

MONTANA Gardens



*Spotlight on Havre on Montana's Hi-Line! Photos top (l. to r.) Sweet Balsam Root blooms near the Bears Paw Mountains; Montana State University – Northern Campus; Welcome to Havre Sign. Center (l. to r.) Photos of Havre's Underground. Bottom ((l. to r.) Restored Steam Locomotive at the Amtrak Station; Dinosaur at the H Earl Clack Museum - The Montana Dinosaur Trail; Landscape around Havre in Montana's Big Sky Country. **Havre Bullhook Blossoms** welcome you to the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention - "20/20 Toni Hagener's Vision"*

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**The Official Publication of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Spring 2020- Volume 66 - Issue 1**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is getting closer and visions of beautiful flowers are dancing in my head. I have started some castor beans along with some cannas, and am looking forward to their results. I really cannot complain about winter, as I had a nice vacation over the holidays. Our family had a fantastic time on a Caribbean cruise. The 80 degree weather, cheerful flowers and turquoise water created wonderful memories for us all.

I am so sorry that I will not be seeing you at our District meetings that were coming up in April. It is always so nice to visit with our members and catch up on all your club's projects that you are involved with in your communities. Because of the Coronavirus, we had to cancel.

Mark your calendars for our State Convention, June 11-14 in Havre, Montana. The Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club has been working hard to make it a wonderful event, where we recognize and celebrate all the work our clubs have done. They also have some fun tours planned. More information and registration forms are included in this Montana Gardens and on the web.

Take advantage of some of our educational opportunities with the landscape school and symposium being planned this year. May 8-9 is the Landscape School in Billings at the Rimrock Mall. July 17-18 is the Flower Show School Symposium in Great Falls at the Holiday Inn. Registration forms and more information for both these events can be found elsewhere in this publication and on the web at mtfgc.org.

I was hoping to attend the NGC Convention in Milwaukee in May, however, it has been cancelled because of the Coronavirus. I plan to represent Montana at our Rocky Mountain Regional meeting in Milford, KS, August 28-29. September will find some of us attending the NGC Fall Board in Fargo, ND, September 23-27.

I would like to remind you to keep working on your membership. NGC would like us to increase our membership 21% by the year 2021. PAT (*Plant America with Trees*) is another project that our organization is encouraging us to get involved with. They are asking "Each One" (*member*) to "Plant One" (*native tree*). We have 165,000 members nationally and if each of us plant one tree, we could have 165,000 trees planted to enhance our environment!

Great Falls is working on a Gold Star By Way marker with dedication planned for May 25, 2020. Glendive is working on both a Gold Star and Blue Star to be dedicated September 12, 2020. Dearborn and Stevensville are in the planning stages of getting a By Way marker. Great news!

Stay safe and healthy, my gardening friends. Remember gardening has not been cancelled!

"Bloom Where You Are Planted"



Sherry Corneliusen
MFGC President



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MONTANA Gardens

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www.MTFGC.org

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.

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

DEADLINE / ISSUE

March 1, 2020 – Spring 2020

July 1, 2020 – Summer/Fall 2020

November 1, 2020 – Winter 2020-21

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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INTRODUCTION OF OUR MFGC OFFICERS

Meet our elected and appointed officers serving 2019 to 2021



Lilla Flesjer

Lilla Flesjer is the Corresponding Secretary of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Lilla joined a Glendive Garden Club in 1974 and that same year she started Course I along with her sister, Marie Jones. She became an Accredited Flower Show Judge in 1982. In 1996, she became a Master Judge and then in 2014 she transitioned to Master Judge Emeritus.

Lilla's longest employment was with the State of Montana at Eastmont Human Services Center. For 24 years, she coordinated purchasing and accounting until the facility closed.

She was married to her husband Lorin for 48 years until he passed away in 2014. Her two children are Lisa (David) Seekins and Larry (Nikki) Flesjer. She enjoys spending time with her six grandchildren and her sisters; Linda Grimsrud, her identical twin; and Marie Jones. For her summer time recreation, she works in her flower garden and goes golfing and during the rest of the year she sings in the church choir.



Lynne Weischedel

Lynne Weischedel is the Recording Secretary of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Lynne has been gardening since she was a young child, starting out with her Dad and maternal grandmother in a large vegetable garden. As an adult without a yard, she started a love for house plants, which her mother refers to as her "jungle." She has a small area for flowers and vegetables, and since her yard isn't large enough, she rents a space at the community garden. Lynne has been getting her grandchildren involved in learning to garden, and, she says the oldest one is really enjoying gardening. She adds now they all love to eat right out of the garden.

She works full time at a Miles City bank and does a lot of volunteer work on community projects so she says it is a challenge keeping up with the weeds in her flower beds and garden plots!



Phyllis White

Phyllis White is serving her third term as Parliamentarian of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. She has devoted a good deal of the past two decades to garden club activities at the local, state, region, and national levels. In 2012, she helped form the Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club and continues as a member and officer. Before that, Phyllis was a member of the Gallatin Empire Club for 14 years and served as President of MFGC during the 2011-2013 term. She's organized and attended hundreds of meetings, mentored members, and helped to introduce digital communication and best business practices to the clubs. She stated, *"The best part of garden club is the many friendships I've made throughout the state and nation."*

As an accredited flower show judge, she loves to create floral designs and grow succulents, as well as begonias and tomatoes. She reduced her large vegetable garden because of other responsibilities, but still grows apples, raspberries, and has large perennial beds. The "succulent queen" enjoys teaching about the joys of succulent propagation, design, and their unique use for club fundraisers.

Phyllis served as state and region webmaster (*teaching herself coding*) and state, region, and national social media chairman. She also served as editor of National Garden Clubs' newsletter Keeping in Touch for six years and is now the NGC Non-Print and Website Development Chairman.

Her husband Bill Madden, daughter, and three grandchildren rarely see her away from the computer or outside of her greenhouse. However, Phyllis enjoys spending as much time as possible with her grandchildren. She currently volunteers as treasurer of the Gallatin Rest Home Auxiliary and as president of Buckskin Williams Park, Inc.

MONTANA WILDFLOWER GLACIER LILIES



Glacier Lily - *Erythronium Grandiflorum* is a member of the Lily family (*Liliaceae*). Some common names are Snow Lily, Dog Tooth Violet or Trout Lily. It grows in moist rich sites either shaded or open from foothills to alpine sites. It is often found near melting snow and with spring beauty. It blooms between March and August (*depending on elevation*).

This perennial herb grows 4-12 inches tall with one pair of basal leaves that are 4-8 inches long. The flowers are bright yellow and nodding. The six petals are curved upward and six large brown stamens project downward. The corms are edible but sweeter when cooked. Bears and rodents eat the corms and numerous animals eat the seed pods.

Susan Andrews

Wildflower/Native Plants Chairman



MONTANA BUTTERFLIES

KATHLEEN WATERS, Chairman
Butterflies and Habitats

With over 147,000 square miles, Montana has sufficient land mass to host an incredible two hundred butterfly species. That's a large number for a northern state. With close to three dozen National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks and about four dozen Montana State Parks, there's always an opportunity to take a hike and see the butterflies. You can call ahead to see if the park has a butterfly checklist. For example, the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge located south of Missoula has a fifty species checklist. Also, don't forget to watch along city streets, city parks and especially in your own yard!

Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) is the second largest order in the class *Insecta*. It includes *Nymphalidae* (brushfooted butterflies), *Danaidae* (milkweed butterflies), *Pieridae* (whites and sulfurs), *Papilionidae* (swallowtails), *Lycaenidae* (blues, coppers, and hairstreaks) and *Hesperiidae* (skippers).

Montana's State Butterfly (pictured top left) is the Mourning Cloak. They are easily recognizable by their purple/black wings with yellow edges and small blue spots. A brushfooted butterfly, Mourning Cloaks overwinter as adults, taking shelter in a hole in a tree or under some bark to wait out the winter. The Mourning Cloak butterflies are among the longest living adult butterflies in the world. They can live for up to 10 months. When they emerge in the spring, this trait gives them a head start over the other butterflies for finding food and a mate.

The larvae of Mourning Cloaks prefer elm and willow trees and can most often be found near them. The caterpillars eat the leaves of these trees. As adults they eat some nectar, but their main source of food is tree sap. They can also obtain some nutrients from mud puddles and animal dung.

Nearly all *Lepidopteran* larvae are called caterpillars. They have a well-developed head with chewing mouthparts. In addition to three pairs of legs on the thorax, they have two to eight pairs of fleshy abdominal prolegs that are structurally different from the thoracic legs. Most *Lepidopteran* larvae are herbivores; some species eat foliage, some burrow into stems or roots, and some are leaf-miners. Butterflies are diurnal (*active during the day*), brightly colored, and have knobs or hooks at the tip of the antennae. At rest, the wings are held vertically over the body.

In contrast, most (*but not all*) moths are nocturnal. They are typically drab in appearance, and have thread-like, spindle-like, or comb-like antennae. At rest, their wings are held horizontally against the substrate, folded flat over the back, or curled around the body. Two moths of note are the Sphinx moth and the Hummingbird moth.

There are many different creatures that make butterflies part of their diet. Some common predators of butterflies include wasps, ants, parasitic flies, birds, snakes, toads, rats, lizards, dragonflies, frogs and spiders. These predators eat butterflies as butterfly eggs, caterpillars and adult butterflies. Some butterflies such as the Monarch eat poisonous plants (milkweeds) as larvae to discourage predators.

So, if you are a caterpillar or butterfly, how do you keep from getting eaten? One great way is to have fake eyes to trick predators into thinking you are something else!



While there may be a lot of different butterfly nectar plants available, the top three nectar bearing food plants that butterflies love are butterfly weed, purple coneflowers and the New England Aster! One of the things to keep in mind when you are attempting to attract butterflies to your backyard is that you need to have a lot of different flowers for them to choose from. This way, you will definitely be attracting more than one type of butterfly. Remember that big butterflies like tall flowers and small butterflies like short flowers. Be sure to group the same types of flowers together. You will attract more butterflies than if you scatter your flowers throughout the garden.

A great addition to any butterfly garden is at least one rock, this gives a great place for all of the butterflies to stop and rest their wings. Also, butterflies are cold-blooded and will benefit from a sunny rock to warm themselves up in the mornings. A small puddle or muddy spot will attract male butterflies. They draw nutrients from mud that they pass on to the female when they mate.

Certain plants attract certain butterflies: Monarch – Milkweed; Black Swallowtail – Carrots, Rue, Parsley, Dill, Fennel; Tiger Swallowtail – Wild Cherry, Birch, Ash, Poplar, Apple Trees, Tulip Trees, Sycamore; Pipevine Swallowtail – Dutchman's Pipe; Great Spangled Fritillary – Violet; Buckeye – Snapdragon; Mourning Cloak – Willow, Elm; Viceroy – Pussy Willow, Plums, Cherry; Red Spotted Purple – Willow, Poplar; Pearl Crescent, Silvery Checkerspot – Aster.

Want more information? Check out
www.learnaboutnature.com **to learn more.**

Join Us As We **PLANT AMERICA** with Membership! OUR MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE 🌻 21% BY '21!

We asked clubs that have a positive membership growth to let us know who you are and share what you're doing right! We've had an overwhelming response! To save space, we're listing club name and state, president, membership numbers at beginning and end of this last year, % increase, and what you're doing that's working! Also, to save space, we will not restate the same idea submitted by clubs with a higher percentage increase.

🌻 **Dallas GC, OR, Gaye Stewart, 20-38, 90%** – Hold evening meetings, encourage both men and women to attend/join, publicize meetings in free section of local newspaper, social media presence, engaging meetings, involve members with jobs/roles that match their interests, go on field trip "Safaris" every other month, publish and distribute newsletter by email and deliver copies around community, publish club directory, use 'branding' for recognition, develop prospective member packet and club brochure, personal member recognition for jobs well-done, share small gifts with each member every meeting, door prizes at every meeting from items brought by members, visible community projects, ongoing membership contest with a cash prize, and 'Invite, Invite, Invite!!!'. "We believe we each have a part to play as we 'Grow' our membership. To be successful, we just need to remember to relax, always be upbeat and positive, and simply invite others to join us in the incredible fun we have by belonging to the Dallas Garden Club."

🌻 **Camellia GC, AL, Janet Lewis, 8-12, 50%** – Close association with Master Gardeners who invite the GC members to attend their free 'Lunch and Learn' programs with new interns, community involvement with other organizations, distribution of nice cards that say 'In Appreciation of the pleasure your garden brings to those who pass by' and inviting the recipients to attend a garden club meeting, and low annual dues.

🌻 **Melbourne GC, FL, Sandi Dix, 22-32, 45%** – Vice-President acts as a mentor to new members to make sure they are experiencing the club in a positive way, and "we attend events to promote our club."

🌻 **Patio Garden Club, OK, Bettie Cooper, 16-22, 37%** – Hold hands-on workshops at community events and a 'Husband [spouse] Appreciation' soup/chili supper/plant sale, inviting guests.

🌻 **The GC at Palm Coast, FL, Sue Bara, 133-181, 36%** – Staff a membership information table at city events, sell plants at Farmers' Markets with member present to answer questions, hold open houses at a realtors office with videos of garden club events as well as active members present to talk to visitors, staff a membership table at the meeting entrance with greeters, and display a power point presentation on a screen prior to our meetings pointing out upcoming projects, events, trips and important information. Dedicated members invite future members.

🌻 **Sedville Petal Pushers GC, MO, Wanda Rasa, 10-13, 30%** – Incorporate crafting that goes along with gardening, our own members give many programs, evening meeting of no more than 1.5 hours, "...the less formal the club is, the more our members enjoy it", hold more time-consuming activities outside regular meeting time. "We keep a positive attitude and leave any drama at the door. We are there to learn and enjoy the same interests. We focus on having fun."

🌻 **Nampa GC, ID, Charlene Hammons, 29-37, 27%** – Raise money for local "Meals on Wheels" by making ornaments during the 'Festival of Trees' and for our district meetings by making garden-themed ornaments for silent auctions.

We are so proud of our CLUBS! The CLUBS mentioned above had some of the largest increases in members this last year. Please send in your membership ideas to be published and shared! We learn best from one another! REMEMBER, OUR MEMBERS MATTER MOST!

Your 2019 – 2021 NGC Membership Committee: Becky Hassebroek, Chairman

Pennies for Pines Update

When we contribute \$68 toward the cost of planting seedlings, about one half acre of National Forest land in Montana can be reseeded. Using our donation, together with Federal funds, the Forest Service does the planting on the National Forest nearest you or the forest of your choice.

Why is reforestation important? Wild animals, birds, and fish depend upon the forests and streams for food and shelter. Forests help us to have a reliable supply of useable water. Forests hold the fertile topsoil in place, keeping it from washing into streams and reservoirs.

So, garden club members, keep collecting your pennies and pocket change so we can help seed more forests to cover our Montana acres devastated by fire! Eleven garden clubs have contributed to the Penny Pines Program this year and this represents over \$800. **Please keep collecting your change for this great cause!**

COLLEEN MASON, Chairman - Penny Pines





BLUE AND GOLD STAR UPDATES



Montana's second Gold Star Families By Way Marker will be installed in the Montana Veterans' Memorial Park in **Great Falls**. Dedication will be Memorial Day **MAY 25, 2020**, in conjunction with the Memorial Day ceremony conducted by the Veteran's Committee. The Gold Star Marker is a joint project of Rainbow Garden Club and the Great Falls Flower Growers. These two garden clubs had a large Blue Star Memorial Marker installed in 2007 by the Veterans' Memorial Park and later two benches were installed. The clubs will invite Montana Gold Star Families to the ceremony.

I recently ordered both Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers for Glendive! Dedication will be September 12, 2020 in their Vietnam Vets Memorial Park. Dearborn is fund raising for a Gold Star By Way Marker. Stevensville is in planning stages for a Gold Star Families Memorial Marker to go with their 2006 Blue Star.

Blue Star Markers originally began to honor World War II veterans. It now includes all who have served, are serving, or will serve in any way in the Armed Forces of the United States. The Gold Star Families Markers are a tribute to Gold Star Families who's loved one paid the ultimate price defending the United States of America.

Prices will surely go up May 1. Until then, the Memorial Markers of either type are \$1580. By Way markers of either type are only \$510. Call me if you are interested in either type and I'll walk you through the process. **Let's fill up Montana with these markers of honor!**



KATHY AUSTIN
Chairman

**Montana Blue & Gold
Star Families Memorial Markers**

LIFE MEMBERS FUND RAISING

The MFGC Life Members have been awarding an annual scholarship with funds from the interest on our annuity. However, the last few years we have had a short-fall in meeting our \$1,000. This has resulted in the Life Members organization having to raise money through other measures. These include profit from our state meeting luncheon and our \$50 **Red Rose Pin** certificate program.

At the 2020 Convention we will have funding projects in addition to those mentioned above. We will have a **50/50 drawing** at the Convention's end and we will be selling these special **painted rocks** you can use as a "pet," a decoration or door stop. Sizes priced differently. Custom rock art of your own pet can be painted to order from a photograph for \$50. Call **406-727-7633** for order form.



PATTY SCHLAEGER, Chairman
Montana State Life Members



POLLINATORS WELCOME

As you stroll through the yard, there flits a butterfly moving on to the next flower. *Do you still get excited as you did when you were a child?* Pollinators including the bees and the butterflies don't seem to be as abundant as they were when we were children. The most probable cause is habitat loss, misuse of pesticides and disease. We can do our part by planting to attract them to our yards. Not only are we bringing the "awe" back to our flower beds, but pollination is needed for over 150 food crops in the United States.

Plant a rainbow of colors to attract the bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Blue, yellow, white and purple colors attract bees, and butterflies prefer red and purple tones. Salvia, Mexican Sunflower, Yarrow, Lavender, Trailing Rosemary, Nasturtium, Verbena, Zinnia, Aster, Golden Rod, Scabiosa, Bachelor Buttons, Butterfly Weed, Blazing Star Liatris and Butterfly Bush are plants to encourage the butterflies to visit your yard. These blooms offer a variety of shapes and sizes and bloom at different times during the season.



Bees especially are attracted to Bee Balm, Purple Coneflower, Calendula, Marigolds, Cosmos, Heliotrope, Sunflowers, Echinacea, Oregano, Dill, Mint, Sunflower, Raspberry Sedum and Joe-Pye Weed. Consider letting your herbs bloom to attract the bees. Plant in clusters of three to five to create a drift in your flower bed. Bees and butterflies tend to be near sighted and can best find your flowers when planted in clusters.

Liatris, Purple Coneflower, Milkweed, Coreopsis, and the California Poppy are native plants that are a great addition to attract pollinators. Shrubs like Viburnum, Butterfly Bush, Spirea, and Summersweet offer a treat as well as a Crabapple Tree.

Pollinators need water so place a shallow bird bath, fountain or pond amongst the flowers.

As you plan for summer blooms, plan to plant a variety of colors and shapes to attract a variety of pollinators. Choose plants that flower at different times providing a nectar and pollen source throughout the growing season. Plant in clumps rather than single plants to better attract pollinators.

I share pollinator articles and invite others to share how to welcome the pollinators. I participate on **FaceBook** with the **Pollinator's Welcome Group**. **Please join us as we communicate with one another!**

JODY HAIDLE, Chairman
Pollinator Gardening

MONTANA SYMPOSIUM - JULY 17-18

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs is offering an educational symposium to all its members this summer. The dates are July 17, 18, 2020 in Great Falls, Montana hosted by the Central District #5. The location will be the Holiday Inn Convention Center. We will study Horticulture and Design. Our Horticulture instructor is **Pam Braun** from Franklin, Tennessee. We will study Succulents and Composite Flowers: growing, propagating, exhibiting and judging with oral and written point scoring. Our Allied Topic will be making a Topiary. Our Design instructor is **Claudia Bates** from Newberry, Florida. We will study American Traditional Design Contrast with Creative Design and our Allied Topic will be Fantasy Forms.

Our schedule is to start at 8:15 a.m. each day with announcements. Our Allied Topic will be first thing each morning, followed by instruction. There will be a lunch break at Noon. Our afternoon session will be two hours of instruction, a break and then those judges needing to take the written point scoring exam will have two hours. Judges needing to take the Symposium for Credit need to write to the **Credentials Chairman, Susan Billmeyer at 565 Bevolen Road, Hogeland, Montana 59529, Phone 406-379-2545, Email: gsee@itstriangle.com** for the correct form with credits by June 17, 2020. **Do not send your Certification Application with your Symposium Registration.** The Local Symposium Chairman is **Jeannie Bennett, 2217 1st Ave South, Great Falls, Montana, phone 406-781-7615; Email: 56phillytraveler@gmail.com** if you have any questions.

Everyone is welcome to take advantage of this educational opportunity. *You do not have to be a judge to Audit the Symposium.*

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2020

7:45 AM-8:15 AM REGISTRATION
8:15 AM-8:30 AM ANNOUNCEMENTS
8:30 AM-9:30 AM Horticulture Allied Topic
"MAKING A TOPIARY" - PAM BRAUN
9:30 AM-9:45 AM **BREAK**
9:45 AM-11:45 AM Horticulture:
SUCCULENTS, COMPOSITE FLOWERS
PAM BRAUN
11:45 AM-1:00 PM **LUNCH**
1:00 PM-3:00 PM Horticulture: Continued
3:00 PM-3:30 PM **BREAK**
3:30 PM-5:30 PM Written Point Scoring Exam

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020

8:00 AM-8:15 AM REGISTRATION
8:15 AM-8:30 AM ANNOUNCEMENTS
8:30 AM-9:30 AM Design Allied Topic
"FANTASY FORMS" - CLAUDIA BATES
9:30 AM-9:45 AM **BREAK**
9:45 AM-11:45 AM Design :
AMERICAN TRADITIONAL C ONTRAST
WITH CRE ATIVE DESIGN CLAUDIA BATES
11:45 AM-1:00 PM **LUNCH**
1:00 PM-3:00 PM Design: Continued
3:00 PM-3:30 PM **BREAK**
3:30 PM-5:30 PM Written Point Scoring Exam



JUDGES ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE SYMPOSIUM FOR CERTIFICATION:

- ☐ An Accredited Judge seeking refresher certification.
- ☐ A judge holding Accredited-Life Certificate and seeking Accredited-Master certification.
- ☐ An accredited Master Judge seeking audit credit to retain Good Standing with NGC
- ☐ **DO NOT SEND** your Certification Application with Symposium registration.
- ☐ Out of state judges need to send their certification to their state judges credentials chairman & the application will be forwarded to Montana.
- ☐ In state judges send Judges Certification Application by JUNE 17, 2020 to: **Montana Judges Credentials Chairman Susan Billmeyer at 565 Bevolen Road Hogeland, MT 59529 Phone 406-379-2545 Email: gsee@itstriangle.com**

REGISTRATION - MONTANA SYMPOSIUM JULY 17-18, 2020

The Symposium will be held at the Holiday Inn Great Falls, Montana. A block of rooms has been reserved for July 16, 17, 18, 2020 under Garden Club Symposium. The rate is \$99 plus tax per night. This block of rooms will be held until June 25th. It is recommended you make reservations early. For Reservations call 406-727-7200

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Email address required to receive and print Documents for Symposium

Registration Fees For Credit, All Judges (includes test fee)

Includes Lunch both days	\$87.00	_____
Audit Full time	87.00	_____
Audit July 17th Horticulture	44.00	_____
Audit July 18th Design	44.00	_____
Buffet Breakfast	Per day 16.00	_____ (Option)
Late Fee (postmarked after June 15th)	20.00	_____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: LIFE MEMBERS OF MFGC- Great Falls

SEND TO: PATTY HOWSE, 3204 6TH AVE NORTH, GREAT FALLS, MT 59401

PHONE: 406-452-1455

EMAIL: peppermintpatty30@gmail.com

THIS and THAT

JIM SADLER
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



I must say that having everything cancelled this past week has been interesting. Sitting on my front porch I see families walking together on the bike path. I never realized how many dogs live in the neighborhood until I watched their procession along the path. All of this activity is really quite uncommon. *It reminds me of my childhood when spending time with family was the norm.*

To entertain myself I have started to open my garden. In my front yard along the road, I have a rock wall about four feet high. The stones always need a bit of fixing as the frost seems to like to move things around. I cleaned the front beds; placed about three inches of Soil Pep (a mulch made up of composed bark) around the tulips that are emerging. I always fertilize early in the Spring as it gives the bulbs a good boost. I like the pelletized fertilizers. All of the major fertilizer makers have very similar products. I look at the formula on the package and choose the one with the highest phosphorus. Cost of course is also a consideration.

I have staged the front border with a white theme. My absolute favorite tulip is Maureen, a very stately and tall white giant Darwin Hybrid. The flowers are huge, with strong-stemmed flowers. They bloom late April into May here in Missoula. Their height is 20-22 inches. Catherina is a creamy-white with broad, ivory-white petals and a buttercup-yellow interior base and dark yellow anthers. It is about 24 to 26 high and blooms in May. Another tulip is a White Triumphator. It is an old favorite and has been around a long time. It is a lily flowering type, is 24" high and mid to late May bloomer.

To give variety I plant Stainless a late flowering, ivory-white daffodil. And of course, Mount Hood, a white heirloom that turns glistening ivory white as the long-lasting blooms mature.

The reason why I am telling you about my white border is that I have several secrets that I am willing to share. First of all, the border is very hot in the summer and being beside the road is difficult to keep watered. I early on made the decision to plant only for spring and thus allowing the bulbs to dry up naturally. I only add a few annuals like white sweet alyssum and white petunias by the gate. By allowing my bulb bed to dry out I have a marvelous bonus. About every three years, or whenever I get around to it, I dig the tulips. Because I put each variety in its own row, I can easily keep them separate. I dig soon after the last tulip has started to wither. I place the whole bulb stem and green leaves in a paper bag. I always take off the seed bod. I write on the bag the variety and place in the garage until fall. In the fall, I find that a good majority of the bulbs have split into three bulbs. I separate out the large bulbs for replanting in the display garden. The smaller bulbs are placed someplace else in the gardens in back of the house to increase in size.

I generally do not fuss with the daffodils, if I dig them, I replant them right away. The benefit of digging and drying out the tulips is that I have increased my tulip display immensely. When you consider each tulip is worth from 89 cents to a dollar apiece it is well worth the trouble. You can tell when it is time to dig your tulips when they have formed clumps. Leaving them in the clumps will weaken the tulip and the bloom will not be as expected. I always plant my tulips deeper than the directions by a few inches. At the bottom of the hole I put a sprinkling of a dried fertilizer. Water well and in the Spring, you will have tulips that look just like they do in the seed catalogues.



"CLIMBING ROSE" QUILT DRAWING

Tickets for this very beautiful quilt are being sold and will be drawn at the Convention. "Climbing Rose" by Maxine Ramey was constructed for the 2020 Convention by Sandy Curtiss, Cheryl Kuka and Lela Pateria. The machine quilting was done by Kitty Williams. The quilt is 60" by 70."

Havre Bullhook Blossoms 2020 State Convention Request

For the 2020 State Convention in Havre on June 11-14, the Bullhook Blossoms are requesting donations of themed basket arrangements from each club in the state for the sale table. Examples might include quilting, gardening, cooking, baking, writing, reading, spa, sewing, arts and crafts, sports or even an artificial flower arrangement.

Let's get creative!

DRAFT BYLAW CHANGES

Current	New Changes in RED	Rational
Article VIII 4.g. Shall submit the Annual Financial Statement to the editor of the Montana Gardens for publication in the first issue following the Annual Meeting, and shall submit written Financial Statements to the MFGC Webmaster within 30 days of Fall Board and Convention.	Shall submit the Annual Financial Statement to the editor of the <u>Montana Gardens</u> for publication in the first issue following the Annual Meeting, and shall submit written Financial Statements to the MFGC Webmaster within 30 days of the Annual Meeting.	<i>Because some members don't have access to the Internet, publication of the annual financial statement in Montana Gardens provides this information to all MFGC members. Eliminate publishing financial statements presented at Fall Board because they contain only four months of data.</i>
Article XIV Committees & Chairmen 2.a. Finance Committee (1) Shall consist of the President, the Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and immediate Past MFGC President. (5) Shall meet twice a year: prior to the Annual Meeting and Fall Board Meeting	(1) Shall consist of the President, the Vice Presidents, Treasurer, immediate Past MFGC President, and may include additional members at large. (5) Shall meet three times a year: in the spring, prior to the Annual Meeting and Fall Board Meeting.	<i>This allows members with financial or institutional/historical experience to be included.</i> <i>The Bylaws should reflect that the committee meets in the spring to help develop the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.</i>



Registration Form

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

83rd Annual State Membership Convention

June 12 & 13, 2020



HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Best Western Plus – Havre Inn & Suites, 1425 U.S. Highway 2 NW, Havre, Montana
Call (406) 265-2888 and reserve your hotel room before May 22, 2020
Ask for “**Montana Federation of Garden Clubs Rate**”
Rate for Single/Double \$91 + tax; Triple \$95 + tax; Quad \$100 + tax per night

Name: _____

MFGC Club: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

District: _____

Please check 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** ☐ Club Alternate** ☐ Flower Show Judge ☐ Student FS Judge
☐ State Chairman* ☐ Regional Officer ☐ Elected State Officer* ☐ Regional Director
☐ Appointed State Officer* ☐ 1st Time Attendee ☐ State President* ☐ National Life Member
☐ National Board Member ☐ National President ☐ Past State President* ☐ State Life Member
☐ Landscape Design Consultant ☐ Student LD Consultant ☐ Guest

Registration: Registration deadline is May 29, 2020. Hotel registration deadline is May 22 to get convention rates.
No refunds after June 1, 2020. All MFGC members must register to attend any function.

- ☐ Full-time registration June 12 & 13.....\$35
☐ Full-time registration postmarked after May 22nd.....\$45
☐ One-day registration Friday (add \$5 if postmarked after May 22).....\$25
☐ One-day registration Saturday (add \$5 if postmarked after May 22).....\$20

Meals: Please select all that apply (*tip included in price*) ☐ Vegetarian or ☐ Gluten-Free?

Any life-threatening food allergies? _____

- ☐ Friday Life Member Lunch
Cold-Cut Hoagie with Chicken Tortilla Soup, Dessert, and Beverage..... \$15
☐ Friday Judges Council Banquet
BBQ Trio – Pulled Pork Sliders, BBQ Chicken, 1/3 Rack Ribs with Coleslaw, Potato Salad,
Corn, Cheesecake, and Beverage..... \$26
☐ Saturday Awards Luncheon
Chef's Salad – Turkey, Ham, and Bacon, American and Swiss Cheeses, Mixed Greens,
Tomato, Cucumber, Onion, with Dinner Roll, Dessert, and Beverage..... \$16
☐ Post-Convention Saturday Night Dinner: **Montana Style Events, 10975 River Rd, Havre, MT**
Shepherd's Pie, Roll, Salad, and Dessert.....\$29
+ Cocktails Purchased Separately

Page 1 Total from Above \$ _____

Registration Form - Page 2

Contests:

Please check the items you would like to participate in:

☐ **Landscapes on Montana Quilting Challenge**

Enter the quilting contest and create a table centerpiece (24"), table runner, wall hanging, or placemats depicting one of the various landscapes or flowers of Montana. The winner will be selected by people's choice, with each attendee receiving one voting ticket at check-in. The winner receives \$100! All entries will be placed in the silent auction fundraiser. Silent auction closes Saturday at 12 pm.

☐ **Creative Art – Non-Fiber**

No theme! Let your imagination run wild! Art pieces should measure less than 8" by 12". Examples of acceptable art are paintings, drawings, sculpture, or pottery. The winner will be selected by people's choice, with each attendee receiving one voting ticket at check-in. The winner receives \$100! All entries will be placed in the silent auction fundraiser. Silent auction closes Saturday at 12pm.

Events, Tours, and Workshops:

Please check which items you would like to participate in:

☐ **Thursday Pre-Convention Dedication of Toni Hagener's Memorial 7:00pm**

If you plan on staying in Havre on Thursday night, please join us at Montana State University – Northern's Hagener Science Center for the unveiling and dedication of a memorial to Toni Hagener's contributions to the community. Cookies and punch will be served immediately afterward in the Vande Bogart Library, where attendees will have a chance to tour the Louis and Antoinette Hagener Museum of the Plains Indian, much of which was collected and donated by Toni and her husband, Lou.

Friday Tours 2:45pm – 5:45pm

Tours are arranged so that you may attend both; however, you have the option to choose just one, if you wish.

☐ **Wahkpa Chu'gn Archaeological Site and Buffalo Jump (Starts at 2:45).....\$7**

****Walking on uneven terrain involved****

www.visitmt.com/listings/general/archaeological-excavation/buffalo-jump-archaeological-site

☐ **Havre Beneath the Streets and Train Museum (Starts at 3:45)\$12**

****Walking and stairs involved****

www.visitmt.com/listings/general/specialty-tour/havre-beneath-the-streets

☐ **On Your Own – Details in Program OR**

Friday Workshops 2:45pm – 5:45pm

All workshops will be held in the ballroom at the Best Western Plus – Havre Inn & Suites. You may choose to attend some or all workshops.

☐ "Learning About Succulents" with Lisa Hanson (Downtown Gardens) 2:45-3:30

☐ "A Prairie Xeriscape" with Carolyn Anderson 3:45-4:30

☐ "Flower Arranging" with Kimmi Boyce (Boyce & Berry Flowers) 4:45 - 5:30

If you are a State Chairman, are you bringing a display? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what poster size? ☐ 24" Wide Single ☐ 36" Wide Trifold

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact: Jody Olson, Assistant to the Convention Chair, at 406-399-3804 or jodykolson@gmail.com

Total from Above \$ _____

Total from Page 1 \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to: Judy Ward - 2491 Old Post Rd, Havre, MT 59501



The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
In Cooperation With National Garden Clubs, Inc. Presents
Landscape Design School Course 1 (in a Series of 4)
May 8-9, 2020 at the Rimrock Mall: 300 S. 24th Street, Billings, Montana
Sponsored by: Thumb R Green Garden Club

Registration Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please check the correct box:

() course fee: \$50.00 () exam fee: \$5.00

Total \$ _____

Note: The cost of your meals and lodging is not included in the registration fee.

Refunds for medical emergencies only

Make checks payable to: Thumb R Green Garden Club

Mail to: Debbi Werholz: 1744 Miles Avenue, Billings MT 59102-4947 **Deadline:** April 24, 2020

**This course is available to all those having an interest in the beauty
and care of our environment through landscaping.**

COURSE SCHEDULE

Friday: May 8, 2020

8:00 - 8:30 am Registration and welcome
8:30 - 9:30 am Learning about your ecosystem
9:45 - 10:45 am Space, Design and People
11:00 - 12:00 pm Principles and Elements of
Landscape Design
12:00 - 1:00 pm **Lunch on your own**
1:00 - 2:00 pm Developing Your Garden Design
2:15 - 3:15 pm Basics of a Site Plan
3:30 - 4:30 pm Color in the Landscape

Saturday: May 9, 2020

8:00 - 9:00 am Design for the Environment
9:15 - 10:15 am Development of Landscape
Design: Ancient Times to 1840
10:30 - 11:30 am Xeriscaping: Not just for the Desert
11:45 - 12:45 pm Design Considerations and Reliable
Plants for Montana
12:45 - 2:00 pm **Lunch on your own**
2:00 pm **Exam** (for those garden club members who wish to
work towards becoming a consultant.)

Instructor: Barbara Lien - Barbara is a landscape architect who lives in Whitehall, Mt. She has a B.S. Degree in Earth Science from Montana State University and a M.S. Degree in Landscape Architecture from Washington State University. She is currently a self-employed landscape designer and volunteer.

Please contact Joyce Hendricks: rnjhend@charter.net or phone 406-259-9610 if you have questions.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. on October 7, 1958, established a series of four courses on landscape design in order to develop a greater appreciation of the environment, both natural and manmade. Beginning July 1, 2019 The Landscape Design Schools have a new curriculum approved at the 2018 NGC Fall Board Meeting. The schools are a series of four 10- hour classes. **The objectives of the schools are:**

- **Develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride and knowledge about our private, public and historical gardens.**
- **Become better informed in order to promote positive changes in our surroundings to encourage beauty, utility, convenience, sound ecological practices and ease of maintenance.**
- **Encourage a better understanding of the landscape design process to promote landscapes that will sustain sound management.**
- **Stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning.**
- **Develop a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in such decision-making areas of public life, as providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards and promoting better landscape designs.**

Students acquire the tools for making their own gardens more beautiful and easier to maintain. Many students have been motivated to serve in political decision-making areas where awareness of the impact of a well-designed landscape can enhance the beauty and enjoyment of life in the public arena. This course is the first in the series of 4 courses.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. welcomes all students, both members and non-members. Garden Club members completing the series of four courses are awarded the designation of NGC Landscape Design Consultant.

For more information on the Landscape Design School, see the National Garden Clubs, Inc. website:

<http://gardenclub.org/schools/landscape-design.aspx>



BOOKS OF EVIDENCE/AWARDS DUE DATE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020 OR SOONER PLEASE!

This is a reminder to **ALL CLUBS** in the State that it is time to submit the Books of Evidence/Awards (BOE). The **DUE DATE IS APRIL 15, 2020**. Anything received after this date **WILL NOT BE JUDGED**. Please send all BOE/Awards to: **Myrna F. McCollum - State Awards Chairperson**

4413 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59405-1643.

Phone # (406) 452-1431. E-mail address is: mccollum@bresnan.net

AWARD JUDGES NOTE THAT JUDGING WILL BE DONE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES: APRIL 17, APRIL 24, MAY 1, MAY 8 and MAY 15, 2020. MEETINGS WILL BE HELD at the CASCADE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE at 9:30 am. Last year we had nine judges. I would like to increase that number to 12-15 judges. If anyone outside the Great Falls area is interested in becoming a judge, please contact me at the number and email listed above.

Books of Evidence require an Application on Page 1 for each book submitted. Any exception will be so noted in the 2019-2021 MFGC Directory. The Directory and Application can be downloaded on the web: www.mtfgc.org. The Application is listed on page 36. Your Club President or District Director can supply you with this information, as well. **PLEASE USE THE 2019-2021 DIRECTORY.** The Books of Evidence are limited to three pages, and can be printed on one side only.

There are three special awards for your consideration. They are: **A-17 GARDENER OF THE YEAR AWARD, B-7 STATE CHAIRMAN LEADERSHIP AWARD and B-8 CIRCLE OF GREEN THUMB AWARD.** *A Circle of Green Thumb Award should be submitted by EVERY CLUB in our federation!*

Many awards offer the opportunity to win either certificates and/or cash awards. Club members work very hard each year on many, many projects. This is our way for you to gain recognition and **CASH** for **ALL YOUR CLUB DOES!**

MYRNA McCOLLUM - State Awards Chairman



PLANT AMERICA with TREES



National Garden Club hopes that we can plant 165,000 trees in each year of the 2019-2021 administration. That is how many members belong to our national organization. It just takes "Each One" (member) to "Plant One" (native tree). I ordered a few bur oak, which are native to our state, and plan to plant them here in my yard. I also have some to share with my fellow Montana garden club members.

Are you planting your tree?

Sherry Corneliusen
MFGC President

MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC. ENDOWMENT INTEREST GRANT GUIDELINES

The Endowment Program of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. provides grants for projects by local federated garden clubs in the State of Montana. The Endowment Program has been making annual grants since 2015. These guidelines were written June 21, 2019.

Eligibility Project must:

- Be charitable in purpose
- Have able and committed leadership

Ineligible Projects:

- Conferences
- Planning, research or untested projects
- Partisan or sectarian activities

About the Grants

- Grants will be up to \$500
- Grants must be used for projects benefiting communities or residents of Montana
- Grant requests are reviewed by the Executive Committee and the Endowment Committee of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered

Preferred Projects

- Priority will be given to projects that meet the following criteria:
 - *Provide a long-term, direct benefit to local residents or community*
 - *Enjoy support from community members*
 - *Projects have an ongoing, sustainable funding source*
 - *Address important, unmet needs*

Cash Match - Cash match is required for the grants

For every five dollars of grant funding, applicants must have at least one dollar of matching funds for the project.

Cash must be either pledged or in-hand. Please include some form of evidence of cash match such as a letter of commitment or a copy of a donation received.

Cash Match (*continued*)

In-kind match (*such as committed materials, real estate, building, donated time or other good or service*) is valuable and shows the importance of the project to the community. Please describe any in-kind match committed to the project.

Application Package Checklist Please include all of the following items in your application:

- MFGC's Endowment Interest Grant Application Cover Sheet (attached)
- Project budget including a description of cash and in-kind match and proof that cash and in-kind match is committed to the project.
- Copy of 501(c)3 if your organization has this designation
- A description of the Club organization including what it does in the community, who your organization serves, and a list of board members and/or project leaders.
- A written description of the proposed project, in two pages or less, to include the following:
 - A detailed description of the proposed project
 - Explanation of how the project meets the Montana Federation of Garden Club's funding priorities:
 - *Describe the impact of the project in the community*
 - *Estimate how many people will benefit from this project*

Where to send the Application

- Application packages must be **received by September 1st.**
- Deliver FOUR copies of the package (stapled is fine) to:

**Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
P.O. Box 662, Whitehall, MT. 59759-0662**



Under Montana's Big Sky

Whitehall Garden Club



Pictured above are the Whitehall Garden Club's new officers for 2020 from left to right: *Glenna Waltee, Parliamentarian; Maureen Dawson, Vice-President; Mary Ann Carey, President; Jayne Dean, Secretary and Barbara Lien, Treasurer.*

Dearborn Garden Club

Dearborn Garden Club has had many programs: "Wheat and Grain Farming the Organic Way" by Randy Hinebauch; a Christmas Cookie and Gift Exchange; sewing and stuffing 50 Christmas stockings; and, gathering at Quiet Day Manor in Cascade for a Christmas Pot Luck with the residents.

On January 15, 2020 Club members had a no-host lunch, then went to Park Place in Great Falls to visit Elsie Berger. In February the Dearborn members learned that Elsie Berger passed away. She was 99 years and 9 months old.

Dearborn Garden Club is holding a raffle to earn money for a Gold Star Memorial. The raffle items are a queen sized quilt, a gardening basket, and a Brian Morger print. The drawing will be held in May.



Pictured above: DGC Members at Park Place with Elsie and at the Stockman's Bank with their raffle items.

Miles City Garden Club

Our November meeting was preceded by a delicious soup potluck and followed with a game of BINGO. Several of our other Fall and Winter activities centered around the spirit of the season – giving. Sixteen garden club members manned shifts at the Miles City Soup Kitchen and the Club donated funds to provide 23 Thanksgiving meals from a Miles City restaurant to needy families. In December, we once again went a little 'ringy-dingy' for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive - one of our favorite holiday activities! At our club's annual catered Christmas dinner wonderful, live, musical entertainment was provided by the Strong family. A fun Sneaky Santa gift exchange occurred after the dinner with a beautiful poinsettia being the sought-after gift. *No surprise there since we are a garden club!*

Pictured at right: Miles City Garden Club's Jo Meidinger and Lynne Weischedel, respective loser and winner of BINGO games; and Donna Faber with the coveted poinsettia.

Missoula Garden Club

Our club finally joined the decorated pumpkin frenzy. The 40 pumpkins we so creatively designed were sold after being used as centerpieces at our Octoberfest Soup Luncheon. In addition to the tasty soups and other treats, the luncheon was topped off with a delicious fresh apple cider that was hand-pressed by Fred Frey, Gary Clark, Cheryl Carroll, and Marvin Vinion at the Frey property on Flathead Lake.



The Missoula Garden Club is planning a **Trio Tour of Gardens** on June 9th. In our community, we are fortunate to have a new Howard and ChinWon Reinhardt Peony Garden, the first public garden in the Northwest United States dedicated solely to peonies. Dedicated on June 16, 2019, the garden features more than 200 distinct varieties. Club member, Gary Clark, inspired and was very instrumental in planning, forming, and planting this garden with a Peony Garden Committee of six dedicated community members. A sign will be installed late spring in the garden to share a brief history of peonies, describe the four types of peonies and include illustrations of the six recognized forms of peony blooms. The plants are each identified with markers and a garden map and directory will be provided at the site.

Our **Trio Tour** will start at 10:15 a.m. in the Fort Missoula Iris Garden with hosts from the local Iris Society, including Gary Clark and Fred Frey, who will answer questions about the garden. You will enjoy many species of elegant iris in beautiful blooming colors.

The tour will continue to the Rose Memorial Garden where you will find Missoula Garden Club's Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker in the southwest corner of the garden facing Brooks Street. Jim Sadler will be our host and tell us about this garden and the marker.

The tour will culminate in the new Reinhardt Peony Garden at the U of M in Phyllis Washington Park. We anticipate many mid-season varieties will be in bloom. Upon arrival at the peony garden, our club will host a picnic luncheon. Gary will offer interesting details and answer questions along the way.



This newsletter article serves as your invitation to join the Missoula Garden Club members on this enjoyable Trio Tour. We hope to see you June 9, 2020 to see Missoula's rare and beautiful flowers.



NEW LIFE MEMBERS

GREAT FALLS LIFE MEMBERS:

Debra Wellman, Rainbow Garden Club
Tammy Anders, Rainbow Garden Club

NEW AWARD SPONSOR

A-10 - The President's Living Legacy Award
Sponsored by **R & E Hahn Trust Ranch**

PENNY PINES

Gallatin Empire Garden Club, \$68,
Gumbo Gals Garden Club, \$68, for Custer National
Forest

Rainbow Garden Club, \$68, for Lewis & Clark
National Forest
Miles City Garden Club, \$68

MEMORIALS:

- In memory of **Carol Cain**, by the Miles City Garden Club, \$25; for the Life Members Scholarship Fund.
- In memory of **Carol Cain**, by the Miles City Garden Club, \$150, for Judges Council.
- In memory of **Kay Stevens**, by the Great Falls Flower Growers Garden Club, \$10, for the Life Members Scholarship Fund.

DELEGATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Club Presidents will be receiving the Delegate Registration Form via Email since the District Meetings have been cancelled. 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 **Judy Ward at 2491 Old Post Rd, Havre, MT 59501 by May 22, 2020.**

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

THE POWER OF PLANTS *by Seed Your Future*

Plants have the power to calm, heal, and inspire. Here at Seed Your Future, we proclaimed 2020 the Year of the Plant and we know the nation needs some of that #plantpower now! You are the key to spreading the power and inspiration. We encourage you to share your own plant-passion with your family and friends in ways that keep you safe and healthy. *Here's just a few ideas to lift spirits and provide encouragement and connection to nature's ability to boost physical and mental health.*

- With many students home from school, and families seeking fun and interesting things to do, it's a great time to try our free BLOOM! plant-focused online learning module. Developed with Scholastic, it includes video, a trivia game, a matching game to pair plants with the community challenge they can solve, and a dissection tool to teach key elements and functions of plants.
- It's an ideal time to start seeds for a new vegetable and flower garden. If you cannot access prepackaged seeds, learn how to start seeds from your grocery store produce.
- Trash cans overflowing with all the eating at home you're doing? Make space and start your own compost pile. You'll be amazed by the plant power!
- We know effective hand-washing is key to health. How about a fun project making your own plant-based soap?
- Go on a family plant hunt in your own backyard, balcony or even inside your house. Help kids identify plants - or things made from plants. They might be surprised at the plant power around them.

As passionate plant-people, we know you have great ideas too. Share them with us and we'll share them with the broader community. Together, we can help more people delight in the wonder and power of plants.

WRAPPING IT UP

As our lives change daily due to the **Coronavirus Pandemic** and the word "**cancelled**" is used next to almost everything we have planned for months, garden club members can ease the stress of our self-quarantine doing garden and yard work such as VP Jim Sadler. That is, if the snow and freezing temperatures will give us a break. But, this is Montana and the saying, "*Just wait a few minutes and the weather will change*" is so true. I start out in the morning on frozen ground. Then by noon I am up to my ankles in mud. A day later it snows three to four inches and after the snow melts I'm right back up to my ankles in mud. However, we need this valuable moisture. My winter wheat nearly blew away with the high winds this winter. The moisture and warm sun now has perked it into growing. Without that winter wheat holding onto the ground I'm afraid most of my rich topsoil would have blown into Great Falls.

Be patient. This virus, like our Montana wind, will soon blow over. And, like the high wind damage, there will be things in our lives that may need to be replaced. **Please stay safe.** Be mindful of our newly imposed sanctions so that we can help put an end to the spread of this terrible virus and get back to a normal life as we know it.

PATTY SCHLAEGER, Editor
Montana Gardens Magazine

MONTANA Gardens

Diane Ward – Circulation Manager
mydoubleheartranch@gmail.com



Celebrate National Garden Week in Your Community – JUNE 7 – 13, 2020

Join NGC clubs across the country and celebrate National Garden Week, June 7 - 13, 2020. Promote the NGC objectives of beautification, education of environmental efforts, gardening, and involvement of Garden Clubs in your community. This week is an opportunity to encourage pride in your community, interest new members, and work with other groups to be part of those efforts.

Share the value and efforts of Garden Clubs with your community! Encourage members of your community to be involved! Interest potential members!



**FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK
and VISIT OUR
WEBSITE at
www.mtfgc.org**

Publicity is the key to the promotion of National Garden Week. From the NGC Website, you can download the National Garden Week proclamation. By inviting the mayor to sign this proclamation, you have a photo opportunity to submit to the local newspaper to kick off the week.

Congratulations to Our Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Winners

- 1st grade, Cole Biggerstaff –
Bozeman Gallatin Empire GC
- 2nd grade - Olivia Ritchey -
Malta Dirt Daubers GC
- 3rd grade - Roxy Hickel –
Malta Garden Club
- 4th grade- Kamber Brockie –
Malta Garden Club
- 5th grade- Emma Ereaux -
Malta Garden Club



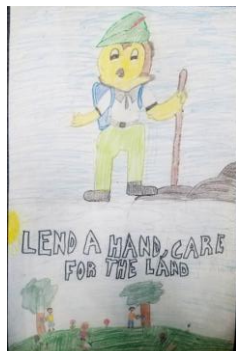
COLE BIGGERSTAFF



OLIVIA RITCHEY



EMMA EREAUX



KAMBER BROCKIE



ROXY HICKEL



Congratulations to all of our winners! Let's get more participation in this contest that is fun for both the children and our garden club members.

JENNIFER STRZELCZYK, Chairman
Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl

DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 8-9, 2020 *

Landscape School Course 1
Billings, Montana

JUNE 9, 2020 *

Missoula Garden Club Trio
Garden Tour

JUNE 11 – 14, 2020 *

MFGC Convention
Havre, Montana

JULY 17-18, 2020 *

Flower Show Symposium
Great Falls, Montana

*** Due to the Coronavirus,
meetings could be cancelled
if there are future sanctions
issued in Montana.**

DATES TO FORGET!

APRIL 15, 2020

APRIL 16, 2020

APRIL 17, 2020

APRIL 18, 2020

APRIL 23, 2020

APRIL 24, 2020

**All MFGC District Meetings
are CANCELLED**

**MAY 12-16, 2020 – National Garden
Club Convention in Milwaukee,
Wisconsin has been cancelled.**