, Girl Ran Away With The Spoon & Spoon Full Coffee Shop, Holy Rosary Hospital, Mexico Lindo, Mid Rivers Communication, MC Jewelry, McFarland Family Dentistry, Miles City Chamber of Commerce, RSVP, Red Rock Sports, Regan's Plumbing & Heating, Sleep Inn & Suites, Steadman's Ace Hardware, Stevenson & Son's Funeral Home, Tire Rama, Tongue River Winery, Unique Creations, Vintage & Rustics

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

Friday Workshops 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

- ☐ Learn about birds and their habitats - Dale Tribby, Retired Bureau of Land Management Wildlife Specialist
- ☐ Bats: The Forgotten Pollinators – Sarah Lee, Miles City Garden Club member
- ☐ Miles City Area Garden Tours on your own. Will include several area gardens to choose from:
 - ☐ Miles City Post Office 106 7th Street
 - ☐ Miles City Public Library 1 S. 10th
 - ☐ Spruce Drive Cul de sac
- ☐ Wagon Hay Ride from Sleep Inn to Riverside Park – Picnic. Departs from motel at 4:30 p.m. Stops at the Blue Star Memorial Garden for a brief tour. Riverside Park – Picnic. Returns to motel after the picnic

If State Chairman, are you bringing a display?

- ☐ If checked, circle poster size: 24" wide single 36" wide tri-fold).

Saturday Tour 2:30-4:30 p.m.

- ☐ Tongue River Winery located at 99 Morning star Lane (*carpooling, maps will be provided*). Route is less than 5 miles round trip from the Sleep Inn. <https://tongueriverwinery.com/>
- ☐ *I would like to go on the Saturday tour and can drive. I can take _____ people.*
- ☐ *I would like to go on the Saturday tour and I need a ride*

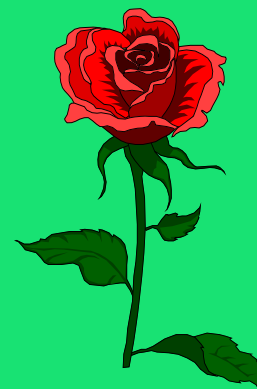
LIFE MEMBERS LUNCH AT THE MFGC CONVENTION

Calling all Life Members! We're looking forward to having a great time as we Life Members get together at the Montana Federation of Garden Club Annual Convention. We have many Life Members in Montana who do not hold regular Life Member's meetings, so this is the one time during the year when we all gather to have some fun while we conduct the business of awarding our scholarship to a worthy Montana student. You don't have to be a Life Member to attend our luncheon, but when you see the fun we have and the importance of raising scholarship funds, you will want to join us. The cost is a one-time only fee of \$25. In addition to memorial funding, we are raising additional funds through our Life Member's Rose pin sales. Each \$50 contribution goes to our scholarship fund and the donor gets a rose pin and a certificate during our annual program. We also present a traveling "bronze rose" trophy to the club with the most new Life Members. ***Be sure to sign your new club members up for Life Members this year.***

We encourage you to join in the conference theme "*Blooming on the Prairie*" and wear your favorite western hat and boots if you have them. Our tables will be decorated with cowboy boots and dried floral arrangements. We want you to get to know each other better so for fun and prizes we will play a few rounds of Friendship Bingo! But the most important part of the luncheon will be when we present our scholarship!

Please join us for an outstanding program again this year!

Patricia Schlaeger, Life Members Chairman



Fundraiser Project for MFGC

It is that time again to choose a fundraiser for the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs. As a project this year we are working on a cardigan sweatshirt that we can purchase at the District Meetings coming up in April. We will be taking orders along with your money and ordering the cardigan sweatshirt in your proper size and color to be distributed at the MFGC Convention in Miles City June 21-22. We will have a few sizes and colors available at the District meeting so you can try on the medium, large and extra large for size comparison. They are available in XS to 4XL so there should be a size for everyone. The colors we will have at the meetings include charcoal heather, estate blue heather, and a medium heather. Deep black is available if you would like black. We will have a signup sheet at the District Meetings for you to pre-purchase one of these nice cardigans.

If you are not at the District meeting, and still want one of these nice warm sweatshirts, you can still order them through me, Sherry Corneliusen, 1014 Road 248, Glendive, MT 59330 or email me at sher@midrivers.com with color, size and send me your money. Cost of the sweatshirt will be \$37 payable to MFGC. A MFGC logo will be embroidered on the upper left side. Updated information will be available at the District Meetings.

If you are like me, I am always chilly attending meetings in the larger convention centers. Having a nice attractive sweatshirt cover up like this will help keep us warm and promote MFGC!.



*Color shown is
Estate Blue Heather*

Winners From the Rocky Mountain Region



The 2019 winners selected to enter the national contest were all from the Neighborhood Garden Club in Utah:

1st Grade	Ryan Woodbury
2nd Grade	Eleanor Pratt
3rd Grade	Lucy Adair
4th Grade	Penny Adkinson
5th Grade	Benjamin Fire

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to educate children on the importance of Wildfire Prevention and Conservation and Recycling. With your hard work we reached out to 95 teachers and 2290 children. *Good Job!*

Brenda Slaughter
Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl
RMR Chairman

2019 CONVENTION AGENDA

Thursday, June 20, 2019

NOON Registration
2:00 pm Finance Committee
3:00 pm Executive Committee
4:00 pm Advisory Council
4:30 pm Presidents and District Directors meeting
5:00 pm Judges Council

Friday, June 21, 2019

8:00 am Registration
9:00 am Formal Opening and Reports
NOON Life Members Luncheon. Patty Schlaeger, chairman and Circle of Green Thumbs presentation
2:30 – 4:00 pm – Workshops:
Birds and Their Habitats
Bats, the Forgotten Pollinators
2:30 – 4:00 pm Tours - Team and wagons to transport members to various gardens and to Riverside Park where we will have a fajitas bar for the meal **hosted by Judges Council**. Wagons bring us back to the motel.

Saturday, June 22, 2019

8:00 am Registration
9:00 am Meeting with reports
NOON Awards luncheon
3:00 pm Tour to winery. Carpool
7:00 pm Dutch Iron Cooking banquet with **remarks by National Garden Club** President Gay Austin and Installation of officers

Sunday, June 23, 2019

8:30 am Board of Directors meeting

Gardening Tips for Spring 2019 from the Dearborn Garden Club

- **For prettier peonies:** add the mixture of 1/3 cup Epsom salts, 1/3 cup bone meal and 1/3 cup blood meal to your watering can.
- **Homeopathic Roundup:** Mix well: 1gallon white vinegar, 2 cups Epsom salts and ¼ cup dish detergent. Put in spray bottle. Use when sunny to enhance action of death!! And to enhance your sense of satisfaction.
- **To Prevent Pests/Diseases on ORCHIDS:** Put a little rubbing alcohol on a soft tissue and *gently* wipe all the orchid leaves, front and back to clean leaves. OR... Use a sharp **Exacto** knife (*cleaned with rubbing alcohol*) to cut off a stem that has lost its blossoms; then, press some ground cinnamon onto the open cut area on the stem to prevent pests.
- **Geranium Bloom Booster:** Water biweekly with a mixture of 1 Tbsp. Epsom salts, 1½ Tbsp. baking soda, 1 oz. household ammonia and 1 gallon of water.
- **Add magnesium to improve the color, flavor and production of night shade plants** (tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and eggplant): add 1 Tbsp. Epsom salts to the plant's base and continue every 2 weeks.
- **Deer Deterrent:** Mix ½ cup milk, 1 beaten egg, 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil and 1 Tbsp. Dawn dish soap in 1 gallon of water. Spray on rose bushes, ornamental bushes and flowers.
- **For the most terrific plants:** Mix 3 cups compost, ½ cup Epsom salts and 1 Tbsp. baking soda in a bucket. Add a handful of the mix to the planting hole. Then add a sprinkle of dry milk to the soil after planting. Repeat every few weeks. *****Tips for a Healthy, Happy Garden, 2018 Lewis & Clark Co. Ext. Master Gardeners Workshop.***
- **Cornmeal works as a weed preventative** as long as the ground isn't disturbed afterwards.
- **To destroy anthills,** place a mixture of 1 cup cornmeal and 2 Tbsp. honey close to the anthill. The mixture will attract ants then kill them when it expands in their stomachs.
- **To combat powdery mildew,** spray infected plant with milk or chamomile tea.
- Overripe bananas act as a **fertilizer for roses and raspberries.** Poke holes in the peeling and lay down by plant's base.
- **For new raspberry or rose starts,** cut a stem at the tender part (at a diagonal angle) and stick into a raw potato and plant.
- **To help hold moisture in hanging pots,** line the inside with a disposable diaper.

MILLION POLLINATOR GARDEN CHALLENGE



Because of our renowned reputation, and the strength of our membership, NGC was invited to be an Inaugural Network Partner of the National Pollinator Garden Network, formed to help establish one million gardens to assist in restoring critical pollinator population recovery in the United States. ***To date they have not only met this goal, they have exceeded it!*** In just three years, 1,040,000 gardens were registered with the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge (MPGC) involving an estimated eight million people, concentrated in the United States, and Canada with some in Mexico, and across the globe. ***From tiny yards to public gardens, these million plus gardens add up to a network of approximately five million acres of enhanced or new pollinator habitat!***

As a member of a Garden Club, we can certainly make a positive difference in our community, but as a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. we can make a significant difference in our World!
- Becky Hassebroek, MPGC Liaison

Garden Club Members, such as Rainbow Garden Club shown here, have made a difference by planting flowers to attract pollinators in many public places around their cities

MILES CITY GARDEN CLUB

What do you do once winter hits and your Seed Catalogs have not arrived yet? Well in Miles City we rang bells for the Salvation Army during the holidays (pictured are Sarah Lee and Kate Koughin).



We also volunteer in the Miles City Soup Kitchen (pictured are Judy Bloxham, Jeanne Vetch, Carol Graves and Mary Wambolt).



We have a lot going on this year. ***Plan, plan, plan!*** Jo Meidinger is working on the Elementary School Garden Education program again. We will be going to grade schools teaching planting seeds and explain how to entering their plants into the fair. We've also been invited to work with the high school special education program to plant a garden that can be shared with the community. ***Events:***

March 23 – Annual Membership Tea “Spring Showers Bring May Flowers”. Emilie Qualmann, of Vintage & Rustics will present ideas and tips on floral arranging.

April 10th – Hosting Eastern Gateway District Garden Club Meeting at the First Baptist Church

April – “Welcome Spring” Contest – We recognize the gardeners of the first blooming tulip and daffodil in Miles City. First three of each flower will have their name and photo receiving an award on the MC Garden Club ***Facebook*** page.

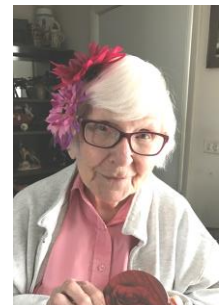
May – Plant Sale – to be held at the Blue Star Memorial Garden. We will have annuals, perennials, bulbs and seeds.

June – Hosting the MFGC State Convention. This year's theme is “***Blooming on the Prairie***”. We have a lot of fun planned. Hope you can make it!



RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB

Members of the Rainbow Garden Club in Great Falls have been holding workshops since the first of the year to make creative items for their Spring Bazaar in April. Members have gathered to paint flower pots of assorted sizes and then turned them into miniature wind chimes. Even our 97-year-young member, Lucille Johnson, has been coloring flowers for us to frame and sell! However, the public's favorite items are the tasty treats baked by club members. The event will be held at the Eagles Lodge in Great Falls on April 11, 2019. (pictured below left, Shelly Roseburg strings bells to make flower pot chimes; Lucille, right, colors flowers.)



Club members are already setting dates aside to do spring plantings at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind with the Budding Geniuses Junior Club and their Chairman, Lynne Mahan and MSDB project chairman, Jane Snowberger. This year the children are looking forward to expanding their butterfly garden in hopes of attracting more Monarch butterflies.

Rainbow's Garden Therapy Chairman, Patricia Schlaeger is preparing spring and summer programs for Eagle Mount, an organization that provides therapeutic recreation for children and adults. Eagle Mount is Rainbow's new garden therapy project. Rainbow will fill special sensory garden planters with flowers and vegetables and will again conduct a program for the participating children and adults by designing coloring sheets and helping them color plants and butterflies. (pictured below are Eagle Mount children with Lynne Mahan who shows them how to color Monarch and Mourning Cloak butterflies)



NEW MEMBERS

Belgrade Bloomers

Christie Copeland

Anaconda Garden Club

W. Harper

Glendive Garden Club

Jacki Reynolds

Stevensville Garden Club

Peggy Pope



MFGC extends a warm welcome to our newest Garden Club members! We look forward to meeting you at our District Meetings and hope you can attend and meet and network with more of our members at the Convention in Miles City!

Junior Garden Clubs

Toni Ziegler has found a program that gives free cabbage plants to children's gardening projects. The plants are from Bonnie Plants. She reports that they are very nice plants. If interested check out the Bonnie Plants web site, www.BonniePlants.com.

MFGC Web Page

Please be checking out web page to make sure the information about your clubs is up to date. If you have information, pictures, etc. to send to our web master, Elaine Wood the email address is mfgweb@gtfalls.com. This is a great way to share what you are doing, when and where your club meets, and contact information for potential new members.

RMR Fall Board Meeting "Rendezvous in Missoula" August 23-24, 2019

The Rocky Mountain Region Fall Board Meeting "Rendezvous in Missoula" will be held at the Holiday Inn in Missoula, Montana August 23 to 24. If you are interested in helping our Montana club members with the meeting, please contact Jim Sadler, Registrar. The RMR is comprised of eight states and by attending the annual Regional Meeting you will have a wonderful opportunity to meet your gardening counterparts from a diverse area of mountain and plains states.

MFGC club members are encouraged to submit your projects for the regional awards. Information on the RMR awards and deadlines can be found on a link from our MFGC site, www.mtfgc.org.

WRAPPING IT UP

As the first day of spring was approaching we still had close to three feet of snow on the lower wheat fields of our ranch and more than eight feet of snow plowed along the side of some rural roads. We worried the wind would blow and fill the plowed roads with even more snow. *And it did!* We were drifted in for two days waiting for a tractor or snow plow large enough to dig our mile-long driveway out. All we could do was enjoy the beauty of all the pure white snow against a pristine blue cloudless sky, even though my tenants and I fumed about not being able to get to work or school. When we finally could drive into Great Falls, the city streets were really a mess. Cars fishtailed all over residential streets and the main roads. Everywhere parking lots had mountains of snow piled. The frozen Missouri River was covered in a blanket of snow with well-traveled trails made by deer who were working both sides of the river in search of something to eat. We all worried about what was going to happen when all of this snow and ice melted. However, we seemed to have dodged major flooding with the freezing temperatures at night and daytime easing into the 40's and 50's. *Oh, how we have welcomed this slow melt!*

On the first day of spring the sun radiating off the bricks and granite steps at Columbus Center, where I maintain a small office, had finally caused all the snow in the front planters to melt. As I walked up the steps I could see the deep snow had given way to a patch of green. In the center was a lone Crocus. *What a delight to see! Spring is really here!*



Patricia Schlaeger, Editor

Montana Gardens

MONTANA Gardens

Diane Ward – Circulation Manager
Please send address or email changes
to: mydoubleheartranch@gmail.com



**REMEMBER TO CELEBRATE
NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB
WEEK JUNE 2-8, 2019**



Grant applications for 2019-2020 will be available soon.

Projects submitted for receiving a grant may be a joint venture with another organization(s). **The scope of these projects in communities may include:**

- Beautification and/or restoration, Community gardens
- School gardens/classrooms
- Landscaping for Habitat for Humanity Homes
- Landscaping of Blue Star Memorial Markers
- Implementation of environmental practices or a horticulture or environmental program for the public

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.GARDENCLUB.ORG

SMOKEY BEAR WOODSY OWL MONTANA 2018 MFGC WINNERS



First Grade, Alexis Doney,
Havre, Montana



Second Grade - Shelby Snellman,
Malta, Montana



Third Grade, Kamber Brockie,
Malta, Montana



Fourth Grade, Emma Ereaux,
Malta, Montana



Fifth Grade
Kendall Clausen
Malta, Montana

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL OUR WINNERS!**

*Jennifer Strzelczyk,
Chairman*

DATES TO REMEMBER

2019 District Meetings

Eastern Gateway - Miles City,
Wednesday, April 10, 9:30 am at First
Baptist Church

Hi-Line, Nashua – Thursday, April 11, 9
am, Valley County Pioneer Museum

Yellowstone - Billings – Friday, April 12,
9:30 am, Thumb R Green, Garden Ave
Greenhouse

Southwestern, Anaconda – Sat., April 13,
9 am, Copper Village Art Center

Northern, Shelby – Wednesday, April 24,
9:30am, Comfort Inn

Central - Great Falls – Thursday, April 25,
9:30 am, DoBar Hall, 1800 Third St NW

Western - Stevensville – Friday, April 26,
9:30 am, K & S Nursery, Corvallis, MT

Lewis & Clark - Bozeman – Saturday,
April 27, Community Room Fire District,
Bridger Hills Drive

OTHER DATES OF NOTE

NGC Convention, Biloxi, MS -
April 29 – May 3, 2019

MFGC Convention, Miles City MT- June
20-22, 2019 Sleep Inn & Suites

RMR Fall Board Meeting, Missoula, MT
August 23-24, 2019

NGC Fall Board Meeting – St Louis, MO
Sept 18-20, 2019

MT Fall Board Meeting – Great Falls, MT
October 4-5, 2019

Meadow Lark Country Club
MFGC Convention – Havre, MT,
June 11-14, 2020

NGC Convention – Milwaukee, WI
May 11-16, 2020

NGC Fall Board – Fargo, North Dakota,
Sept 23-26, 2020