

MONTANA

Gardens



Garden Club Member of the Year for 2020-21 is Jeannie Bennett!

Congratulations to Great Falls Flower Growers member Jeannie Bennett (*pictured above*) who was selected for the honor of the MFGC **Garden Club Member of the Year**! Jeannie joins two other Great Falls gardeners – Shelly Roseburg (*Rainbow Garden Club*) who was awarded **Gardener of the Year** and Tom Fundis who won the Award of Excellence for an MFGC non-member. (See story inside on Page 3)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a crazy year we have had with this COVID-19 pandemic; one cancellation after another. Your MFGC Executive Board has been conducting business via Zoom and trying to get things done for our organization. One thing about it, I am getting more gardening projects done this year with the "stay at home" orders.

We are still planning to have our MFGC Annual Meeting/Fall Board in Bozeman on October 9-10 at the Best Western GranTree Inn. "**Plan(t) for the Future**" is the theme for this meeting. Friday afternoon will be Executive Meetings with Judges Council held at 5:15 pm. Saturday, October 10, will be our annual meeting where we will vote on By-laws, which were published on page 8 of the Spring 2020 issue of **Montana Gardens**. They can also be found on the web. We will elect a nominating committee to come up with names for our 2021 election and we need to cast a ballot for Jim Sadler to become our President Elect. There are VERY IMPORTANT business items that will be addressed at this meeting and we encourage your participation. We need a quorum at this meeting, so please send a representative from your club or district. Registration is due to Cindy Carlton by September 9 and a form can be found in this issue of **Montana Gardens**. I have emailed a *Delegate Registration Form* to each president and you need to fill it out and return to Lilla Flesjer by September 9 as well.

Landscape School is still scheduled for Billings on September 11-12. Registration is due to Joyce Hendricks by September 1. Forms in the last **Montana Gardens** and on the web.

We are still selling tickets for the quilt raffle that the Bullhook Blossoms Club made for MFGC. Tickets were sent to the president of each club. Send your money and stubs to Treasurer Glenna Waltee and we will draw for the winner at the 2021 convention in Havre.

Congratulations to the Stevensville Club on receiving a MFGC Endowment Grant to help with their Gold Star Marker they are putting up this year. Another grant opportunity will be coming up



this fall. Applications can be found on the web. They also received an Espoma Grant.

If you have not paid your dues yet, please send ASAP to Glenna Waltee and send a list of your members, designating your life members and master gardeners to Diane Ward, our circulation manager.

Thanks to Myrna McCollum and her awards committee for getting the awards judged this year. Glenna has sent checks to the winning clubs, and you will be receiving your award certificates at the meeting on October 10. Congratulations to **Jeannie Bennett** for winning the "Garden Club Member of the Year." **Shelly Roseburg** received the \$100 Norm DeNeal award for "Gardener of the Year" and Thomas Fundis won the "Award of Excellence" for a non-member. **Congratulations to these deserving people.**

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting/Fall Board, October 10. We will update by email if unable to proceed. Stay healthy and safe and "**Bloom Where You Are Planted.**"

Sherry Corneliusen, President

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

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MONTANA Gardens

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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DEADLINE FOR ISSUES

November 1, 2020 – Winter 2020-21

March 1, 2021 – Spring 2021

July 1, 2021 – Summer/Fall 2021

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TOP MFGC AWARD WINNERS . . . CONGRATULATIONS!



JEANNIE BENNETT

MFGC GARDEN CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Garden Club Member of the year has been a member of the Great Falls Flower Growers since 2012 and is a National Garden Club Flower Show Judge. She is an MSU Master Gardener and is proactive in getting classes to the public, as well as volunteering in the Master Gardener office at the Cascade County Extension Office as a garden consultant.

Jeannie served in the Air Force for nine years, then the Air National Guard for twelve years. She has a Masters Degree of Science in Education (MSEd) in learning development from Northern Montana State University. She is now as dedicated to serving her community as she was serving her country. Jeannie is currently the Superintendent of Floriculture for the State Fair held each summer in Great Falls. As Superintendent she writes the Fair Schedule for the Floriculture Venue, teaches and demonstrates to the public to further interest in horticulture and floral design. She encourages area residents to enter their flowers and plants in her department's competition, providing an outlet for the public during fair week. When the State Fair was cancelled this year, Jeannie was disappointed not to be able to share her wealth of information with Fairgoers or to enjoy her building filled with flowers, plants and floral designs.

Jeannie has spearheaded the yearly June National Garden Club Week event in Great Falls by going to local garden businesses and asking them to post information about our local Garden Clubs.

She is currently the President of Life Members group in District Five and provides interesting programs for the ladies who attend each month.

Jeannie is very in tune to going to state and district meetings. She is always willing to assist with any garden club meetings in Great Falls and co-chaired the 2019 Fall Board Meeting. Jeannie has also served on committees to streamline the MFGC Awards and assists with judging the many applications submitted.

We can count on this friendly, outgoing garden club member to be a valuable asset to the MFGC as she proudly wears her tiara this year and promotes the love and benefits of gardening in Montana!



SHELLY ROSEBURG

MFGC GARDENER OF THE YEAR

If she were seven feet tall and green, Shelly Roseburg would be the "Jolly Green Giant" because she is always "happy" and always seems to be in her garden! Shelly has always had a love for gardening from the time she was a little girl spending time on her aunt and uncle's farm in South Dakota. She learned early on how to plant, cultivate and harvest the delicious food that came from the garden on the farm. And, she learned the importance of our pollinators, the bees while on the farm. It just came to reason that when she married Don Roseburg, who also enjoyed getting his hands in the ground, a garden in the back yard of their Havre home was a "given." Don and Shelly both held jobs with the BNSF Railroad and Shelly also spent time with Amtrak, but their long and sometimes irregular hours didn't hold them back from gardening. When they retired they purchased some country acreage near Great falls in sight of the Missouri River that was just "waiting" for them to start planting!

Shelly starts many trays of seedlings on the bar in the family room. As she orders more seeds, the trays spill over to coffee tables, end tables, into the laundry room and any spare flat surface. And when the snow finally melts the Roseburgs till the garden plot and get it ready for the "garden plan" they lay out. Don built Shelly a small green house to help the plants get conditioned once they leave the warm confines of the house. When Mother Nature finally cooperates, they start planting the garden.

Through the years they have changed very little in their successful garden plan. The soil is enriched from their nearby compost pile. A system of trenches keeps the plants bottom watered and fast-starts their growing from the time they are placed in the ground. Corn varieties are planted on the east side of the garden. Tomatoes of all colors, shapes and sizes hug the west side. And, in between are rows upon rows of root crops, leafy vegetables, beans, peas and just about everything you can imagine in a garden! The entire garden perimeter is planted with rows of and zinnias that are always abuzz with Don's bees.

With all their garden produce that is not flash-frozen, canned or shared with friends and neighbors, the Roseburgs make certain no one in their church family or any needy folks in town have to go hungry.



TOM FUNDIS

MFGC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Tom was considered for this award because of his undying love for gardening and his love to serve where he is needed. He became a Level Three (III) Master Gardener in 2015. After he completed Level Two (II), he had volunteered so many hours that the college waived his tuition for Level Three (III).

Instead of purchasing plants, he starts seeds at home in his basement for the community garden and for his own garden, saving hundreds of dollars. At the community garden he put in and maintains a watering system and worked with the Boy Scouts to have more planting boxes and a storage shed built. All of the vegetables grown at the Southside Garden are given away to seniors in need. He was so deeply involved with the Southside Garden that he was given the Manager's position. He has donated vegetables to FISH, the Soup Kitchen and the Rescue Mission, adding up to hundreds of pounds of food a year.

During the 18 years Tom's wife Gaila has been a member of Great Falls Flower Growers, he has helped with many of her club's functions. Tom makes and donates wooden crafts, bird feeders, bird houses, planters, yard decorations and trellises, etc. to help the club raise money at their Christmas Tea and other club functions. As an active Master Gardener, Tom is a program speaker, teaches classes, and helps with the Food Forum, State Fair and Farmer's Market. Tom has also been awarded the prestigious honor of Master Gardener of the Year.

Tom has made it a mission in his life to volunteer: he volunteered for the U.S. Air Force right out of high school, and after 21 years, he retired and went to work at the Deaconess Hospital as Maintenance Supervisor. He has volunteered at the Great Falls Visitor's Center and still volunteers at his church where he still shovels snow, cuts grass and plants trees and shrubs.

This man never lets grass grow under his feet; he's now 80 years old and is like the "Energizer Bunny," he just keeps going and going and going! Now, he still volunteers at local food and distribution kitchens, yet finds time to maintain his own yard, flower beds and vegetable garden. Gardening is in this man's blood!

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB, MURPHY AND LIFE MEMBERS 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

CHRIS PRANGE NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



The year 2020 marked the completion of my second year of graduate studies within the Environmental Studies department at the University of Montana. My anticipated graduation date is Spring 2021. In addition to my master's degree, I will also be completing a certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

My path to this point has been one of many unique opportunities. Upon graduating from Willamette University (OR) in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in Biology, I unexpectedly followed a path into college football coaching that would span 13 years, with most of those years spent at Willamette University. Eventually, as a native Montanan, the draw back to my home state was inevitable, and I sought to combine my passions for coaching with my inherent interest in science through a career in teaching. While earning a Master of Education from Montana State (2011), I embarked on what would become an 8-year teaching career, teaching science at both the high school and middle school levels in various Montana locales. Teaching allowed me to gain practical experience in natural resource related field projects through several summer seasonal jobs, ranging from surveying and monitoring sage grouse habitat to guiding canoe trips on the Missouri River. Teaching also allowed me to coach football at the high school level, an endeavor which I continue today at Sentinel High School in Missoula, MT while I complete my graduate studies.

Natural resources and public lands have always been a thread in my life, with a father who was a career wildlife biologist and range specialist with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. While leaving teaching was a difficult decision, it was one that was motivated by a desire to impact our nation's environmental decisions through a new venue of policy rather than education. While both of these arenas are important for establishing proper management of our natural resources, I am excited to enter into natural resource policy and land management decision-making through either a position with a federal agency such as the BLM, or perhaps working with the non-profit world of organizations such as the Montana Land Reliance or Montana Wilderness Association to help protect Montana's public lands.

I cannot thank the National Garden Clubs, Inc. organization enough for providing graduate students such as myself with the opportunity to fund their continuing studies with generous scholarship awards. I look forward to completing my transition, applying my science background to a new career in resource management. ***Thanks again for such a wonderful award and the opportunity to complete my journey.***

ASHLEY WOLFE MURPHY AND LIFE MEMBERS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



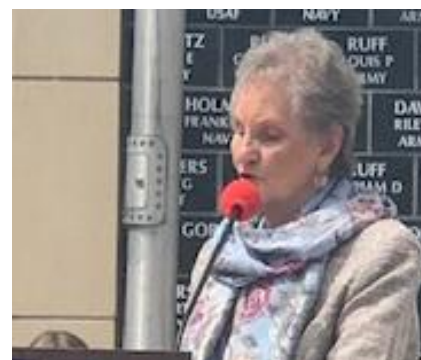
I am currently a Senior at MSU with one semester left and will graduate in December of 2020. I am studying Conservation Biology and Ecology with a minor in Hispanic studies. My hope with this degree is to be a marine biologist (within the United State or in a tropical setting) or at least be a biological conservationist. This semester was a challenge switching to online classes midway through the semester. But it turned out well. I now have a cumulative GPA of 3.52 putting me on the Dean's List for the spring semester.

I plan on continuing to dance at the Bozeman Dance Center in the fall. Ballet has been one of my passions and I have been doing ballet for 13 years now. I danced in Helena for the first 10 years and now dance in Bozeman. This summer I was offered an internship at the Flathead Lake Biological Station where I would assist in data entry, data visualizations and data collection of Mysis shrimp in Flathead Lake and Whitefish Lake. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, my lake ecology internship was cancelled. Now for the summer, I have been working at the Big Timber Ace Hardware assisting the local community in their hardware and outdoor needs. This allows me to spend quality time with my family for at least one more summer.

As far as after graduation, I am not sure what my plan will be because the COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench into all of my plans. Having completed my internship at the end of the summer I was hoping to apply for graduate school, so I would be attending in fall of 2021. However, with everything that has been going on with the pandemic and the education system, I am less inclined to start my graduate school studies right away for fear of the majority of it being online. This being said, I am more inclined to try and find an internship/entry level job fitting within my field of study or possibly finding a program where I can teach English as a second language in a Spanish speaking country.

I am so appreciative for these scholarships and hope that I can personally thank your wonderful organization this fall when you meet in Bozeman. Again, thank you for selecting me for this honor.

GREAT FALLS GARDEN CLUBS DEDICATE MONTANA'S SECOND GOLD STAR MEMORIAL



Kathy Austin, MFGC Blue and Gold Star Chair officiated as Montana's second Gold Star Memorial marker was installed on May 25, 2020, at the Veteran's Memorial in Great Falls. The marker was installed in a low-key ceremony (*due to the Coronavirus Pandemic*) in the GFFG's memorial flower garden, near the volunteer wall. Both Great Falls Garden Clubs, Rainbow and Great Falls Flower Growers, were mentioned in a flyer distributed at the Memorial Day Ceremony. Gold Star Families were informed through local media of the Gold Star Marker placed in honor of their families and encouraged to visit the Memorial which is opened to the public 24/7.

Pictured above left: Kathy Austin (left) and Galia Fundis (right) representing both Great Falls Garden Clubs worked for months in advance of the dedication to raise funds and handle the arrangements for the Gold Star Marker's placement at the Veteran's Memorial; center: the Gold Star Marker in the Memorial Flower Garden; and, right: Kathy Austin speaks during the Memorial Day Ceremony to honor the Gold Star Families.

2020 Rocky Mountain Region Convention Cancelled

The August 2020 Rocky Mountain Region Convention at the Acorn Resort at the Milford State Park in Kansas has been cancelled due to the Covid-19. RMR conference organizers said they were able to book the Acorn Resort for next year and said RMR members may be able to book reservations for 2021 at the resort if you call soon. (*Many rooms are already booked for 2021 re-scheduled dates next August*). Check the RMR website for additional information regarding cancellations and re-booking for 2021.

RMR Awards

Even though the RMR convention that was scheduled in August has been cancelled, applications for the 2020 RMR Awards will still be accepted according to RMR Award Chairman, Denise Fink.

Award applications are to be sent to **Myrna McCollum, MFGC State Award Chair**. She will be accepting awards through August 1, 2020 by mail or electronically. Since the convention will not be held, certificates will be sent to State Presidents. Any MFGC Clubs winning certificates will be receive them at the Fall Board Meeting in Bozeman.

If you have any questions, please contact Myrna at mccollum@bresnan.net

THIS AND THAT

My garden is looking good. With the spring rains and the extra time I have had to spend in the garden, I have been rewarded with a bumper crop of fruit. I had just harvested some strawberries and raspberries and cleaned them in the kitchen. As a surprise for my wife I wanted to make a "coupe". Any ice cream, mousse or parfait served with crushed fruit becomes a "coupe". What I had in mind was vanilla ice cream. My problem was I do not have an ice cream maker and I did not want to drive to town to purchase prepared ice cream. Remembering how my Mom solved this same problem I found the 1928 cookbook called "Electric Refrigerator Recipes." In this relic from the past I found the recipe for making ice cream without using an ice cream maker. **Here it is:**

- Put 1 1/2 cups milk in top of double boiler and add 1 teaspoon gelatin.
- When milk is scalded, stir until gelatin is dissolved.
- Mix 1/3 to 1/2 cup sugar and 3 tablespoons corn syrup, 1 teaspoon flour and a few grains salt. Add to milk and stir until thickened.
- Cover and cook ten minutes.
- Beat 1 egg yolk slightly, add a portion of the hot milk, return to double boiler, stir and cook one minute. Strain into refrigerator pan, chill, then, beat until very light.
- Beat 1 egg white until stiff, then beat 1/2 cup cream until stiff and beat into first mixture with 1 teaspoon vanilla and the egg white.
- Freeze in freezer. When frozen it is ready to serve.

The ice cream was exactly like I remembered it. I did use an electric hand beater although I still have the hand operated beater my Mom used. I scooped the ice cream out of the refrigerator pan into two stem glasses, spooned my garden fruit on the top. When Linda returned home, I invited her to the back porch for a treat.

It was delicious. Linda was pleased.

JIM SADLER, MFGC VICE PRESIDENT

IDENTIFYING MFGC'S DISTRICTS AND MEMBER CLUBS



Red Numbers within the black lines indicate the MFGC Districts in Montana

Stars indicate the cities where clubs are located in District

Membership is from 2019-20

WESTERN DISTRICT 2

Missoula Garden Club - 27 Members
Stevensville Garden Club - 29 Members

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT 3

Anaconda Garden Club - 48 Members
Butte Garden Study Group - 18 Members
Dillon Garden Club - 11 Members
Whitehall Garden Club - 34 Members

LEWIS & CLARK DISTRICT 4

Belgrade Bloomer Garden Club - 19 Members
Gallatin Empire Garden Club - 33 Members
Townsend Garden Club - 6 Members

CENTRAL DISTRICT 5

Dearborn Garden Club (Cascade) - 42 Members
Great Falls Flower Growers - 43 Members
Rainbow Garden Club (Great Falls) - 39 Members

NORTHERN DISTRICT 6

Chester Garden Club - 17 Members
Conrad Garden Club - 12 Members
Toole County Garden Club - 5 Members

HI-LINE DISTRICT 7

Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club (Havre) - 33 Members
Gumbo Gals Garden Club (Nashua) - 9 Members
Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club - 21 Members
Saco Garden Club - 10 Members

Note: No Clubs in East Central District 8

YELLOWSTONE DISTRICT 10

Hoe and Hope Garden Club (Big Timber) - 23 Members
Sow and Grow Garden Club (Billings) - 17 Members
Thumb-R-Green Garden Club (Billings) - 21 Members

EASTERN GATEWAY DISTRICT 12

Glendive Garden Club - 21 Members
Miles City Garden Club - 58 Members

ENDOWMENT INTEREST GRANT RECIPIENT

The **Stevensville Garden Club** was the selected recipient of the 2019/2020 Endowment Interest Grant. The \$500 grant will help the Club install a Gold Star Memorial to the Stevensville Veterans Park which will stand alongside the Blue Star Memorial in conjunction with renovation the local American Legion Post 94 is making this summer.

The project is charitable in purpose and has able and committed leadership. It will provide a long-term, direct benefit to the local community and has the support from community members and the American Legion Post 94 members. The Stevensville Garden Club has maintained the Blue Star Marker since 2006 and will continue to do so with the Gold Star Marker. In-kind match committed to the project includes labor and donations. Fundraising projects are planned for the summer and a dedication ceremony is scheduled for the Fall.

Glenna Waltee, Diane Ward, Jim Sadler
MFGC Endowment Committee

This year **ALL MFGC DISTRICT MEETINGS** and our **STATE CONVENTION** were cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This left a void in what is usually a lively series of area District meetings wherein Club Members, who may not be able to attend a state convention, are given the opportunity of networking with other clubs in their area and meeting state officers. No in-person meetings also meant most club presidents did not have a platform to tell others about their garden clubs' important activities. Although Awards were still submitted and judged, there was no audience to applaud the honors received by our clubs and their members. Award recipients are listed on page 33 and clubs will receive certificates at the Fall Board / State Meeting in Bozeman in October.

Meet District Directors and highlights of clubs in their Districts



COLLEEN HOFFMAN
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
WESTERN DISTRICT 2

Colleen has been a garden club member since 2014 and became a club president in 2017. It was an honor for her to receive a certificate from MFGC President Sherry recognizing the Stevensville Garden Clubs 80th year in the NGC. She became Western District Director in 2019.

STEVENSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

New and On Going Community Projects:

Garden Therapy Committee works on projects with The Living Centre residents. Each season a wreath is placed at the Blue Star Memorial in Veterans Park on Main Street and the club plants flowers in containers nearby. Planning for the addition of a Gold Star Memorial in Veterans Park is ongoing. Members provided centerpieces for the Creamery Picnic Garden Party with the Civic Club.

Fund Raising Projects; Outstanding club programs:

A tentative Gold Star fundraiser is planned at the May 24th Memorial weekend farmers market. Some of our members attended the Rocky Mountain Region meeting in Missoula last August. Our club furnished centerpieces for the lunch and also enjoyed the dahlia and gladiolus show.

MISSOULA GARDEN CLUB

Ongoing Community Projects: Blue Star Marker; Western Montana Flower Show at Fairgrounds sponsored by Missoula GC.

New Community Projects and Fundraising: Christmas Tea with "Keep the Yule Log Spirit" designing several different types of yule logs sold for a money making project. October was filled with creativity, designing and selling pumpkins for income for future projects. We made apple cider that was served at tea; great learning how to work the apple cider press. December Christmas party included inviting the Stevensville Club, a garden gift exchange, and a tour in the Holt Museum. The program "Edible & Poisonous Plants of Montana" was presented by Elaine Sheff from Green Path Herb School. A very successful Trio Tour was enjoyed when we visited the Fort Missoula Iris Garden with history of Iris Society and iris growing tips, a stop to share our Missoula Club Blue Star Marker and facts at Rose Memorial Park, and ending our tour with fresh apple and orange snacks at the newly developed UM Peony Garden. CoVid has been the reason for cancelling 3 months of our year's programs: History of Greenhouses, Oriental-like Manor Japanese Design, and a Horizontal & Triangular Design workshop.



This picture from Southwestern District Director Mary Baughn conveys our feelings about the Covid-19 Pandemic!



MARY BAUGHN
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT 3

Mary joined Pleasant Valley Garden Club in the early 1970's where she held different offices and became President. She joined Stevensville Garden Club in 1985 and held two terms as president. In 2018 she joined Whitehall Garden Club where she is involved in all the club's many activities. She lives in Twin Bridges.

Mary tells us about her visits to clubs in her District:

WHITEHALL GARDEN CLUB - I constructed a tri-fold on Traditional American Line, T.A. Line-Mass, T.A. Mass designs and Creative Designs. I feel garden club members who have house plants can boost entries at Flower Shows and Fairs by learning grooming for best way to show.

As to Design, anyone can learn by observing shows and fairs and going to Flower Show Schools and Symposiums. I presented a program on '9 Lives of Cattails' and dried arrangements using them. A tri-fold showed a diagram of the plant and uses. I passed around a shoe box with a bird nest made of cattail cotton.

DILLON GARDEN CLUB - This was a club organizational meeting with all offices filled and there was discussion about their fair; club projects; educational programs to attend. I attended their Seed Workshop. You get seeds, take home and plant and replenish the Seed Library in Dillon the following year with new seeds. A seed expert spoke and answered questions. An outing to Patagonia was scheduled to view the screening of "The Biggest Little Farm". A Fairy Garden Workshop was held on June 4th at the Dillon Library. Urban Farming was discussed and I suggested some ideas for club success.

ANACONDA GARDEN CLUB - Approximately 21 members greeted me warmly and I gave a hands-on 4-step basic design program using the tri-fold. Using chunky chicken cans, the majority of members constructed Petites (3 to 12") designs. One member said they would like to put on a show. It has been 45 years and. I said I would help. They said 64 volunteers, including the Job Corp, helped decorate the town light posts and enjoyed pizza as a reward. It costs \$331 per lamp post to decorate.

BUTTE STUDY GROUP - I presented a 4-step basic design program to complete a Petite Design. This lively group had plenty of question and all participated. Pictures were taken of the completed designs and Norm and I critiqued them. Members were amazed at the difference the simple changes made.

I am so glad I was able to visit these garden club as I got very sick in March with a lung infection; Bradycardia (valves didn't open up to the lungs) causing a slow heart rate. Now I am on inhalers four times a day and doing better.



PATTY HOWSE
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
CENTRAL DISTRICT 5

Patty Howse has been a member of Great Falls Flower Growers for more than 25 years where she has enjoyed working on the club's annual Holiday Tea. She worked at Bundis Greenhouse for 20 years and retired for ten years. Now she is back to work at Bundis again. *"I just love playing in the dirt,"* she says. She has enjoyed her visits this year with the clubs in District 5.

DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB

Dearborn distributed food baskets for families in need of assistance. They made and delivered 40 filled Christmas stockings to the Rescue Mission in Great Falls and 10 stockings to the Children's Receiving Home. We held our annual Christmas decorating and finger food luncheon at the Quiet Day Manor, a living facility for seniors. They decided to dedicate a Gold Star Marker and sold raffle tickets to finance the project holding a small meeting for their drawing for the raffle prizes to finance the marker. Their \$1000 scholarship winner was announced at this meeting and the committee was thanked for doing such a good job getting the applications judged. Dearborn members are now back to meeting with masks and hand sanitizer and were able to plan their yearly plantings and held a program about organic seeds and lentils. They plan a July tour at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center with their own member Carol Brady and a picnic. In August Dearborn will enjoy their annual picnic in one of the town's parks.

GREAT FALLS FLOWER GROWERS

From the start of their club year GFFG members have been planning for their annual Holiday Tea, a major fund-raiser held in December. They planted trees in city parks in memory of deceased members and one for a veteran. Three floral arrangements are made by members and sent each month to the Sletten Cancer Center and Gift of Life. Members plant flowers in the Library Park, Paris Gibson Square, on Paris Gibson's grave and at the Montana Veterans' Memorial. The club awarded a scholarship to a Montana student and they sponsor the January Birthday Party at the Senior Center. Before the Covid put a halt to their meetings they were able to celebrate their past presidents at a special heart month themed luncheon. GFFG partnered with Rainbow this year to place a Gold Star Memorial Marker at the Veterans' Memorial where the club plants red, white and blue flowers along the Memorial Wall.

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB

Rainbow Garden Club co-hosted the Fall Board Meeting with Dearborn and GFFG in October. Club members decorated pumpkins for the Montana School for Deaf and Blind and have provided them with flowers for all Holidays. Rainbow held a Holiday Gift and Bake Sale as their fund-raiser. Additional funds were raised with a plant sale at the home of Ivy Jackson. Club past presidents were honored at a luncheon where club members were able to view Rainbow's Scrapbooks since the 1950's. RGC meetings were cut short with the CoVid, but they sent out a newsletter to keep in touch for three months. The club presented a \$1,000 scholarship and finally had a meeting *just to see each other in June*. Rainbow has been busy during June and July planting flowers at the Cascade County Courthouse, the School for the Deaf and Blind, the MacLean Animal Shelter and Eagle Mount.



PENNY ZIMMERMAN
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
EASTERN GATEWAY DISTRICT 12

Penny Zimmerman lives in rural Glendive with her husband, two cats and two koi fish. She was born on a farm and was taught flowers and gardening skills from her mom. She has been retired for one and one-half years and loves having more time to spend in her yard. She is a proud sister to Sherry Corneliusen, who is the MFGC President. She is a member of the Glendive Garden Club who are all good friends who enjoy spending time with each other.

Things have been very hectic here in Eastern Montana, due to COVID 19 and our attempts to schedule a few events, yet maintaining social distancing, etc. to keep everyone as healthy as we can.

GLENDIVA GARDEN CLUB

The Glendive Garden Club toured Bergeson's Gardens in Minnesota last August. They have a stunning flower display over a large area. We had so much fun. During our visit there we discussed having Eric Bergeson, owner and author, attend and speak at our annual Spring luncheon scheduled for April 2020. Eric had agreed to speak at our luncheon meeting and also at a public forum in Glendive that evening. Well, once again we had to cancel this event. We hope to schedule Eric in the future to come to our community and speak.

Glendive Garden Club was able to hold our annual perennial sale on May 30 and we followed Health Department guidelines. It was a very successful sale which our community looks forward to every year. This fall, ten stepping stones will be placed at Priscilla Hudson Garden in Glendive. These are to honor past garden club members. We will place and dedicate Blue and Gold Star markers in September. These will be placed in the Burlington Northern Park off of Merrill Avenue, which is the main street in Glendive. We planted flowers around our community in June.

Glendive Garden Club and the Glendive Chamber of Commerce are working together to recognize pretty yards in Yard of the Week. We just announced our first yard winner. Glendive Garden Club participated in monthly Zoom meetings until our June meeting. We were able to meet outdoors at a member's beautiful country home and yard. We are having our annual picnic on July 15th at a member's ranch.

MILES CITY GARDEN CLUB

Miles City Garden Club planted flowers at the fairgrounds, Baptist Church, the fire hall, post office and library and also weeded at the Blue Star Memorial Park. Lynne Weischedel presented a class on Barn Quilts. The July meeting was a potluck at Wibaux Park in Miles City. They also have been doing Yard of the Week and plans are underway for the annual County Fair, if allowed.





SHERRY DOTY
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
YELLOWSTONE DISTRICT 10

Sherry Doty, Yellowstone District 10 Director, is a hard working gardener who loves what she does! She is a Yellowstone County Level 3 Master Gardener. Sherry is the Billings Public Library Garden Series Coordinator, and if that isn't enough, she volunteers at various garden venues through the Master Gardener Program in Billings. Here are some reports from the three garden clubs in her District one in Big Timber and two in Billings:

HOE AND HOPE GARDEN CLUB **BIG TIMBER, MONTANA**

- Cleaned the city gardens and planted annuals
- Coordinated the flower show for the County Fair in Big Timber
- Helped create the Blue Star Memorial at Lions Club Park. Hoe and Hope members planted red, white and blue flowers to accent the Memorial.

SOW AND GROW GARDEN CLUB **BILLINGS, MONTANA**

- Sow and Grow takes care of two gardens and a planter at MetraPark in Billings
- Flowers were planted at these gardens in May and members continue to tend the gardens weekly.

THUMB R GREEN GARDEN CLUB **BILLINGS, MONTANA**

- Thumb R Green takes care of a flower bed at MetraPark in Billings.
- Flowers were planted in May and members continue to tend them weekly.
- Members are also tending potted plants for the Montana Fair at MetraPark in Billings.



Photos of the beautiful flower beds cared for by Sow and Grow and Thumb R Green Garden Clubs at the MetraPark in Billings.



KATHY WATERS
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
HI-LINE DISTRICT 7

Kathy and her husband have operated the family ranch southeast of Malta since 1985. She loves her perennials and shrub roses! She joined the Malta Dirt Daubers in 2000, the year she opened Kathy's Garden Center in Malta (until 2005). She is enjoying getting to know members from other clubs in the District and has served as State Butterfly Chairman for the past five years. COVID-19 has awakened an interest in younger people to garden for food - opportunity for all of us to recruit new, younger members!

BULLHOOK BLOSSOMS GARDEN CLUB

The Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club in Havre has adapted to the new normal with 20 of our 32 members in attendance all wearing masks at the June meeting. We have continued our "Featured Yard" articles in the Havre Daily News. Many yards are in exceptional shape this year with residents having more time at home to tend their gardens. Our plans to host the 2021 MFGC State Convention in June are ongoing. We hope that by next summer we can gather in a large group. Other ongoing projects include tending the library planter and the courthouse peonies and the Aminta Wilson Iris Garden.

SACO GARDEN CLUB

The Saco Garden Club's has ten active members. Our main focus is taking care of the Huntley School, Old Lutheran Church and park. We do whatever maintenance needs to be done on them. We have them open for visitors from Memorial Day through Labor Day. This year was a sparse year due to Covid-19.

GUMBO GALS GARDEN CLUB

The Gumbo Gals, like so many of our other gardening friends, sorely missed attending a Spring District Meeting and seeing our many friends, and getting guidance and support from the MFGC. Our Christmas potluck was fun. We continue to work with eight Junior Club members to support and encourage their gardening. We donate to the Penny Pines project, the Big Sky Stars, along with our annual Christmas greeting. Participation and sponsorship in Valley County Free Tree Day is a highlight. We fill a lovely planter pot at the Nashua Senior Center. Our club's main fundraiser in October is 'Ye Olde Pie Shoppe'. Our homemade fruit pies continue to be an attraction in our community.

MALTA DIRT DAUBERS GARDEN CLUB

Each spring we plant 60-80 barrels of flowers around town. In the fall we decorated them with pumpkins, gourds and corn and 90 flags for Veterans Day and July 4. We joined with the Boys/Girls Club for Santa night and helped 70 kids make three ornaments each. Fifty-five teachers' bouquets were made for the first day of school. Robinson House – a historical house along Hiway 2 – is another full time project with 11 gardens to plant and maintain. We took a bus trip to Lodgepole for a tour of their community garden and store. In October we celebrated our 60th birthday. Club history was read and many members had stories about past years and members. We make table arrangements for the Festival of Trees, a money maker for the county museum. We had great programs in January and February. Then came March, and many of our upcoming plans had to be cancelled due to COVID. So now we're ready for next year! We did have our plant and bulb auction later than usual in May. In June we visited four gardens followed by a brunch. The Dirt Daubers work hard to serve our community and members.

**2020 MONTANA
FEDERATION
OF GARDEN
CLUBS**

**ANNUAL
MEETING
FALL BOARD
MEETING**



**October
9-10, 2020**

**Best Western
Grantree Inn**

1325 N. 7th Ave.

**Bozeman
Montana**

Friday, October 9 - Tamarack Room

2:30 pm Finance Committee
3:30 pm Executive Committee
(MFGC Elected/Appointed Officers)
4:30 pm Advisory Committee (Former State Presidents)
5:15 pm Judges Council
Dinner on your own in town

Saturday, October 10 - Grand Ballroom

8:30 - 9:00 am Registration and Morning Refreshments
9:00 am Annual Meeting
Lunch and Award Presentations
1:00 pm Business Resumes
Workshops
3:00 pm Adjourn

REGISTRATION FORM

Reservations must be postmarked before September 9. A late registration fee will apply after that date. No registrations accepted after October 1, except virtual attendance via Zoom.

NAME _____

PHONE _____ Email _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

CLUB _____

Circle all that apply: State Officer Club President District Director State Chairman
Advisory Council Member Club Delegate

Club delegates' names must appear on the delegate form that each president submits.

Registration	\$35.00 (postmarked before 9/09/20)	\$ _____
Late Registration	+ \$15 (postmarked on 9/09 to 10/1)	\$ _____
Saturday Food Service	\$22.00	\$ _____
Morning – Donuts, English muffins, jellies, jams, yogurt, bottled juice assortment, and coffee.		
Box lunch – sandwich, kettle chips, apple, cookie and drink.		
<i>(Let us know if you have food allergies)</i>		

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

☐

Check here if you wish to attend the meeting via Zoom.

No Charge

Make checks payable to: Gallatin Empire Garden Club

**Mail Registration Form and Payment to: Cindy Carlton, Registrar, 125 Rocky Creek Rd. Bozeman MT 59715
(email cdcarlton@hotmail.com)**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING ITEMS FOR THE WAYS & MEANS TABLE

ADDITIONAL FALL BOARD/ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

- Due to Covid-19 and social distancing regulations, the ballroom will accommodate only 65 people. The first 65 registrants for in-person attendance will be accepted and notified via email. Thereafter, registrations will be wait listed. **Please stay home if you become ill. All fees will be refunded if the meeting is canceled or you are ill.**
- Members attending via Zoom will receive an email with an electronic invitation and information to access the meeting. You will need a personal computer, laptop or smartphone to use Zoom. Please make sure you have included a legible email address.
- **Wear a Facemask.** Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the hotel. Seating will be at a social distance. You are encouraged to respect other members by following Gallatin County Health Department requirements. Thank you! Together, we can “*Plan(t) for the Future.*”
- **Facemask Competition** – The Gallatin Empire Garden Club will judge your mask and award prizes for the most unique, colorful and garden-related.
- Chairmen should contact Susan Woods sueedwoods@gmail.com to reserve a display table before October 1.
- Best Western Grantree Inn Reservation Information – phone (800) 624-5865, email grantree@grantreeinn.com
website: www.bestwestern.com/grantree

Rooms with two Queen beds or a King bed are \$97.00/night on October 9 and 10; + 8% lodging tax. The rate and room block expire October 1. Please use code “MFGC” when making reservations. 3:00 pm check in; 11:00 am check out.

MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC. Financial Report - June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020

Income		Expenses	
Montana Membership Dues	\$5,922.00	National Membership Dues	\$ 620.00
Montana Gardens	\$ 50.00	Montana Gardens	\$2,757.67
Fundraising	\$3,186.00	Fundraising	\$2,350.50
Insurance	\$ 200.00	Insurance	\$1,481.00
State, RMR, NGC, Dist. Mtgs	\$3,817.54	State, RMR, NGC, Dist. Mtgs	\$1,939.30
Awards	\$2,092.00	Awards	\$1,390.81
Endowment	\$ 45.00	MFGC Awards	\$ 700.00
Judges Council	\$ 741.75	Judges Council	\$ 100.00
Life Members	\$3,665.60	Life Members Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Penny Pines	\$ 952.00	Penny Pines	\$1,156.00
Murphy Scholarship	\$ 500.00	Murphy Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Administration	\$ 120.00	Administration	\$ 484.35
Miscellaneous	\$ 141.28	Miscellaneous	\$ 462.85
Total	\$21,433.17	Total	\$14,942.48

PROPOSED BYLAW ADDITION TO ARTICLE X.3 MEETINGS

Proposed Bylaw to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in October:

ARTICLE X.3. d. Meetings Authorizing Participation and Voting Electronically.

Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, meetings of the Board, or meetings of the Board with voting Delegates, may be conducted in person and/or through use of an Internet meeting service designated by the President that supports voting and visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those seeking recognition to speak, showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending motions, and showing the results of votes. These electronic meetings shall be subject to all rules adopted by the Board, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for, Board members' participation. Any such rules adopted by the Board shall supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority, but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any rule or decision of the Federation. An anonymous vote conducted through the designated Internet meeting service shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the bylaws or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.

NOTE: Additional Bylaws to be voted on were published in the Spring 2020 Edition of *Montana Gardens* on page 8.

MFGC 2020 AWARDS

C-4 GARDEN CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR – JEANNIE BENNETT/GFFG
A-17 NORM DENEAL GARDENER OF THE YEAR - SHELLY ROSEBURG/RGC
B-7 STATE CHAIRMAN LEADERSHIP – SUSAN BILLMAYER/BULLHOOK
C-9 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - Non-Member - TOM FUNDIS

ANACONDA GARDEN STUDY GROUP

C-8 IV BLUE/RED YEARBOOK AWARD 1ST 20.00

BULLHOOK BLOSSOMS GARDEN CLUB – HAVRE

A-5b I COMMUNICATION AWARD 1ST 20.00
A-6b HORTICULTURE THERAPY AWARD 3RD 15.00
A-9b II YOUTH ACTIVITIES AWARD 1ST 10.00
A-12b PRESIDENTS' CLUB SCRAPBOOK AWARD 1ST 20.00
A-13b a MARY J OLSON TREES-RENEWABLE 1ST 10.00
B-1b MAE BURKE MAGILL AWARD 3RD
B-6 LAURA WORKS MEMORIAL AWARD 1ST 25.00
B-12b MARY LEE AWARD KAREN VOSEN 2ND
C-1b AWARD OF APPRECIATION 3RD
C-2b I HORTICULTURE AWARD 1ST 20.00
C-3b FLORAL DESIGN AWARD 3RD
C-10b PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST AWARD 2ND
D-1b YOUTH CLUB SPONSORSHIP AWARD 2ND
D-2b YOUTH GARDENING AWARD 2ND

DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB

A-1c COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION 1ST 15.00
A-11c MARIE JONES CONTAINER GARDENING 1ST 15.00
A-12c PRESIDENTS' CLUB SCRAPBOOK AWARD 1ST 20.00
A-15c MARY DAVIS PATRIOTIC GARDEN AWARD 2ND
B-1c MAE BURKE MAGILL AWARD 1ST 20.00
B-5c KERIN McCARVER SPECIAL AWARD 1ST 15.00

GREAT FALLS FLOWER GROWERS CLUB

A-12c PRESIDENT'S CLUB SCRAPBOOK AWARD 2ND
A-15c MARY DAVIS PATRIOTIC GARDEN AWARD 1ST 25.00
A-16c DARLENE SKARI PUBLIC WORKSHOP AWARD 1ST 25.00
A-18c DENISE FINK PAST TO FUTURE AWARD 1ST 20.00
C-1c AWARD OF APPRECIATION 1ST 20.00
C-3c FLORAL DESIGN AWARD 1ST 20.00
C-4c GARDEN CLUB MEMBER/JEANNIE BENNETT 1ST TIARA
C-9c AWARD OF EXCELLENCE/TOM FUNDIS 1ST PLAQUE

CONRAD GARDEN CLUB

C-8-1 BLUE/RED YEARBOOK 1ST 20.00



Congratulations to **Susan Billmayer** who was awarded the MFGC State Leadership Award for 2019-2020. Susan is an active member who contributes so very much to both her garden club and community.

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB – GREAT FALLS

A-1b COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION 2ND
A-3b CONSERVATION,PRESERVATION,EDUCATION 1ST 20.00
A-6b HORTICULTURE THERAPY AWARD 2ND
A-10b LIVING LEGACY AWARD 1ST 10.00
A-14b ROSE KOPP SPECIAL CHILDREN'S AWARD 1ST 20.00
A-16b DARLENE SKARI PUBLIC WORKSHOP AWARD 2ND
A-17b NORM DeNEAL GARDENER OF THE YEAR 1ST 100.00
B-1b MAE BURKE MAGILL AWARD 2ND
B-5b KERIN McCARVER SPECIAL AWARD 1ST
B-11 I-V ESTHER HAMEL BUTTERFLY GARDEN AWARD 2ND
C-1b AWARD OF APPRECIATION MSDB 1ST 20.00
C-2b II HORTICULTURE AWARD 1ST 20.00
C-3b FLORAL DESIGN AWARD 2ND
C-5b BIRD SCRAPBOOK AWARD 1ST 20.00
C-7b MULTIMEDIA AWARD 1ST 20.00
C-8 BLUE/RED YEARBOOK 1ST 20.00
C-10b PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST AWARD 1ST 20.00
D-1b YOUTH CLUB SPONSORSHIP AWARD 1ST 20.00
D-2b YOUTH GARDENING AWARD 1ST 20.00

WHITEHALL GARDEN CLUB

A-2b ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS 1ST 15.00
A-5b I COMMUNICATION AWARD 2ND
A-5 III PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATION AWARD 1ST 10.00
A-10b LIVING LEGACY AWARD 2ND
A-11b MARIE JONES CONTAINER GARDENING AWARD 1ST 15.00
B-1b MAE BURKE MAGILL AWARD 4TH
B-5b KERIN McCARVER SPECIAL AWARD 2ND
B-11b ESTHER HAMEL BUTTERFLY GARDEN AWARD 1ST 50.00
B-12b MARY LEE AWARD MARY ANN CAREY 1ST 20.00
B-13b ANACONDA GARDEN CLUB AWARD 1ST 50.00
C-3b FLORAL DESIGN AWARD 1ST 20.00
D-1b YOUTH CLUB SPONSORSHIP AWARD 2ND

MALTA DIRT DAUBERS

A-7 PRESIDENT'S MEMBERSHIP AWARD 1ST 20.00
A-10 PRESIDENT'S LIVING LEGACY 1ST 15.00
C-8 II BLUE/RED YEARBOOK 1ST 20.00
E-2 PATRIOTIC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW 1ST 20.00

FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

E-1 CLUB STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

THUMB-R-GREEN BILLINGS 1ST 20.00

E-2 PATRIOTIC STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

MALTA DIRT DAUBERS 1ST 20.00

This Spring was a very difficult time for all of us and I personally thank all on my committee who helped judge the many entries that arrived. ***Congratulations to all the clubs who sent in Applications and were Award winners!*** We all are so disappointed that we were not able to present the checks and award certificates at our state convention that was cancelled in June. The checks have been mailed out to club presidents and we will honor the winners at our Fall Board/Annual Meeting to be held in Bozeman this October. ***Again thank you for sharing your wonderful stories and pictures!***

MYRNA McCOLLUM, CHAIR MFGC AWARDS

PENNY PINES REPORT

It's been a year since I agreed to be the Penny Pines Chairperson and it has not been hard!! To sum up for the year, I want to compare our status today with what we had done in the previous year. In the June 2019 Penny Pines report at State Convention in Miles City, the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs donated to the Penny Pines program \$544 which represents eight donations of \$68. We can assume the eight donations represent eight Clubs in the Montana Federation.

For the year June 1, 2019 to June 1, 2020, the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs donated \$1020 to the Penny Pines Program. This represents 12 clubs, three of which donated twice. We nearly doubled this year compared to what we donated in the immediate past year! **Well done!**

A special thanks to these Clubs who donated: Belgrade Bloomers, Gallatin Empire (*donated twice*), Glendive Garden Club, Helena Garden Club, Thumbs-R-Green Garden Club (*donated twice*), Dearborn Garden Club, Big Timber Hoe and Hope Garden Club, Gumbo Gals Garden Club, Miles City Garden Club, Rainbow Garden Club, Townsend Garden Club, and Stevensville Garden Club (*donated twice*).

The National Forests which will ultimately benefit from your generosity are: Gallatin, Custer, Helena, Lolo, and Bitterroot. People who were honored by the donations include: Marilyn Floyd, Donna Mae Haub, John Notti and Don Barrie.

Thank you so much for saving those pennies (*I know they get heavy*). Collectively we make a difference in replenishing National Forest areas when the land is ready.

I know the form does not indicate to send the form with the check to the State Treasurer, but please remember to do that so that an accurate count of our state donations can be maintained. Keep a duplicate for your records too. The form can be found on the MFGC website. Glenna Waltee is our Treasurer and her address is P.O. Box 662, Whitehall, MT 59759.

Thanks again!

Colleen Mason
Penny Pines Chair



Garden Therapy begins with an accessible garden or a facility with a need for a beautiful garden retreat. In Bozeman, the Gallatin Rest Home courtyard is just that garden. It contains wide sidewalks and space for a wheelchair or a person using a walker to easily enter and enjoy. As residents eat in the dining room (*unfortunately not happening now*), they can view the ever changing array of flowers, trees, and shrubs as the seasons and weather progress daily. The Gallatin Rest Home Courtyard Garden (*pictured above*) has been a destination for residents for over ten years. The garden also gives residents and guests a peek at a variety of birds and butterflies that visit our Montana gardens. When possible, we share our experience and enthusiasm about plants with the residents and staff.

It has been difficult this spring for our members to access the garden. We have been able to enter the garden twice to weed and plant annuals- albeit, with masks on while we pass through the facility. We are not sure about summer..

On a happier note, it appears the pandemic is bringing more people outside and into the garden - many for the first time! And it is one more activity to share with children! For me personally, "garden therapy" started when I watched my grandparents plant and weed in their gardens. They got their hands dirty and enjoyed the fruits of their labor. **May your gardens always provide you with peace and joy!**

Cindy Carlton
Garden Therapy Chair



WILDFLOWER REPORT

BY SUSAN ANDREWS

This flower is a Wild Hyacinth, *Tritelia grandiflora* or *Brodiaea Douglasii*. This flowering perennial grows on a long stalk 18 to 30 inches long from a deep bulb. It blooms from late June to mid July. The blue blossoms are bell-shaped umbels usually six to a stalk. They grow in grasslands and sagebrush throughout the Northwest.

MFGC is proud to report that our Susan Andrews had a photograph featured in **the National Gardener**, the magazine published by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Her photograph (*shown in the inset below*) was featured with the winners of the 2020 NGC Photo Contest in the CLASS 2 Division 'Farsighted - Landscapes, Seascapes, Dreamscapes.' **Congratulations and a special thanks to Susan for sharing her wonderful wild flower photographs with all of us!**

"Crater Lake" by Susan Andrews
Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club
Bozeman, Montana



CONRAD GARDEN CLUB AWARDED A \$1,000 PLANT AMERICA GRANT

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. awarded Conrad Garden Club a \$1,000 "Plant America" grant. Per the grant, the proceeds were used for plantings at the gazebo that the club erected at the Hillside Cemetery in Conrad.

Originally the club members had planned a sensory garden, but due to the occasional deer wandering through the cemetery, they opted for deer resistant plants. Lynne Knobel, Marias Greenhouse owner, suggested the ideal plantings.

This year we completed Phase I of our gazebo project. The cement pad was donated by a local contractor and gazebo was erected in the Fall 2019. Late spring this year, once we went into Phase II opening of the pandemic, the same cement contractor donated his services to lay a concrete border around the gazebo for a garden area and also added a sidewalk with an open space on each side to insert the engraved memorial bricks. We had a very good response from the community for memorial bricks. The bricks were ordered in late June and are being engraved at this time. We expect to receive them at the end of July and we will hire a contractor to lay them.

About three weeks ago the members of the garden club used part of the money we received from the Plant America grant to buy deer resistant plants and shrubs. We met on a Saturday and used planting medium and topsoil to amend the clay soil around the gazebo to make the garden area ready for planting. The next day we planted. The *Independent-Observer* ran the photo below with an article in the July 16, 2020 issue.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are delaying the grand opening until next year. We have been advised that older people will not attend at this time and many of them purchased bricks from us.



Pictured above: With the sidewalk completed, the Conrad Garden Club has planted shrubs and flowers around the gazebo with money they received from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. "Plant America" Grant. Memorial bricks will be arriving soon and placed along the sidewalk.

GREAT FALLS FLOWER GROWERS

Great Falls Flower Growers members are already getting to work on their "**We Bake you a Merry Christmas**" Holiday Tea. This is Great Fall Flower Grower's Annual Fundraiser and will be on December 3, 2020 from 11 am to 3 pm. The Holiday Tea is held at the Central Assembly of God, 2001 Central Avenue in Great Falls. There will be great silent auction items, wonderful baked goods, unique hand-made crafts and so much more! **Great Falls Flower Growers invite you to do your Christmas baking and shopping in one location.**

NEW MFGC CLUB PRESIDENTS

Since the 2020-21 State MFGC Directory was printed last year, we have new Presidents of the following clubs:

Dillon Garden Club – Mary Kemp
Whitehall Garden Club – Mary Ann Carey
Townsend Garden Club – Marilyn Lane
Thumb R Green – Joyce Hendricks

These changes have been sent to the Webmaster and will be posted on the MFGC web page.



**We also have a new
Facebook chairman:
Mary Wambolt**

Mary is from the Miles City Garden Club and her email is fmwambolt@midrivers.com. Please send her information on your club and your activities so we can get more exposure for our clubs. This is another way to make contact with our members. Please make a comment on Facebook when a member or club is featured. Do more than "like" a post - say something. This signals to Facebook that people are "engaging" and they release the post to more people. If your club has their own Facebook page, share the MFGC Facebook post on the club's Facebook page, too.

THUMB R GREEN GARDEN CLUB



New Date for Landscape Design School Course 1 (in a Series of 4)

**September 11-12, 2020 at the Rimrock Mall
300 S. 24th Street, Billings, Montana**

Sponsored by: Thumb R Green Garden Club

Refunds for medical emergencies or COVID only

Course fee: \$50.00 Exam fee: \$5.00

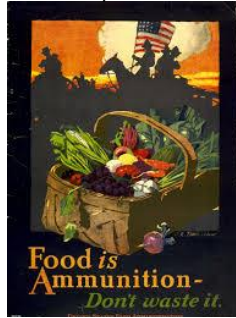
Make checks payable to: Thumb R Green Garden Club

Mail to: Debbi Werholz, 1744 Miles Avenue, Billings MT 59102-4947

Deadline: September 1, 2020

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB

When Phase 2 of the Governor's CoVid orders came out, so did Rainbow Garden Club Members. It was time to start planting. During National Garden Club Week members took their trowels and planted flowers along the steps and planters in front of the Cascade County Court House. They also put plants in the sensory garden at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. In July a lot more planting was done at the Eagle Mount headquarters when they received a truck-full of herbs, hanging plants and perennials donated by North 40 West in Great Falls.



The year was 1941. Pearl Harbor was bombed and we were at war. National Garden Club members became partners in "Victory Gardens" to provide food for all citizens and allow food production to go to the Military. My grandmother grew a Victory Garden from that day till the day she died. She grew corn, beans, peas, raspberries, grapes and asparagus. Pretty simple, but she canned everything. I remember how delighted she was when she got her first freezer and could freeze produce. She also had a crab apple tree and made the best apple butter. With this world of COVID-19 share your produce and expertise. Encourage new gardeners, community gardens and neighbors. **This is a time for us to shine. Take care of yourselves.**

Denise Fink, State Historian

MEMORIALS, NEW MEMBERS, etc.

New Life Member :

Rebecca Pauliot, Anaconda Garden Club

Membership Dues Paid:

We have 13 paid clubs: Miles City, Glendive, Saco, Whitehall, Gumbo Gals, Gallatin Empire, Dearborn, Bullhook Blossoms, Belgrade, Chester, Toole County, Conrad, and the Great Falls Flower Growers.

On the quilt raffle; we have only collected \$260 from just four clubs. Please work at selling the tickets mailed to your club.

WRAPPING IT UP

This has been a most challenging time for all of us! The COVID-19 pandemic changed our lives and our landscape. As we were basking in the progress of the first quarter of 2020, little did we know what was in store for us. Wasn't there a warning in the past, "*Beware the Ides of March?*" How true!

Being self-quarantined in the city left urbanites alone to work in their yards. Garden centers soon were running out of bedding plants and even unusual perennials were flying off the racks. As soon as the gardening was done, many garden club members told me they were getting caught up on mundane house chores. One commented she had alphabetized her spice rack!

Our lives did not change much out here in the country. Being one mile off the county road, we already are self-quarantined. Our ranch tenants did not lose their jobs at a major grocery chain and left packages on the deck if I needed anything. It was a great time to start "eating" out of the freezer. "*What is this?*" cartons without labels were thrown into the crock pot and provided many delicious care-free dinners. I can see my freezer shelves and now carefully sort new food put in to freeze.

This teeter-totter effect of the COVID has brought more uncertainty to scheduling garden club meetings or events. Please wear your masks as required and stay safe. ZOOM your meetings or fundraisers if you have to. "*This too will pass.*"

Patty Schlaeger, Editor – MONTANA GARDENS

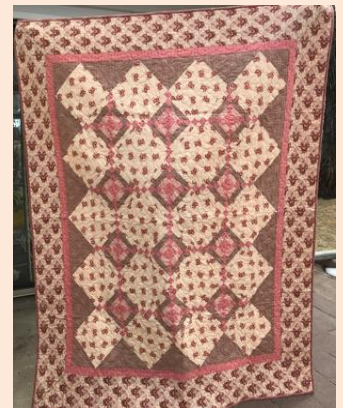
ZOOM IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR CLUB MEETINGS

MFGC purchased the Zoom video application for the members to use at no charge while we are practicing social distancing. **How does Zoom work?**

- ❖ All members who wish to use the application should download it from zoom.com by setting up an account on their personal computer, laptop or smartphone with their name and email address.
- ❖ The club president or secretary should send an email to Phyllis White at gardens@bresnan.net with the date and time you wish to meet. No two meetings may take place at one time. Your meeting may have up to 100 attendees and last as long as you wish.
- ❖ Phyllis will reserve that time for you and send you an invitation with all the information for joining the meeting. The club president or member who asked for the meeting should send the Zoom meeting invitation to the club members via email. For security, the invitation link should not be published in the paper or any other public area, such as on posters or Facebook pages. There is a link to the meeting in the invitation that once clicked, automatically takes the member to the meeting. The meeting is chaired by the president, or in the case of a committee, by the committee chairman.
- ❖ Each club may want to run a practice Zoom meeting. Send Phyllis the meeting time and date and work through the bugs and questions from your members. Members should practice turning on their video and microphone so they can see and hear each other. It's fun to see friends – *schedule time before the start of the official meeting for your members to network about how they're doing and how their garden is growing!*

KEEP SELLING TICKETS FOR THE "CLIMBING ROSE" QUILT DRAWING AT THE 2021 CONVENTION IN HAVRE

Tickets for this very beautiful quilt are still being sold and will be drawn at the 2021 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." When the convention was cancelled due to the Covid-19 state mandated closures, it was decided to continue selling tickets for next year in Havre.



**Sell your raffle tickets to win
this beautiful quilt!**

MONTANA Gardens

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK and
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We can't overstate the importance of bees!

Did you know that they are crucial to the health of the planet and survival of mankind? Bees pollinate numbers of plants, including fruit trees and vegetables. It's estimated that they pollinate between 75 percent and 85 percent of all food crops that humans consume. One way you can help ensure bees have plenty of healthy nectar to eat is to plant flowering plants. Bees are particularly attracted to bee balm, echinacea, snap dragon, and hostas, as well as numerous wildflowers such as California poppies and evening primrose. Because they have good color vision, bees flock to flowers that are blue, purple, white, and yellow. If attracting bees to your garden is important to you, skip plants such as eucalyptus, ferns, and lemongrass. **One important note: Bees are sensitive to chemicals, so opt for organic fertilizers and avoid toxic pesticides and herbicides.** When planning your bee garden, make sure to study your garden to determine whether you need to plant full sun or shade plants.



Collecting Milkweed Seeds

Fall is the time to collect Milkweed seed for spring planting. To collect the seeds, you need to find dry seed pods on Milkweed plants and make sure the seeds are brown in color. Separate the seeds from the pods and you can use the pods in dried arrangements. You accomplish two things - seeds for Monarchs and pods for dried floral arrangements. Planting Milkweed in the spring will help preserve the Monarch butterflies who rely on Milkweed to complete their lifecycle.



CIRCLE OF GREEN THUMB 2020 WINNERS

Below are MFGC Clubs and their **Green Thumb** Winners

Bullhook Blossoms
Dearborn - Cascade
Gallatin Empire Garden Club
Glendive Garden Club
Great Falls Flower Growers' Club
Malta Dirt Daubers
Rainbow Garden Club-Great Falls
Stevensville Garden Club
Whitehall Garden Club

CHERYL KUKA
CARMEN McILHATTEN
JENNIFER HEISS
CINDI BYRON
KERRY HOVLAND
ROSEMARY VESETH
DONNA WIGMORE
JOANNE GIBBONS
ANN PALMER

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THIS YEAR'S
GREEN THUMB WINNERS VOTED BY THEIR
RESPECTIVE CLUBS FOR THE HONOR!

2020 DEADLINES and DATES

August 1 – Deadline for RMR Award APs sent to Myrna McCollum
August 10 – New NGC Website to be launched
September 1 – Deadline for Landscape Design School Registration
September 1 – Deadline for Endowment Interest Grant
September 9 – Annual Meeting / Fall Board Registration
September 11-12 – Landscape Design School
October 1 – Deadline for Rooms Held - GranTree Hotel
October 1 – NGC Plant America Grants Deadline
October 10-11 – Annual Meeting / Fall Board Meeting
November 1 – NGC Award of Excellence to Jim Sadler
December 1 – Club Yearbooks
December 1 – Youth Contests to Lynne Mahan
December 1 – All National Awards APs to Myrna McCollum

2021 DATES

June 11-12, 2021 – Annual MFGC State Conference, Havre, Montana

FUTURE GREEN THUMB WINNERS IN THE MAKING !



Above are members of our newest Junior Garden Club in Great Falls, the Cabbage Patch Kids. Pictured from left to right are Tuff, Ivan and Allie Hart who just picked radishes they planted at the end of June; working at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, Katy Eli (center) works in the raised beds, and (right) Lilli Light and Zephyr Schlaeager transplant Milkweed to attract Monarch Butterflies.