

MONTANA

Gardens



On a beautiful winter day in Montana, this peaceful scene gives us pause to forget events that plunged us into such a time of turmoil and give us hope we will soon be on the road to a brighter future. Photo by Patricia Schlaeger, Editor

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs held their Annual Meeting/Fall Board in Bozeman on October 9-10. Thank you, Gallatin Empire Garden Club for hosting this meeting. We felt it was necessary to try to hold a meeting to vote on bylaws and nominate our President Elect, Jim Sadler. Twenty-six members attended, wore masks and socially distanced. Sixteen participated via Zoom. It was nice to see our fellow garden club members as it had been a year since we have had an actual in person meeting. The MFGC Executive Committee has conducted business with the Zoom program over the summer, and I have participated in a couple NGC Zoom meetings, also. It is the way to go during COVID.

We presented Montana award certificates along with those from the RMR. Thanks to Denise Fink, RMR Awards Chairman for getting them to us. We honored our "Garden Club Member" of the Year, Jeannie Bennett of Great Falls, by presenting her with a tiara and sash. Phyllis White produced a slide show of the various clubs and some of their projects they took on this past year. Even with COVID, our Montana clubs are busy planting, weeding, and making their communities beautiful. Thank you, Phyllis for putting this powerpoint together for us and for getting the Zoom program all set up for the meeting.

Montana hosted a Landscape Design School in Billings during September with 15 participants. Barbara Lien, of the Whitehall Garden Club was the instructor. It was very well received. Joyce Hendricks, former MFGC President, is our chairman. Thank you, Joyce and Barbara.

Our state is proud to announce we had four Gold Star Markers installed this summer along with one Blue Star Marker. Great Falls and Cascade each had a Gold Star By-Way Marker put in, and Stevensville placed a Gold Star

Family Marker at their Veterans Park. The Glendive Club installed both a Blue Star and Gold Star Marker on October 3 with the help of their Masonic Lodge and the Vietnam Vets.

Thanks to all the clubs who got their information into us on your club emails and where you meet so we can get on the map on our NGC website gardenclub.org for "Find A Club".

We have added a bit of criteria to the Endowment Interest Grants and Glenna Waltee has an article explaining that in this issue. Please remember to apply for grants and awards by their due dates. The dates are published on the back page of this issue of Montana Gardens.

We are planning to hold our District Meetings next spring, depending on COVID restrictions and the dates listed on the back page are a tentative schedule. If the actual meetings do not take place, we will Zoom these District meetings to keep our members safe and healthy.

The Bullhook Blossoms are planning for our Convention next June 11-12, 2021 in Havre. We hope we can hold this meeting, but if not, we will keep you all informed.



*Wishing you and yours
a wonderful fall and
a happy and healthy
holiday season!*



"Bloom Where You Are Planted".

Sherry Corneliusen, MFGC President

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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

March 1, 2021 – Spring 2021

July 1, 2021 – Summer/Fall 2021

November 1, 2021 – Winter 2021-22

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GOLD STARS SHINE IN MONTANA

STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA

Thanks to all Stevensville and Missoula Garden Club members who were able to attend the 9/11 memorial service and dedications on a beautiful Friday morning. We hope those who couldn't attend will be able to visit the park soon to enjoy our Garden Club's Blue and Gold Star Memorials and the American Legion Tribute Wall.

Pictured below in Stevensville are (left to right): Mitzie Barrie, Gary Clark, Annie Bowman, Susan Nelson, Olive Hoffman, Colleen Hoffman, Jim Sadler, Beverly Geary, and Alison Leathley.



CASCADE, MONTANA

On Sunday, September 27, 2020, National Gold Star Mother's and Family Day, the Dearborn Garden Club along with American Legion Post 133 dedicated the Gold Star Families Byway Marker. The ceremony took place at the Legion's Hood-Mortag Memorial Wall. A crowd of about fifty attended the ceremony. The dedication was emceed by Colleen Mason, past President of the Dearborn Garden Club.

The Ceremony began with an invocation given by Pastor Mark Nelsen of the Canyon Life Church and the presentation of colors by the Malmstrom Air Force Base Honor Color Guard. A history of the Gold Star Families Marker was given by Kathy Austin, MFGC Blue Star and Gold Star Families Marker Chairman. Lt. Col. Mike Milburn, retired USAF and former State Representative, gave a heartfelt tribute to the Gold Star Families.

Leslie Stafford, a Gold Star daughter, unveiled the marker following the tribute. After the unveiling, Jo Lee Burman, Dearborn Garden Club President, dedicated the marker. Lewis Thoenes, Commander of the American Legion Post 133, accepted the Gold Star Families Marker for Post 133 and placed a wreath at the Marker.

Father Cory Sticha, Priest at the Sacred Heart Church, gave the benediction. The ceremony ended with Mr. Jeff Skogley, Cascade High School music teacher, playing "Taps." Refreshments followed at the Cascade Senior Center.

GLENDIVE, MONTANA

On a beautiful fall day, October 3, 2020, the Glendive Garden Club dedicated both a Gold Star and a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the BNSF Veteran's Memorial Park. With the financial assistance of our Glendive Masonic Lodge #31 and the manpower from the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 234, the project was complete.

A beautiful quilt, made by garden club member, Creuza Squires was raffled off to help with the project. Next spring we will be landscaping and planting shrubs, perennials and annuals to add color and beauty to the markers' location.

Sherry Corneliusen, President of MFGC and Cindi Byron co-chairmen, assisted with the ceremony along with Jody Haidle, Glendive Garden Club President. Dennis Zander, County Commissioner and Rick Berg, chairman of the local Vietnam Vets also spoke at the dedication. A Gold Star Mother, who had recently lost her son, was in attendance along with members of her family. Refreshments were served after the dedication ceremony furnished by the Glendive Garden Club.

Pictured below are Glendive Garden Club members at the Gold Star dedication in Glendive.



Pictured above: Jeff Skogley plays "Taps" in Cascade. Right: The Gold Star Marker placed on the American Legion Hood-Mortag Memorial Wall at the cemetery



HONOR DESIGNS ARE A GARDEN CLUB TRADITION



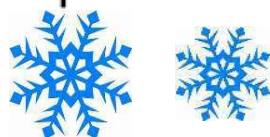
Honor designs for officers or special guests are a garden club tradition at all levels of National Garden Clubs meetings, such as conventions and installation dinners. In Montana, designers are invited to create floral designs for dignitaries that interpret the theme of the meeting or special interests of the honoree.

The MFGC President, President elect and Second Vice President were so honored at the Annual Meeting/Fall Board Meeting in Bozeman on October 10. ***Pictured above, left to right, are Sherry Corneliusen, President with an honor arrangement made by Jim Sadler; Jim Sadler, President Elect next to an arrangement made by Phyllis White; and Diane Ward, Second Vice President with an arrangement made by Gary Clark.***

In 1983, Junne Johnsrud of Fort Benton was installed as the NGC President in Louisville, Kentucky. The flower show judges in the Montana delegation made an honor design for her consisting of 300 pink carnations. They started with huge amounts of wet oasis covered with chicken wire and Montana evergreens that MFGC President Lillian Westin brought to the convention. Several bell boys had to transport the extremely large, heavy, and tipsy design from the workroom to the banquet area on a different floor of the hotel. The hotel manager was overheard saying, "Don't worry. Those ding-a-ling garden club ladies will be gone tomorrow!" ***The honor design was said to have been exquisite.***



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Thanks, Glenna Waltee, Treasurer

This and That by Jim Sadler, MFGC President Elect

When the year began, I had such hopes for the flower show year. Then wham bam, life appears to have changed. Who would have thought we would be having our Annual meeting in Bozeman on Zoom. Zoom has invaded my life in ways that I never could have predicted. I work for a company that is headquartered in Maryland, my boss is in California and I am recruiting people in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota all on the phone with Zoom interviews. The most interesting use of Zoom has been the seminars I have attended studying "How to Judge Roses in Photography"; "Judging Old World Roses" and "Rose Diseases and Cures in the Northwest". I attended a Pacific Northwest District of the American Rose Society annual meeting on Zoom. I also have attended several Masonic statewide Zoom meetings. My comfort level has steadily increased as I have participated in Zoom meetings.

My most exciting use of Zoom was the class I taught on rose arrangements. I had over 50 people in attendance from all over the United States. I basically presented a Powerpoint on how to construct arrangements. I showed what elements and pieces I used to achieve the design. I then showed the completed design. I put up an outline of my lecture for attendees to follow. I followed the outline in most part with expanded information to make it interesting. I presented five designs. The class was informational with many in attendance who just wanted to do arrangements but did not know how to begin.

We have such wonderful designers and horticulture experts in our state. I personally think that any one of the Judges Council could present a Powerpoint program. Since MFGC has purchased a Zoom video application, we could schedule a Saturday afternoon and allow anyone in our organization who had an invitation to view. It would be just for fun. It also will satisfy the creative juices of designers who are now cooped up with no flower shows. We also could review horticulture issues. ***What an opportunity to promote our mission right in front of us.*** If we keep it short and limit it to an hour, we could have several designers share their arrangements. A short informational on Horticulture would also be appreciated. We could even have a short rehearsal the night before. ***New and changing times, call for new ways to practice our hobby.***

If anyone is interested call or email me and we can see what develops.

Jim Sadler, 406-728-4743 or jimsadler1220@gmail.com



FLOWER SHOWS: MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS ANNUAL REPORT

Pictured (far left): Susan Billmayer and Phyllis White judge a floral design class. (left) Susan Billmayer

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

We currently are not offering any Flower Show School Courses. We had one student who took the National Handbook Exam in October 2020.

SYMPOSIUM

Our Symposium for July 2020 was put on hold due to the Coronavirus. We will make plans to offer the Symposium to Montana judges when it is deemed safe to do so.

Flower Show judges in Montana were granted a one year extension on their good standing until December 31, 2021.

CREDENTIALS

6 Emeritus Judges
1 Life Judge
3 Student Judges

16 Master Judges
15 Accredited Judges



SUSAN J. BILLMAYER

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL, SYMPOSIUM AND CREDENTIALS CHAIR



EACH ONE PLANT ONE PROJECT

As you all know, this has been quite a challenging year for all of us. The “China Virus” hit our country very hard in the Spring, but nothing stopped Mother Nature! As the temperatures allowed, I was outside planting my vegetable garden. As things opened up, I bought lots of petunias and planted them everywhere. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “*The earth laughs in flowers*”. So true, just being able to look outside at all those colorful flowers gave me a good and happy feeling.

My garden club in Whitehall cancelled many of our meetings and the same was true with many of the Clubs throughout our State. But, there were some Clubs who held their meetings outside or went on garden tours, keeping in mind to wear masks and to keep a safe distance from others. In Montana we say “**Keep a 6 Moose distance from others.**”

Outside projects and programs are great in Montana! We have big skies and wide open spaces where the deer and the antelope play. This being said, I want to encourage you all to get outside, if you are able, and take in the smells of Fall – to enjoy the beautiful colors of Fall – or take a walk to lift your spirits whenever you can.

There’s a project that the National Garden Club is encouraging club members all over the country to participate in. It’s called “**Each One – Plant One.**” Our trees have taken a huge hit over the past several years from beetle kill and forest fires. Imagine if each Club Member in the country planted one tree next year that would be about 165,000 trees! What an impressive example that would set for our communities! Even if your Club just planted a single tree in a small garden, that project would open doors for your club to talk with neighbors about choosing the

right tree, how to plant it and how to nurture it. You can structure your own project to educate not only your members, but the members of your community as a whole.

The Glendive Garden Club has 25 members and planted 25 trees this past year! Some members planted an oak tree in their yard and our Sherry Corneliusen planted the remaining ones at her home. ***Congratulations to the members of the Glendive Garden Club.***

As you start planning next year’s activities, let’s **each one – plant one** and show that Montanans are doing their part in helping to aid the environment. As things open up more and more, next year should be much better than this past. I would love to hear from you and your clubs about your projects and how many trees you plant.

Let’s Plan(t) for the Future!

Diane Ward

MFGC 2nd Vice President





MFGC DISTRICTS IN MONTANA

The articles below are a continuation of the District Reports that were presented in the last issue of MONTANA GARDENS. In 2020 all our MFGC District Meetings and our State Convention were cancelled due to the COVID-19. Meet our District Directors from Districts 4 and 6 and highlights of clubs in their Districts.



CHRISTI MOCK
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
LEWIS & CLARK
DISTRICT 4

Christi has been a member of MFGC since 2011. She served as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Blue Star Chair for the Helena Garden Club and helped out with the Landscape Design Class when Mary Olson was Chairman. She lives in Helena with her Husband of 20 years and works in Information Technology with the Montana DPHHS. She is currently a member of the Townsend Garden Club. Christi says that this has been a most difficult year for all the clubs in her district due to cancellation of events caused by the COVID-19. She congratulates all the club members who were determined to complete projects nevertheless.

BELGRADE BLOOMERS

The Belgrade Bloomers installed a Pollinator Garden at the Lewis & Clark Park in Belgrade. The new club president is Sandy McCartney.

GALLATIN EMPIRE GARDEN CLUB

The club members have three major community projects: They maintain a peony garden in Kirk Park; the sensory garden at the Gallatin Rest Home and the Blue Star Memorial Marker landscaping.

TOWNSEND GARDEN CLUB

Club members built and filled planters at two senior housing facilities; they cleaned up the site and planted flowers at the Blue Star Memorial site; and helped out with the annual "Backyards of Broadwater" garden tour.



JANA O'BRIEN
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
NORTHERN
DISTRICT 6

Jana and her husband were raised in the Conrad area. She lives on a farm and she and her husband run a gravel business. They have three wonderful children who have given them three grandchildren. Jana remarks she is basically trying to serve family, community, and the Lord. During the COVID she is trying to do her part by self-distancing. She will go back East soon to help her daughter with a son who had a stem cell transplant. She claims he is a miracle. She spent a lot of time working in her yard this summer and had her grandson for two months because of COVID-19.

CHESTER GARDEN CLUB

The Chester Garden Club worked through the summer maintaining their corner at the City Park. They painted birdhouses in the back yard of one of their members and plan to continue doing more creative crafts.

CONRAD GARDEN CLUB

The Conrad Garden Club only has eight active members, but they have been working on getting a sign for their Gazebo project and will be offering another brick campaign in the future.

TOOLE COUNTY GARDEN CLUB

This club is also small but their five active members contributed to Penny Pines and participated in local parades, donated to and volunteered at the Community Garden.



WILDFLOWER REPORT

**SUSAN ANDREWS MFGC
WILDFLOWER CHAIR**

Snow on the Mountain -*Euphorbia marginata* (pictured above) is an annual herb that likes dry soil and grasslands. It grows up to three feet tall and has a milky juice when cut.

The basal leaves are solid green and rounded the upper leaves are pointed and smaller with white margins. There are many small, white flowers with five petals.

It blooms from June to October. A specimen was collected by William Clark on July 28, 1906 in Rosebud County, Montana along the Yellowstone River (pictured above right).

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Thumb R Green Garden Club of Billings hosted Landscape Design School Course 1 which was held in Billings on September 11 and 12, 2020. Barbara Lien, who is a member of the Whitehall Garden Club and has a degree in landscape architecture was the instructor and did an excellent job. Topics included: learning about your ecosystem; space, design and people; Principles and elements of landscape; developing your garden plan, basics of a site plan; color in landscape; design for the environment; development of a landscape design; landscaping: not just for the desert; and the works of a renowned landscape leader. We enjoyed many great pictures of all types of landscapes. Fifteen students took the course; ten garden club members and 5 master gardeners. ***All eight of those taking the exam passed!***

Sue Leferink (*below center*) is currently the only Montana garden club member to have taken all four of the courses and she completed a refresher course this winter in Florida to maintain her status as a consultant. It would be great if we could offer the next three courses and have more of our members become consultants.





THESE CRAFTY GARDEN CLUB AND JUNIOR CLUB MEMBERS DIDN'T LET THE COVID DAMPEN THEIR PUMPKIN PROJECTS!

MILES CITY GARDEN CLUB

Members of the **Miles City Garden Club** gathered to decorate pumpkins with succulents and fall items on Saturday, October 3rd. Club member, Judy Bloxham provided the pumpkins. Members were encouraged to bring succulents, fall theme decorative items, hot glue guns and folding tables. The crafty members were rewarded with coffee and treats! All of this decorating frenzy was to prepare for the club's **Pumpkin, Plant & Craft Sale** that was held on Saturday the 10th of October at 9:30 AM. Members arrived early to set up at Home Town Real Estate on Main Street to get ready for the sale. The Miles City Garden Club members also donated crafts items, plants (house and outdoor) and had them priced ready to sell.

Below are some pictures of the Miles City Club Members with their many beautifully decorated pumpkins.



BUDDING GENIUSES JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

Rainbow Garden Club in Great Falls delivered more than 40 pumpkins in a variety of sizes to the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind in Great Falls on October 10. The next week the children at the state school, who are all members of the Budding Geniuses Junior Garden Club got to work carving and painting the pumpkins. This was a most enjoyable time for both the children and the School's teachers as seen in the photos below. This year's pumpkins and gourds came from club members Shelly Roseburg and Carol Works.



Photos courtesy of the MSDB School Staff

GARDEN CLUB \$SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout their club calendar year our Montana Federation Garden Club members are working to raise funds for their many projects. One project, however, seems to garner the most funding: scholarships. Due to the Covid-19 crisis many of our colleges have gone to on-line learning and the financial planning offices may not be in full operation by the early part of 2021. Many of the scholarships offered to students in Montana have deadlines and requirements that must be met. Please review this list of Garden Clubs that offer scholarships. The individual clubs have set their own requirements for applicants and are listed below. For more complete information and updates visit the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. website: www.mtfgc.org

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP - An annual scholarship grant of \$4000 is available to college students. National Garden Club is proud of its scholarship program, which offers financial aid to students and promotes study in Agriculture Education, Horticulture (including Fruit Science/Environmental/Communications), Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Biology, Plant Pathology/Science, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Concerns (Management: Environmental, Horticulture Resource/Environmental Behavior, etc.), Economics, Environmental Conservation (including Engineering, Law, etc.), City (Rural & Urban) planning, Wildlife Science, Habitat or Forest/Systems Ecology, Land Management and/or other related or allied subjects. In addition to the required majors to qualify, the student must be pursuing a career related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture. Applicants must have sophomore or higher standing and be a legal resident of Montana even if attending an out of state school. - **Carol Brady - State Scholarship Chair Deadlines: kenbradyconst@yahoo.com**

MONTANA LIFE MEMBERS SCHOLARSHIP - The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. awards an annual \$1,000 scholarship to a student who is a Montana resident and citizen of the United States of America majoring in Conservation, Horticulture, Parks or Forestry, Floriculture, Greenhouse Management, Land Management or related subjects. Students from all schools of the Montana University system, who offer such courses, have the opportunity to compete. The deadline is May 1 of each year. For further information on the scholarship, please contact: - **Patricia Schlaeger, State Life Members Chair (406) 727-7633 or Email: tamarackgroup@yahoo.com**

MURPHY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - An annual scholarship is available to qualifying college students in a horticulture-related major. Please contact Montana's Chairman for the NGC Scholarship Carol Brady for further information and requirements. Applications must be received before May 1 each year. **Information: kenbradyconst@yahoo.com**

MARGARET YAW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP GALLATIN EMPIRE GARDEN CLUB - BOZEMAN

\$1000 Scholarship application requirements: Must be a Montana resident having completed the required credits to be considered a Sophomore. Must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 and be majoring in a horticulture-related field (such as Agriculture Education, Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Botany, Biology, Plant Pathology/Science, Forestry, Agronomy, Environmental Conservation, Habitat or Forest Systems Ecology, Land Management or other related subject) **Current additional information may be obtained on the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs web site: www.mtfgc.org**

GREAT FALLS FLOWER GROWERS SCHOLARSHIP - Scholarship for study in Conservation, Horticulture, Forestry, Agriculture or related fields. For more information contact: **Gail Zarr, 812 5th Avenue N.W., Great Falls, MT 59404 (406-452-8789).** Completed application must be returned to the club by April 15 of each year

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP - Scholarship for Conservation, Horticulture, Forestry, Agriculture or related fields. For more information contact: **Verna Kessner, Scholarship Chairman, 518 Kinglet Court, Great Falls, MT 59404.** Application must be returned by May 1 of each year.

WHITEHALL GARDEN CLUB HORTICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP - The Whitehall Garden Club is offering a scholarship in the amount of \$500. The scholarship will be awarded to any Montana high school or home school graduate, who is a current college student with a class rating of 2nd semester sophomore or higher with a major in the Horticulture field. Students pursuing a correspondence course degree on the Internet through an accredited institution will be considered. The Whitehall Garden Club wishes to award the scholarship to a student who is established in a Horticulture major. Examples of that major may include, but is not limited to: Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Greenhouse or Nursery Management, Plant Genetics, Forestry. **For more Information contact: Barbara Willis, 4 Wrangler Road, Whitehall, MT. 59759 or emailed to bwillis419@live.com**

TOWNSEND GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

\$500 Scholarship to a Broadwater County High School Graduate. **Contact: Marilyn Lane, Box 56, Toston, MT 59643, 406 266-5172 or email racing26@mt.net; application forms, due by April 1, are available at the high school guidance office.**

DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

\$500 Scholarship to a Cascade High School Scholarship is given to a graduating senior from Cascade High School after certain criteria are met. These funds must be used to attend a secondary institution within the United States.

Application forms are available from the Guidance counselor at the Cascade High School. Deadline is usually mid- April but varies by a few days annually depending when the school's Award Day occurs.

ANACONDA GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

Two \$1000 Scholarships to Anaconda High School Graduates **Contact: Judy Little 422 Hickory St, Anaconda MT 59711, or jlittle@bresnan.net before March 31.**

MILES CITY GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

Two \$500 Scholarships to Miles City High School Seniors planning to major in a horticulture-related field. **Contact Anna Brandt at (406) 853-8712 or email at fbc.catering@gmail.com**



zoom

A Kid Can Do It



If a 12 year old kid can do it, the thought was that a more experienced much older person could also manage. **It is Zoom.** This COVID-19 has changed how our garden clubs meet. Knowing that 20% of pandemic deaths in this country that has only 4% of the world's population and that Montana has the third largest cases in the nation per capita, I as a club president could not ethically have the Anaconda Garden Club meet in person for the next few months. In just two days our Deer Lodge County experienced one of the highest pandemic cases per capita in Montana that not only infected hospital staff but a wide swath of essential businesses such as its largest drug store and several regular bar patrons. The very close knit town with less than 9,000 people soon knew someone who was infected, along with it's 3 deceased victims.

For 58 years the club has had a luncheon meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month. And for the first time in over half a century the luncheon had to be abandoned this year because neither face masking nor social distancing could not be maintained for our meetings that typically last for two hours. So the local 121 year landmark library offered a large elegant reading room where masking and distance could be maintained. But then came the October pandemic surge. The club was one of other organizations that realized even this genial venue where they met had to be abandoned.

Yes, there was a sleepless night when the obvious decisions were clearly seen. The savvy Executive Board had been meeting via Zoom for 3 months previous, but for our generally older membership Zoom might be a high hurdle. The first step was for members to have a practice session using Zoom. Yes, for some it was a bumpy road on their first try. But we had three phone volunteers available to guide these members and by the meeting the next day, it went surprisingly well. Still a few minor wrinkles exist. But I expect we will all be experts in a couple months.

My greatest misgiving was a fear of tech incompetence. But that morphed into excitement. Slide and video programs and reports could still be visually presented, no pressed pants now needed, and some could even have a Bloody Mary at home if they so desired. We learned to sign on about 10 minutes early to work out bugs, and are learning to speak one at a time since the program will show on the large central screen the person speaking leaving everyone else in smaller thumbnail screens.



Most pleasurable was working with Phyllis White, Montana's and NGC's non-print chairman, who sets up the link for your members to click on for an almost instant visual connection to everyone else. Phyllis is simply fun and encouraging to work with.

Email Phyllis gardens@bresnan.com to keep your club active and relevant in this pandemic period. After the virus is under control with widespread vaccination, we will not be in the same place we were at before the pandemic. So consider getting a head start on your future.

You will need decent internet access, and some type of computer, tablet or smart phone to use Zoom, But your MFGC has made the program available for **FREE** to continue on with your meetings. ***Make your challenge a pleasant opportunity.***

Norm DeNeal

Anaconda Garden Club

MFGC ZOOM PRIMER HOW TO GET STARTED

- ❖ All members who wish to use the application should download it from [zoom.com](https://zoom.us) by setting up an account on their personal computer, laptop or smartphone with their name and email address.
- ❖ You garden club president or secretary should send a request to Phyllis White at her email: 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 as a courtesy to other clubs should only last about two hours. The sooner you request the date, the more likely it will be available.
- ❖ 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!*

MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC. EIGHTY-THIRD CONVENTION

ANNUAL MEETING/FALL BOARD MINUTES

Best Western Grantree Hotel

October 10, 2020

Bozeman, Montana

Call to Order: Sherry Corneliusen, MFGC President, called the meeting of the 83rd Annual Meeting/Fall Board of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at the Best Western Grantree Hotel, Bozeman, Montana and welcomed those in attendance.

Opening Exercises: Diane Ward, Recording Secretary Pro Tem was present.

Pledge of Allegiance and Montana Garden Club Creed – Judy Locker, Gallatin Empire Garden Club.

Introductions – Sherry Corneliusen, President; Jim Sadler, 1st Vice President; Diane Ward, 2nd Vice President; Glenna Waltee, Treasurer, Lilla Flesjer, Corresponding Secretary; Phyllis White, Parliamentarian and former Presidents: Darlene Skari, Mary Davis, Phyllis White, Linda Sadler, Joyce Hendricks.

Inspirational Thought and Memorial – Joyce Hendricks, Chaplain, Thumb-R-Green Garden Club.

Greeting – Susan Woods, Gallatin Empire Garden Club

Credentials Report: Cindy Carlton, Convention Registrar, showing a voting strength of 42 (26 attending in person and 16 attending on Zoom):

Elected Officers - 5
Appointed Officers - 2
District Directors - 4
Past State Presidents - 5
State Chairmen - 7
Club Presidents - 13
Delegates - 14
Sub-Total – 50
Less Duplications – 8

Total Voting Strength 42

Quorum: Phyllis White, MFGC Parliamentarian declared a quorum present.

Garden Club Member of the Year: Sherry Corneliusen, President, presented Jeannie Bennett with the Garden Club Member of the Year Award, 2020-2021

Reading and Adoption of Annual Meeting Standing Rules: Phyllis White, Parliamentarian. **ADOPTED 10-10-2020**

Approval of 2019 Minutes – Jeannie Bennett.

Appointment of the Committee To Approve the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes: Linda Sadler, Marilyn Lane, Gail Zarr.

Appointment of Timekeeper and Tellers: The President appointed Sue O'Leary, Timekeeper; Electronic Vote Tellers -Lilla Flesjer and Susan Andrews, In-Person Vote Tellers – Cindy Carlton and Mary Davis.

Business:

By-Law Changes and Additions

Article X.3.d - Meetings Authorizing Participation and Voting Electronically

ADOPTED 10-10-2020

Article VIII 4.g – Submit the Annual Financial Statement to the Montana Gardens and to be published on the MFGC Website

ADOPTED 10-10-2020

Article XIV.2.a. (1) – Finance committee may include additional members at large

ADOPTED 10-10-2020

Article XIV.2.a. (5) – Finance committee shall meet three times per year

ADOPTED 10-10-2020

Policy and Procedure Change – Convention and Meetings (changes in Bold)

Currently: When funds are available, the 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, District Directors, Parliamentarian and Awards Chairperson, if in attendance, may be reimbursed, if requested for convention registration fees and all meals with the exception of the Life Members and Judges Council dinners. (2009, 2012)

Proposed: When MFGC General funds are available, MFGC Elected and Appointed Officers, District Directors and Awards Chairperson, if in attendance, may be reimbursed, if requested for Annual Meeting and Fall Board registration fees and all meals with the exception of the Life Members and Judges Council dinners.

ADOPTED 10-10-2020



Photos from top to bottom: Glenna Waltee (left) and Linda Sadler (right) visit at the Grantree Hotel before the meeting; Sherry Corneliusen (left) congratulates Jeannie Bennett (right), the MFGC Garden Club Member of the Year; The Annual/Fall Board Meeting with the Zoom participants on the screen behind the head table; The conference room at the Grantree Hotel in Bozeman where officers, delegates and members practiced social distancing.





Photos top to bottom: Gary Clark works on a floral design; President Elect Jim Sadler gives his acceptance speech; Judy Locker (left) receives an award from Award Chair Myrna McCollum (center) and President Sherry Corneliusen; Mary Baughn is socially distanced after making a Ways and Means table purchase.

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO LILLA FLESJER
AND JEANNIE BENNETT FOR THEIR
PHOTOGRAPHY!**

Election of Nomination Committee Members – Joyce Hendricks, former MFGC President, Chairman; Susan Andrews, Jody Haidle, Mary Ann Carey, Gary Clark, Carol Works, Mary Davis, and Jeannie Bennett.

PASSED 10-10-2020

Nomination and Election of Jim Sadler to serve as MFGC

President Elect – Joyce Hendricks, Chm.

PASSED 10-10-2020

Acceptance Remarks – Jim Sadler

MFGC OFFICER REPORTS

President – Sherry Corneliusen	ON FILE
President Elect – Jim Sadler	ON FILE
2nd Vice President – Diane Ward	ON FILE
Treasurer – Glenna Waltee	FILE

Chairmen Reports

Endowment Interest Grants, Glenna Waltee, Past Treasurer (On File)
Blue Star Report, Kathy Austin, Chairman (On File)
Flower Show School Report, Susan Billmeyer, Chairman (On File)
NGC and Murphy Scholarship, Carol Brady, Chairman (On File)
Penny Pines, Colleen Macdonald-Mason, Chairman (On File)
Garden Therapy, Cindy Carlton, Chairman (On file)
Landscape Design School, Joyce Hendricks, Chairman (On File)
Butterflies and Habitat, Kathleen Waters, Chairman (On File)
Wildflowers, Susan Andrews, Chairman (On File)
Awards, Myrna McCollum, Chairman (On File)

Lunch

Blessing: Joyce Hendricks, Chaplain

Award Presentations - MFGC, Rocky Mountain Region, NGC – Myrna McCollum, Chairman and Sherry Corneliusen, President

Circle of Green Thumb Presentations: Sherry Corneliusen, President

Announcements:

2020 Annual Meeting, Havre, MT, June 11-12, 2021

Proposed District Meetings either in person or via Zoom:

April 14, 2021 – Glendive

April 15, 2021 – Saco

April 16, 2021 – Big Timber

April 17, 2021 – Combined Western, Southwest and
Lewis & Clark, Whitehall ?

April 22, 2021 – Central, Great Falls

April 23, 2021 – Northern, Chester

Workshops:

Awards Workshop – Myrna McCollum, Chairman

Club Projects Slideshow – Phyllis White

Philadelphia Flower Show Slideshow from the
Gallatin Empire Garden Club

Closing Thoughts – Joyce Hendricks, Chaplain

Adjourned – 2:20PM

Diane Ward, MFGC Recording Secretary Pro Tem

Approved by:

Linda Sadler, Marilyn Lane, Gail Zarr

Phoned corrections 10/21/20





NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following members were elected to serve on our nominating committee: **Jodie Haidle, Mary Ann Carey, Susan Andrews, Mary Davis, Carol Works, Gary Clark and Jeannie Bennett.**

If you have an interest in serving as **2nd Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer** please contact one of these members or myself. Being a member of the executive board for MFGC is a great way to meet other gardeners and enjoy being a part of a great organization.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Joyce Hendricks, Chair

ADDED GUIDELINES FOR THE ENDOWMENT INTEREST GRANTS

The Endowment Fund was established with the fund interest earmarked for education and communication. Last Spring when the guidelines and format were developed, these priorities were not made clear.

The following has been added to the guidelines:

Eligibility, add under Project must;
BE EARMARKED FOR EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION.

About the Grants, add; **GRANTS TO PRESENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Preferred Projects, add: **PROJECTS TO FUND SPEAKERS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS OR NEW TECHNOLOGY.**

The Application Form for the Endowment Interest Grant has been updated and is on the website.

Glenna Waltee, Treasurer, MFGC



SIGHT, TOUCH, SOUND, SMELL AND TASTE WILL BE EXPERIENCED IN RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB'S NEW SENSORY GARDEN

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB AWARDED ENDOWMENT GRANT



Rainbow Garden Club in Great Falls was awarded a \$500 Endowment Grant from MFGC at the Annual Meeting/Fall Board Meeting in Bozeman on October 10, 2020. Rainbow GC applied for the grant to help them with their new project for a Sensory Garden in the Kid's Garden located on the city's west side. The garden will feature plants and activity centers designed for special needs children and adults to experience the five senses of sight, smell, sound, taste and touch. Cluster pictures above right are some of the plants that will be featured in special sensory areas in the new garden area that will be one of the focal points as visitors arrive at the Kid's Garden. The pictures at top and bottom left show Rainbow Garden Club members at an on-site planning meeting to review their project boundaries and existing trees and plants. ***Congratulations Rainbow!***



NIGHT MOVES

HOW OWLS USE THEIR UNIQUE ADAPTATIONS AFTER DARK

Whether they are in dense woods or in a suburban yard, owls use their unique and spectacular abilities to master their environment. All their senses come together to help them thrive when most animals are sound asleep.

Take one look at an owl and you can see why vision is one of its sharpest senses. Their eyes are so large that they're fixed in the eye sockets for support, so owls can't move their eyes more than a degree of two. To compensate for that limited eye motion, owls are able to turn their heads 270 degrees. Owls also see a different range of colors than other birds or people. They have an abundance of receptors in their eyes called rods, which help pick up light levels, and fewer cones, which are used to detect colors. The trade-off allows them to see prey and avoid obstacles in the dark.

Owls have two advantages in low light: They have excellent skills and adaptations to hear rustling leaves and snapping twigs, and they have the ability to fly almost without making a sound. Listening plays a huge part in hunting. They bob their heads up and down while trying to hear in a behavior called triangulation. They move their ears to home in on where the sound is coming from. Several species even have one ear that sits higher than the other. Having asymmetric ears helps them localize the sound vertically. Once they're ready to swoop in, they do so with very little noise. Their wings are lined with fine, comb-like fringes that dampen the flapping sound most birds' wings make, letting them glide silently.

Most birds have a poorly developed sense of taste and smell and the same is true for owls. While it may seem like a big disadvantage not be able to smell, great horned owls benefit from this dulled sense. They do not have a lot of sensory receptors in their nasal passages, but, this is good since they primarily feed on skunks!

Large owls have a taste strictly for meat and eat a variety of animals from small rodents such as mice, rabbits and skunks up to birds as large as ptarmigans. Fledgling owls that are still learning how to use their impressive abilities start out with smaller prey and hone their skills by going after bugs.

Once owls lock their eyes and ears on prey, one last fantastic asset comes into play. Unlike most hawks and eagles, owls have a fourth opposable toe. Its range of motion is similar to that of a human thumb. It can move to the front or back of the foot to help owls snatch prey, perch on a limb or move within their nests.



DON'T FORGET TO FEED THE BIRDS THIS WINTER!

Be sure to put food out in your yards for the birds this winter. There are many ways to make your own bird food and even feeders, and there are even more types and kinds available commercially in stores or online. **Also, if you are feeding birds don't forget that they also need water.** A heated dog bowl works well and can be purchased from any of the local hardware or livestock retailers.

NELONE NILSEN, BIRDS AND HABITAT CHAIR

LIFEMEMBERS ACTIVITIES

MFGC LIFE MEMBERS

A Life Member is a club member interested in helping a worthy Montana student further their college education while having a good time at monthly meetings and at the state convention. All the membership fees are placed in trust to endow an annual \$1000 scholarship to a Montana student.

This year the COVID pandemic took its toll on all the Life Members' activities. Those regions where several clubs have Life Members meetings on a regular basis saw them cancelled completely from April through the present time. We had a great program planned for the 2020 state convention's Life Members Luncheon and will put on the program next year. Many people ordered painted rocks to help with our scholarship funding and these will be delivered next time we are together. *Rocks are expensive to ship!*

The chairman of the District Five Life Members club, Jeannie Bennett decided to have an outdoor event when we thought that Montana was nearing the end of the pandemic in September (ha ha). She orchestrated a lovely Fall Garden Walk at the adjacent gardens of Jennifer Valadez and Sanna Czifro that about 30 District Five members attended. All were carefully distanced and masked and were so grateful to see the beautiful perennial and annual gardens with all the special attractions like Sanna's water feature and Jennifer's awesome vintage containers from wheelbarrows to an iron stove. The connecting yards were both walker and wheelchair friendly and everyone was thankful to Jeannie. *(Photos at right show Jeannie and Life Members on the garden tour).*

If you are not already a Life Member, please consider joining our group! Any member of a Montana federated garden club may join Life Members by sending a one-time, tax-deductible \$25 to: **Glenna Waltee, MFGC Treasurer**
Glennawaltee18@gmail.com

Patty Schlaeger,

MFGC Life Members Chair

NGC LIFE MEMBER PROGRAM

Your choice of becoming a National Life Member demonstrates your commitment to the youth of our nation and so the world. Your gift of \$200 to become a life member is shared equally by the Scholarship Fund and the Permanent Home Endowment Fund. The recipient receives a lifetime subscription to The National Gardener magazine, may attend the National Life Member Banquet at all conventions, and a portion of the contribution is tax deductible. A form and contact information is downloadable on the National Garden Club website.



Joyce Hendricks, MFGC Past President, receives her NGC Life Members Certificate from MFGC President Sherry Corneliusen



PENNIES FOR PINES DONATIONS

Penny Pines - Corneliusen Donation - \$68
Penny Pines - Glendive Garden Club - \$136
In Honor of those who lost trees and homes in the Bridger Fire, in the Gallatin National Forest, Montana.

Your club and individual contributions to this worthwhile program are greatly appreciated!
Glenna Waltee, Treasurer



2020 AWARDS A CHALLENGE

I attended the 2020 Annual/Fall Board meeting in Bozeman where there were approximately 20 people in attendance. The meeting was run well, getting the business that came before the group handled in a timely manner. This was a first with almost the same number of members attending via Zoom.

We practiced social distancing. I was a participant wearing two different hats; one as a delegate, the other as Awards Chairman.

The awards proved to be a challenge for 2020. Because we could not meet as a group, the Books of Evidence were passed on to the three clubs in District Five. A predetermined schedule was set up, and the books were then passed on to the second and the third judge. After judging was complete, all books went back to the Awards Chair to compile the winners. As always, NO club judged its own book. Certificates and/or money was awarded to first place winners. The money was mailed out by our MFGC Treasurer and the certificates were handed out at the Annual/Fall Board meeting. The MFGC Awards were published in the last Montana Gardens. The actual books were picked up or passed out to clubs.

The Rocky Mountain Region Awards were presented at the Bozeman. The list of winners is shown (right). Certificates were picked up and/or delivered to the winning clubs. **Congratulations winners!**

All in all IT WAS AN EXPERIENCE not soon forgotten!

MYRNA McCOLLUM, AWARDS CHAIR

1-C-d	Colorado Award: Garden Therapy	Rainbow Garden Club	2nd Place
	Patricia Schlaeger	Garden Therapy Chairman	
2-A-d	Kansas Award: Conservation	Rainbow Garden Club	1st Place
	Shelly Roseburg	Chairman	
3-A-c	Garden Club Yearbook	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	3rd Place
	Montana Award: Writing	Yearbook	
3-A-d	Rainbow Garden Club	Montana Award Writing	Yearbook
3-B-c	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Montana Writing Award	Scrapbook
	Montana Award Writing	State Publications	1st Place
3-D-d	Montana Gardens	Patricia Schlaeger	Editor
4-C	Nebraska Award: Landscape Design	Rainbow Garden Club	1st Place
	Horticultural Excellence		
5-B-d	North Dakota Award: Flash Drive Slide Show	Rainbow Garden Club	1st Place
6-B-c	South Dakota Award: Birds	Rainbow Garden Club	1st Place
	Rainbow Garden Club	Scout Troop 110	
7-A-d	Wyoming Award: Trees	Rainbow Garden Club	1st Place
	Planting the Greatest Number of Trees		
7-B-c	Wyoming Award: Trees	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	1st Place
	Educational Program Regarding the Importance of Trees		
8-C-c	Utah Award: Garden Tours	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	1st Place
	Open to Garden Club Members Only		
10-E-d	Civic Development	Rainbow Garden Club	1st Place
	Project That Has Been Ongoing		
11-C-d	Conservation and Environmental Concerns	Rainbow Garden Club	1st Place Tie
	Patricia Schlaeger	Outstanding work by individual Member of Garden Club	
11-G-c	Project that incorporates wildflowers or native plant material	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	1st Place
16-A-d	Youth Award	Rainbow Garden Club "Cabbage Patch Kids"	1st Place
	A junior, intermediate, or H.S. club		
18	Rainbow Garden Club and Great Falls Flower Growers	Certificate	
	Blue Star/ Gold Star Highway Memorials		
24-c	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Boys and Girls Club all ages	
	Youth Gardening		1st Place
26-B-d	Rainbow Garden Club	Photography wildflowers	1st Place
	Patricia Schlaeger		

ON AGAIN - OFF AGAIN MEETINGS ... ONLY THE FUTURE CAN TELL

Due to the continued world-wide Covid-19 threat and after several weeks of difficult, but necessary decisions for National Garden Clubs, Inc. I am reporting that the NGC Executive Committee voted September 18, 2020 to cancel the 2021 NGC Annual Convention, May 17 – 21, 2021, hosted by The Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc.

I want to remind our members to look to our future. As garden club members, we are strong, committed and dedicated to NGC and our world. This historic National emergency is causing us to step back, slow down and reorganize activities within our homes, communities and volunteer efforts. **Let's be positive and receptive to new technologies, in continuing to grow as garden club members.**

Gay Austin, President



National Garden Clubs



20/21 VISION?

As announced at the October Annual Meeting/Fall Board Meeting, the new dates set for our **2021 State Convention will be June 11-12 in Havre, Montana.** The Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club worked hard to make the 2020 convention a wonderful event, but had to cancel. This is an important meeting where we recognize and celebrate all the work our clubs have done. The convention is also a time for great workshops and fun tours. More information and registration forms will be available on the MFGC website and in the Spring edition of **Montana Gardens.**



MONTANA FIFTH GRADER WINS SECOND PLACE IN THE 2020 NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST

Congratulations to Emma Lee Ereaux from Malta, Montana who was a National Poster Contest Winner! She was sponsored by the Malta Dirt Daubers, Malta, Montana. *This is the highest award ever received by a Montanan!*



Emma Ereaux and her prize-winning poster



JENNIFER STRZELCZYK, SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL CHAIR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WOODSY

Announcing the **2021 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest** dedicated to Woodsy Owl's 50th birthday! Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2021 Poster Contest! Brought to you by the National Garden Clubs, Inc and the US Forest Service. It's Woodsy's 50th birthday! Let's celebrate by observing conservation practices and by participating in the poster contest. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of basic environmental conservation principles through original drawings of Woodsy Owl. **WOODSY OWL SAYS:**

LEND A HAND—CARE FOR THE LAND! AND GIVE A HOOT – DON'T POLLUTE!

Woodsy Owl is America's icon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woodsy has helped parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!" and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, planting and caring for trees, using resources wisely, and not littering. Woodsy is a 13 year old male kid who is America's icon for the conservation of the environment by an Act of Congress. The biggest environmental issue in America during the seventies, when Woodsy was born, was littering. Woodsy, who lives in a tree of a national forest, flies to the urban interface and cities raising awareness on the importance of trees. Woodsy encourages children to recycle, reuse, reduce and "rot" (composting).

PRIZES

The National Grand Prize Winner of the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest will be honored with a Recognition Ceremony in Washington, D.C. A round-trip and accommodations for four will be provided for a 4 days/3nights stay. The National Garden Clubs, Inc. will award a \$50.00 check to each of the first-place national winners.

POSTER TIPS

A good poster has a bold and simple design. Its message is easily understood and is delivered both in the picture and in text. Members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. can purchase Woodsy Owl promotional and educational materials at www.symbols.gov. Posters will be judged for originality, design, slogan, artwork, and overall effectiveness of the message.

RECOGNITION CEREMONIES



It is recommended that local and/or state recognition ceremonies be coordinated in conjunction with local events during Earth Week in April or during National Public Lands Day in September. Woodsy Owl should be present at these award ceremonies if possible. • Certificates of Participation and Poster Entry Stickers can be requested for free by sending an email to symbols@fs.fed.us with your name, mailing address, and quantity of certificates/ stickers you are requesting. • The 1st place national winners for each grade level category and the National Grand Prize winner will be announced in 2021 by National Garden Clubs, Inc. The USDA Forest Service conservation education prevention regional coordinators can help you identify local Forest Service units that may assist you with having Woodsy appear at your event. A list of the coordinators can be found at www.symbols.gov. Additional information is also available on the NGC website.

AROUND MONTANA'S BIG SKY

The following articles and photographs have been sent in by our MFGC member clubs. We hope you enjoy reading about club activities throughout our state. Thank you for all your contributions.

Anaconda Garden Club



The Anaconda Garden Club members created these outstanding floral plantings at the Anaconda Kennedy Commons (left) and the city entrance sign (right).

Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club



The Belgrade Bloomers installed a Pollinator Garden at the Lewis & Clark Park in Belgrade. The new club president is Sandy McCartney, and Joe Miles is the vice president.

Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club



We haven't met since our outdoor social this summer but still have done a great job on our main fundraiser. We sell these premium nuts and candies just through members and generally raise over \$1000. **Way to go Blossoms!**

Chester Garden Club

The Chester Garden club has not had many meetings during our season of COVID. We are being extra special because of the age of our membership. We did continue with maintenance of our corner at the City Park. The flowers this year were beautiful.

We have also had a couple of meetings of doing some creative crafts. We made Halloween cards for the residents of our assisted living facility and the nursing home. They brought a smile to the resident's faces when they received them.

We also painted birdhouses during one of our meetings. This was done in the late summer in the back yard of one of our members. We had a fun time and enjoyed being out in her yard listening to birds sing.

We hope things can get back to normal soon.

Conrad Garden Club

We have met one time since September. Our club has about eight active members. Many have health issues and have stayed home because of COVID. We are hoping to have a Christmas party/meeting in December. The places where we usually meet have been closed because of the pandemic. We are working on a sign for the gazebo. The memorial walkway is half finished and we will be offering another brick campaign.

Dearborn Garden Club



Although the COVID has made us alter our usual plans, the Dearborn GC has been busy with plans for the holidays. We have cleaned out our barrels and put the gardens to bed for the winter. Thanksgiving will have us delivering baskets of food to two families who are having a hard time right now.

December plans includes making and filling stockings for 50 children, sewing children's blankets for the Children's Receiving Home and baking cookies for the residents at Cascade's Senior Living Apartments. We will deliver two more food baskets to families in need for a Merry Christmas dinner. Last but not least we will be decorating the barrels in town with wreaths to brighten up the town for everyone. *Pictured above are club members on a summer tour of the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.*

Dillon Garden Club

Congratulations to Mary Kempf, president of Dillon Garden Club. She received honors as Dillon's Outstanding Woman of the year. **Well deserved!!** Pictured below are children selecting Fairy Garden supplies for one of our club projects enjoyed by everyone.



Gallatin Empire Garden Club

Gallatin Empire Garden Club was busy taking care of three gardens in Bozeman this summer: the National award winning garden at Gallatin Rest Home, our Blue Star Marker garden, and Kirk Park Peony Garden. After a work party in the morning, we met after at Bozeman Pond Park for a picnic lunch.

We are now busy planning to make wreaths for 17 non-profits in Bozeman. The club will buy the wreaths and members have volunteered to decorate and deliver them.

Pictured below are club members taking a "smile" break after working on landscaping the Blue Star Marker garden at the 19th Street Rest Area.



Glendive Garden Club

The Glendive Garden Club has had a unique yet fun year. We have learned to "Zoom" effectively so we can continue meeting, even if we can't be together in a close area. We planted flowers around the town of Glendive in the Spring. Our fundraisers this year included our decorated pumpkins, the annual May plant sale and a king size quilt raffle. We all got club t-shirts this year in a variety of fun colors, and enjoyed wearing them for the first time on our tour of the "Hatchet Creek Farms" (pictured below). We look forward to being together when we can but are willing to stay home to be safe and meet on our computers or phones.



Great Falls Flower Growers

GFFG sponsors the flower bed at the gravesite of our city's founder; Paris Gibson. It is a beautification project for the cemetery and a tribute to the city of Great Falls. At the Library Park's Four Seasons Perennial Garden (pictured below) we did general clean up by trimming & weeding. We moved and replaced existing plants with more drought tolerant plants. Black Eyed Susan's, Succulents, decorative rocks & gravel filled the area nicely. Since there were no donations of annuals available this year for pops of color like in the past, we provided some on our own.



Gumbo Gals of Nashua

The Gumbo Gals were able to award our Junior Club members with funds and encouragement to plant during this pandemic year. We filled the planter with flowers at the Nashua Senior Center and had yard tours and luncheons in June, July and August. In September we had a chance to meet at a member's home for a program on rhubarb and a variety of rhubarb desserts.

The remainder of our club's 2020 activities are cancelled and we all look forward to overcoming these difficult times and begin refreshed and ready for 2021. God bless the MFGC and everyone please stay safe and stay well!

Hoe & Hope Garden Club

A garden club member, Bonnie Conner, was in charge of coming up with themes for the entries and flower arrangements at the Sweetgrass County Fair. At our July meeting before the fair, members brought flowers and accessories to help others get inspired and shared many of those items if needed. *Pictured below are some of the entries at the flower show at the Sweetgrass Fair.*



Malta Dirt Daubers



In September we cleaned Robinson House yard and gardens. We had our annual Wine and Pie night which got us three new members! We decorated 50 barrels around town with Fall décor adding scarecrows, gourds, cattails and a 3-tiered pumpkin person. We also added signs with inspirational words. In October we went to the Milk River Honey Co. How interesting! They had seven different flavors of honey for us to try. In November we make centerpieces for the Museum Festival of Trees, which is a fundraiser for the museum and yard and gardens at the Robinson House. We hope that everyone stays safe and happy! *(Pictured above are the Dirt Daubers celebrating 60 years of Garden Club!)*

Miles City Garden Club



For the past 3 months, we've been able to have our meetings outdoors at the Wibaux Park. Elise Anderson and Carson Houser were the recipients of our two \$500 scholarships. Congratulations to Donna Schmidt for having her yard selected (out of the 17 "Yards of the Week") as the "2020 Yard of the Year"! Fall cleanup of the gardens at Blue Star Memorial Park, Post Office, Library, Underpass, and Jeanne Vetch's yard is completed. Our September meeting was held at Bryon & Shannon Holman's beautiful place in the country. *(Pictured above are members at the Hatchett Creek Farms tour)*

Missoula Garden Club



Missoula Garden Club members planted 32 roses at the Blue Star Marker located at Memorial Rose Gardens in Missoula *(pictured above)*. These 32 roses were donated by Montana Ace - The Garden Place. In September the Missoula Garden Club teamed with the Missoula Rose Society to plant 60 roses at Memorial Rose Gardens. These 60 roses were also donated by Montana Ace – The Garden Place.

Rainbow Garden Club

When we were finally able to meet this year in June, Vanette Nagamori showed us how to properly divide iris tubers. Members took home several to plant.

During National Garden Week eight club members planted annuals at the Cascade County Courthouse. Our newest Junior Garden Club, The Cabbage Patch Kids, met in May, June and July. Small groups of the children will be making Woodsy Owl Posters in November and December. The club members dug up perennials for a fall plant sale and those plants that did not sell will be heeled in our new area at the Sensory Garden. Rainbow members who have not been meeting since October were thrilled to receive the news of getting a \$500 MFGC Endowment Grant for our Sensory Garden Project. *(Pictured below are Julie Dulaney and Patty Schlaeger with the check!)*



Saco Garden Club

We have been a very inactive club this year because of COVID pandemic. We have only had four meetings all year. Two of them were our member's cleaning gardens at the Miller Park in Saco. It looks like there will be no more meetings this year unless something changes with this COVID.

We have a very elderly group of ladies so it is our goal to keep them safe.

Sow & Grow Garden Club

Due to the COVID again this fall we canceled October and November meetings. We will start again in January if all is well. We plant at Metra Park each year and take care of those areas until late fall. We use plants ordered and delivered from Special K out of Columbus, Montana. We volunteer at Zoo Montana in the Sensory Gardens every Monday until the late fall. We also help in other areas around Billings. During our meetings we have speakers who present programs on plants, trees and flowers. These are informative and we learn something new every time. We visit different gardens around the area. Tina's Iris Gardens is a favorite place we went to this year.

Stevensville Garden Club



The Stevensville Garden Club in September and October began update planning and clean-up of the Living Legacy Garden at the north end of Stevensville. The garden, which includes many native plants and plants brought by pioneers, was begun with help by Stevensville 3rd Graders. *In the photo by the 'rabbit bush' are Marina Weatherly (garden originator and consultant), Colleen Hoffman, Beverly Geary, and Alison Leathley.* The club has applied for a Plant America Grant to assist with completion of this project in 2021. (see our **National Gardener** article)

Thumb-R-Green Garden Club

The Thumb R Green Garden Club maintained a planter at the Metra with a red, white and blue theme. In Early October we cleaned up the bed and got it ready for winter and then enjoyed a brief time of fellowship. We trimmed the roses at our Blue Star Memorial in Veterans park as well. The early cold and snow had everything frozen! In November we decorated a Christmas Tree at the Moss mansion with the theme "A Christmas Carol." Most of the decorations were hand made by the members. This is a fund raiser for the Mansion and a fun project. We plan to meet in November at a public venue and learn about Christmas Flowers. We are experiencing the challenges of meeting in ways that provide a way to carry on the club business, have fellowship and keep our members safe.



Toole County Garden Club

We only have five members and were meeting in member's homes prior to COVID. We had planned to apply for a grant from National Garden Clubs for a City landscape improvement project that has since been cancelled. We contributed to Penny Pines and participated in local parades, donated to and volunteered at the community garden. Since COVID, we are not meeting and have cancelled all programs and projects. Members have spent time in their own gardens growing vegetables this summer when the weather allowed. At this time the club has no plans.

Townsend Garden Club



The Townsend Garden Club supervised the building and filling planters on sight at two different senior housing developments using two boys earning Eagle Scout badges who needed a project for the community. They also helped clean up and plant at the Townsend Blue Star Memorial. The garden club members took part and worked on the annual "Backyard tours of Broadwater."

Whitehall Garden Club

Members of the Whitehall Garden Club have been staying busy at the same time keeping their distances from each other and wearing their masks. We worked on our Native Plant Garden and the Blue Star/Gold Star memorials. Our "Fire Station Committee" has been preparing the barrels in front of the fire station for winter. The MFGC ZOOM Account has been a great life-line for our club. We have been able to have our monthly meetings and keep everyone healthy and safe. At our November meeting we elected club officers. Our year begins in January 2021 and runs through December. *Pictured below are our officers. Glenna Waltee, Parliamentarian, Maureen Dawson, VP, Mary Ann Carey, President, Jayne Dean, Secretary and Barbara Lien, Treasurer.* **The members of the Whitehall Garden Club want to wish each of you a Happy Holiday and a Bright and Healthy New Year!**



In Memoriam



At the Fall Board meeting we were honored to remember those in our clubs who have passed away this past year. We celebrate their friendship and their contributions to our clubs. Everyone brings skills, talents and ideas which enrich the experience in our clubs.

The following members were remembered:

Minnie McCann and Linda Haugen - Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club of Havre; **Sue Sutton** - Rainbow Garden Club of Great Falls; **Elsie Berger, Barbara Rumford, Dorothy Gebhart** - Dearborn Garden Club of Cascade; **Ruth Amdor** - Thumb R Green Garden Club of Billings; **Carol Cain** - Miles City Garden Club; **Kay Stevens** - Great Falls Flower Growers and **Geri Warner** - Missoula Garden Club.

Big Sky Stars

"A salute to all care-givers of the COVID19 Pandemic."
from the Gumbo Gals of Nashua.

"Thanks to all the wonderful MFGC officers, committee chairs and members who contribute so much to make Montana Gardens one of the best Garden Club Magazines in the country!!" – Patty Schlaeger, Editor Montana Gardens

"Thank you, Gallatin Empire Garden Club, Susan Woods, Cindy Carlton and all the members for your hard work on the Annual Meeting/Fall Board. You all did a wonderful job pulling off this challenging meeting. We appreciate you taking the extra measures to protect our members from the COVID Virus. Thank you, Susan Andrews for your hospitality. Lilla and I appreciate it so much. It was nice to see people in person and via Zoom. Thank you all."

Sherry Corneliusen, MFGC President

"Thank you, Phyllis White for setting up the Zoom program for the Annual Meeting/Fall Board. We appreciate you coordinating our local garden club's Zoom meetings also. The power point presentation of the various clubs and their activities was well received. Thank you for all you do for MFGC." - Sherry Corneliusen, MFGC President

Greetings

"Love, joy, peace and good health to all our gardening friends." - from the Gumbo Gals of Nashua.

"The best of the season to all Montana Garden Club Members. Keep your masks on and please stay safe until we can all participate in a group hug!"
- from Rainbow Garden Club

"Happy Holidays from our house to yours. May peace, love and beautiful flowers surround you this holiday season. Stay safe and healthy my gardening friends."

- Sherry Corneliusen, President, MFGC

Quilt Raffle Tickets

Get your raffle tickets in - **so far we've sold \$360**. Ask your President for any remaining tickets or just send me a text and I'll get you some. **Glenna Waltee, Treasurer, MFGC**
glennawaltee18@gmail.com

Elizabeth Kehmeier

Former 1993-95 MFGC President Elizabeth Kehmeier passed away in Hamilton, Montana on October 6, 2020, at the age of 92. She was very active in garden club activities for many years. Her presidential theme was "Only one earth; color it beautiful." She served as the Hamilton Garden Club president, and the Federation's parliamentarian, historian, life member chairman, and was garden club member of the year in 2002.

Elizabeth also served as a volunteer in many community organizations, including 4H, Back Country Horsemen and the local elections office. She volunteered for the Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and at the Copper King's summer home/mansion. As a historical project for MFGC, Elizabeth co-chaired the fundraising to restore the beautiful Victorian arbor at the Daly mansion. Restoration of the 18 gleaming, white pillars was sponsored by garden clubs and members nationwide, and the arbor has become a favorite place for weddings. Garden club members were able to tour the home and arbor during a convention in Missoula.

NEW MFGC COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

New Facebook Chair:

Mary Wambolt – fmwambolt@midrivers.com

New Youth Coordinator for the Youth Poetry and Essays/Sculpture Contests:

Toni Zeigler – ziggy4@itstriangle.com

New Yearbooks Chair:

Jeannie Bennett – thegardenjeannie@bresnan.net

Blue Star/Gold Star Chair New Email address:

Kathy Austin – 78kathyaustin@gmail.com

WRAPPING IT UP

This year as I was packing and getting food ready for a week stay in Idaho, along came winter. **With vengeance!** Although it was just beautiful in McCall, Idaho where we were headed, we could not only get out of the ranch, but we couldn't get out of Montana. **Bummer!**

I put food back into the freezer and cupboards, clothes back in the closet and just watched the kind of blizzards we usually get in January howl outside on the 24th of October. The green leaves were shaken off the trees! My blooming flowers, tomatoes and other vegetables down by the creek and next to the stone house had been covered in haste with sheets and blankets and looked like sleeping monsters. Even though they were weighted down with rocks, the wind caused them to "puff up and down" as though they were breathing. The horses were feeding on big round bales and soon they, too, became real live snow creatures. **I just had to share photos of the crazy icicles and shapes caused by the wind and the deep snow!**

PATTY SCHLAAGER, EDITOR



MONTANA *Gardens*

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



*Holiday Greetings from your
Montana State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Officers, District Directors and Advisory Board*

OUR CHANGING WORLD

Can you imagine what it was like to go through a pandemic in the early 1900's? With little or poor communications, people out here in Montana, away from the large cities, had very little idea what was going on. Few telephones, radios, newspapers and of course, no television kept the horrifying news away from most. Those in the city did mask up but not their country cousins!

As a comparison, look how fast news travels today. What took days or weeks back then now only takes a matter of seconds. Just a few years ago technology and communications are not what it is today. If our meetings were cancelled, they were cancelled. Today we can go on Zoom or Skype and see each other as we talk. This was real science fiction when most of us were growing up. Now today we take this all in stride. Ninety-year-olds are texting and zooming right alongside their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We don't know how many waves of the COVID may be heading our way in the future, so we need to take advantage of our electronic resources to keep in touch with one another. We have so many resources just a click away from our fingertips!

ZOOM MEETINGS – Encourage your club members to continue to meet electronically. Just about everyone has a smart phone, tablet, laptop or computer. Club members will be excited to see one another after these long absences. Clip the Zoom instructions from Norm Deneal's article and get started. Have fun!

REVISIT OUR MFGC WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

PAGES – With winter on its way, take this time to familiarize yourself with our electronic media. We can't weed and shouldn't be shoveling snow. See what the other clubs are doing on their sites!

VIDEO LIBRARY – Since we aren't having many in-person meetings, consider going into the MFGC's Video Library. There are so very many interesting and educational programs just waiting for you to explore. And they can be shared with your club members just like you would invite them to hear an in-person speaker.

VIRTUAL FLOWER SHOWS, SYMPOSIUMS – If we are prevented from large gatherings for some time to come, we have the ability to put on virtual flower shows as well as conducting some of our flower show schools and symposiums via electronic channels.

**OUR WORLD IS CHANGING
... LET'S CHANGE WITH IT!**



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1, 2021

NGC Member Award of Honor, SR-3
NGC Youth High School Distinguished Service Award

January 10, 2021

NGC Publicity Press Book Award

February 1, 2021

MFGC Standard Flower Show Awards

February 1, 2021

Woodsy Owl Posters

April 15, 2021

MFGC State Awards, Cathy Atkinson
Creative Design Award,
Photography award

Proposed District Meetings

either in person or via Zoom:

April 14, 2021 – Glendive
April 15, 2021 – Saco
April 16, 2021 – Big Timber
April 17, 2021 – Combined Western,
Southwest and
Lewis & Clark- Whitehall?
April 22, 2021 – Central, Great Falls
April 23, 2021 – Northern, Chester