

MONTANA *Gardens*



MONTANA BUTTERFLIES: (Top to Bottom, Left to Right) Mourning Cloak, our State Butterfly; Monarch; Canadian Tiger Swallowtail; Summer Azure; Silver-Spotted Skipper; Checkered White and Red Admiral

- IN THIS ISSUE -

President's Message . 2020-2021 Officers, District Directors . Publication Data . Planting Your Butterfly Garden
 Xeriscape Gardening . Membership . Youth Gardening . A Conservation-Wise Garden
 Penny Pines . Hummingbirds . MFGC 2021 Annual Meeting Registration and Agenda . Quilt Raffle
 This and That . Landscape Design School . Speakers Bureau and Video Library . Montana Wild Flower
 District Meeting Schedule . Bergeson Nursery Program . Earth Day . RMR Meeting Notes . 2020-21 Awards Due
 New NGC Officers . Nominating Report . Companion Gardening . Bees in Winter . Rotation Gardening
 Under Montana's Big Sky . New Members, Memorials and Donations . Happy Birthday Lucille
 Editorial . Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Winners . Dates to Remember

The Official Publication of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Spring 2021– Volume 67 – Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air! I heard my first meadowlark and saw my first robin in the yard this week. However, we here in Eastern Montana are quite dry. We have had no significant moisture all winter. I am hoping and praying for rain this spring so we can continue to play in the dirt.

I want to inform you of our District meeting date changes. Because of COVID we have pushed the dates to June. Hopefully, most of us will be immunized by then and we can feel safe meeting face to face. The dates suggested for District Meetings are June 16, Eastern Gateway in Glendive, June 17, Hi-Line in Malta, June 18 – Yellowstone in Billings. The following week is June 23, Northern District in Chester, June 24 is Central District in Great Falls, June 25 is Western District in Missoula and Whitehall hosts the Southwest District on June 26. More details will be forthcoming as to times and places for these meetings. I am looking forward to seeing a lot of you garden club members at these meetings.

We are also pushing the award deadline back to May 15. I know with the pandemic our clubs were not as active, but moving the deadline may give us time to get a project done for an award. All C and D awards have been increased to \$25, an added incentive for all of you. I have emailed the updated award directory to all Presidents, District Directors and Chairmen. Please share with your award chairmen.

I want to give the Presidents and Chairmen a "heads up" that I will be publishing a "Club Report Booklet" like our past two presidents have done. Deadline will be September 1, so I can have the booklet printed and ready to distribute at our Annual Meeting September 10. I find the booklet to be a valuable tool for reference as to what other clubs are doing. It also saves us report time at the meeting.

Great Falls has offered to host our Annual Meeting on September 10-11, 2021. More details can be found in this issue of **Montana Gardens**. This meeting will be a combination of



Convention and Fall Board like we did in Bozeman last fall.

Remember to update your web page if you are electing new officers for your club this year. Also remember National Garden Week is June 6-12, 2021. It is a good time to have an event, put up posters, share flowers with city and county officials and let people know you are in the community. In observance of National Garden Week, Eric Bergeson from Fertile, MN will be doing a public presentation June 15 at 7 pm in Glendive, the eve of our District meeting. All interested gardeners are encouraged to attend. More information on his presentation can be found on page 12 of this issue.

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

"Bloom Where You Are Planted"

Sherry Corneliusen, President MFGC

MFGC 2020-21 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Sherry Corneliusen

sher@midrivers.com

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Sadler

Jimsadler1220@gmail.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Diane Ward

mydoubleheartranch@gmail.com

TREASURER

Glenna Waltee

glennawaltee18@gmail.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Lynne Weischedel

lynne@midrivers.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Lilla Flesjer

lflesjer@gmail.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Phyllis White

gardens@bresnan.net

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Western District #2

Colleen Hoffman

Southwestern District #3

Mary Baughn

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Lewis and Clark District #4

Christy Mock

Central District #5

Patty Howse

Northern District #6

Jana O'Brien

Hi-Line District #7

Kathy Waters

Yellowstone #10

Sherry Doty

Eastern Gateway District #12

Penny Zimmerman

ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEMBERS

Joyce Hendricks, Chairman

Linda Sadler

Denise Fink

Phyllis White

Norman DeNeal

Darlene Skari

Ruth Layton

Mary Davis

Mary Olsen

Marie Jones



MONTANA Gardens

Official Publication of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Member of the Rocky Mountain Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc. All rights reserved. Full color issue available at:

www.MTFGC.org

MISSION STATEMENT

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

SEND ARTICLES TO:

Patricia Schlaeger, MONTANA Gardens Editor

The Columbus Center - Suite 531

1601 Second Avenue North

Great Falls, Montana 59401

406-727-7633

tamarackgroup@yahoo.com

Copy Editors: Phyllis White and Norm DeNeal

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

DEADLINE / ISSUE

July 1, 2021 – Summer/Fall 2021

November 1, 2021 – Winter 2021-22

March 1, 2022 – Spring 2022

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (MFGC)

is a non-profit organization with a Federal 501(c)(3) status. All monetary contributions are tax deductible.

Printed by Allegra Printing, Great Falls, MT

PLANTING YOUR BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The news on the Monarch front is not great.

Eastern population numbers that winter in Mexico are down 26%. The western population is under siege by the over-pruning of eucalyptus trees destroying much of their hibernation grounds. And now the world is so focused on the COVID-19 virus that I am afraid our conservation efforts have been shunted to the side.

How can you help? You can focus on turning your yard into a butterfly garden, helping not only the Monarchs but also our native Montana butterflies. Those of you who have seen my Monarch butterfly presentation already know how to do this. The requirements are exactly the same as for Monarchs with the exception of planting milkweed. And one of the best side effects of creating your Butterfly Garden is that it's also good for the bees and other insects.

There are five steps to creating your Butterfly Garden: grow plenty of nectar plants; grow caterpillar food plants; choose a sunny location; provide shelter and do not use pesticides.

Different butterflies favor some nectar plants over others so it's possible to target which butterflies you attract. Some of the most preferred plants are: Black-eyed Susan (Zone 3); Joe-Pye Weed (Zone 2); Liatris (Zone 2); Coreopsis (Zone 3); Pentas (Zone 10); Aster (Zone 2); Lantana (Zone 8); Purple Coneflower (Zone 3); and Milkweed (Zone 3). Of course, there are many more nectar plants than we can list here. I urge you to buy or borrow a "butterfly book" or go online to find more information. Many gardeners are opting to plant Butterfly Weed because of its orange blooms. This has become a problem. While migrating the Monarchs are confused into thinking they are further south and spend too much time there. When they start south again they don't have time to make it to the hibernation grounds. They cannot survive where the winters are cold and will die. When incorporating Milkweed into your garden, be sure you plant the appropriate cultivar. Common Milkweed is not as showy, but it will do a better job of helping the Monarchs. And it's harder and more likely to make it through our cold winters.

Butterflies are selective when it comes to laying eggs. The larvae don't have the means to travel to a different plant to feed so they must hatch out on a larval food supply plant. This is most evident with Monarchs as they lay their eggs only on milkweed. I suggest you find a list of plants and the particular butterflies that use them.

There are a few plants that host three or more types of butterflies. These include the Quaking Aspen; Cottonwood; Hackberry; Clover; Alfalfa; Vetch; Winter Cress; Willow; Cabbage; False Nettle and Nettle. Again, do a little research so you can match the plant to the butterflies that use it. While you are researching your butterfly, don't forget that you need to identify the caterpillars so you don't accidentally destroy them.

You need a sunny location for your Butterfly Garden. When the weather cools at night, butterflies are unable to fly until the air warms up. To help in this process, place some rocks and evergreens among your flowers. They hold the heat and warm up faster than smaller plants



Mourning Cloak top



Mourning Cloak underside

do. It's also helpful to incorporate a mud puddle into your garden. The mud is the important thing here as the male butterflies "puddle" on it to take in important nutrients, which they pass on to the female when they mate. Is there Shelter from the wind? This is also important, especially if you live in the country like I do. Plant your butterfly garden beside a hedge, fence or building to give the butterflies a break. This year has been especially bad for wind. If its hard on you, just imagine what it's doing to the poor butterflies! More helpful shelter is created by making a pile of dead wood. Start with a tree stump or large sections of tree trunk, on top of this throw smaller tree limbs, top this off with small branches. This will host many insects and animals, including mason bees and other native bees. If you are worried about what the neighbors will think, plant tall things around it or put it behind the garden shed.

After you have done all this work to care for and propagate butterflies, remember not to use any pesticides. My town sprays mosquitos with **Malathion**. I know it doesn't work on the mosquitos (*just seems to make them mad*) but just imagine what it does to the butterflies and bees. In the country I have complete control over what's sprayed but in town it's a different issue. Even herbicides that you spray on your weeds will kill a butterfly. **After all, a poison is a poison!** And as far as mosquitos are concerned, I am meticulous about dumping out any standing water. I use mosquito dunks in my rain barrel and big water tank. These contain **Bti** which is specific in killing mosquito larvae before they hatch. However, if applied to other larvae, it will kill them as well. I avoid mosquito dope for myself as well. I have a long-sleeved shirt that I wear in the garden along with gloves and long pants. I let my hair hang down to protect my neck and the tops of my ears when I have my hat on. I'm no fashion statement but I'm "insect and sun proof".

So, until we get the Covid-19 under control, you can put your efforts into helping the least of us – the butterflies and the bees. They will be forever grateful!

**Kathleen Waters,
Butterfly Chairman**



THE INDEFATIGABLE IRIS -

Montana's Easy to Grow Xeriscaping* Plant!



**Sue Leferink,
Xeriscape
Chairman**



(left to right) Iris, Mini Iris, Wild Iris

When people ask me to recommend an easy to grow xeriscaping plant in Montana, the first one that comes to mind is an Iris. There are over 300 species of irises in a variety of mixed and variegated colors to suite anyone's tastes. In fact, iris is the Greek word for rainbow. Some blossoms are fragrant and even re-bloom during the summer season. A few rhizomatous species referred to as orris root are even used commercially to produce perfumes and potpourri or flavor beverages and toothpaste. They are available heights from 6 inches to 5 feet, perfect for stunning flower arrangements ranging from miniature displays to large, ruffled showstoppers. For someone who may be intimidated to start a garden, this is an ideal starter plant. After all, there is even a Montana native iris, *Iris Missouriensis*, which grows wild without any human intervention.

When it comes down to finding the right plant for the right place, irises are always the perfect fit. They can survive in a wet, swampy spring location which dries up into compacted clay soil so hard you need a pickaxe to extricate it in the fall. When the summer grows hot, we are often forced to conserve water just when our plants need it the most. Irises can really take the heat. While the leaves may turn brown and die back, they shoot back up in the following spring with new green luscious leaves. The leaves make ideal habitat for migrating Monarch butterflies to camouflage their chrysalises. The cheery flowers burst into bloom faithfully each May or June depending on the weather and location in Montana, making for a spectacular show attracting bumble bees and other beneficial insects. These hardy plants are not particularly delectable to deer which is a bonus for those of us living among wildlife.

Most irises growing in Montana are rhizomatous, which means they spread along the ground over time. The rhizomes can quickly form a tangled, impenetrable maze which is great to purify water sources and prevent soil erosion. For healthy plants and showy flowers, irises should be dug up every few years and divided. Over time this allows gardeners create large swaths of color in the garden or a lovely border along the edge. Growing irises is also a great way to make new friends by giving extra plants away as gifts or selling them to raise money for club projects.

The best time to dig up Irises is fall but any time after blooming is fine. Soak the soil well a few days before

dividing. Since they are planted very shallow, a sturdy pitchfork is ideal for plunging underneath the roots and then lifting them out of the ground where they can then be pulled apart easier. Cut off any rotted or old rhizomes, trim the leaves a few inches from the base (some people like to cut into a fan shape), add a bit of compost and then replant a few inches deep. Sprinkle in a bit of bone and blood meal into the soil and they will reward your efforts for years to come. The discarded rhizomes make a wonderful nature black dye while the leaves can be used to weave mats, baskets, cordage, or artistic shapes. Jump onto Pinterest and search for "foliage weaving" for inspiration. For those without artistic abilities, the plant material can be composted and added back into the garden.

The biggest problem with acquiring irises is deciding which ones to include, especially when your garden space is limited. The best advice in this case is to visit a garden when the flowers explode into swaths of glorious color and scent. There are two well-known iris gardens in the state. For those west of the continental divide, check out the Missoula Iris Society Display Gardens behind the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. For those east of the continental divide, a road trip to Tina and Daughters Iris Gardens in Billings is well worth it in early summer (*open May 26 – June 26 this year*). Do you know of other iris gardens near you? If so share them on our MFGC Facebook site.

** **Xeriscaping** is the process of landscaping, or gardening, that reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation. **Xeriscaping** may be an alternative to various types of traditional gardening. Xeriscaping is different from natural landscaping, because the emphasis in **xeriscaping** is on selection of plants for water conservation, not necessarily selecting native plants. **Xeriscaping** produces greenspaces that require low amounts of maintenance and irrigation. However, due to societal norms and lack of landscape understanding, public perception of xeriscaping has frequently been negative, as some assume that these types of landscapes are ugly expanses of just cactus and gravel. However, studies have shown that education in water conservation practices and **xeriscaping's** benefits can greatly improve our perception of **xeriscaping**.*

BUILDING AND MOTIVATING MEMBERSHIP

People join Garden Clubs for reasons that we are all familiar with.

1. Out of passion for gardening , horticulture, floral design,
2. Personal experiences.
3. Because they were asked by a friend to join.

So once you have a new member - - - - -YOUR WORK BEGINS!!! You have to keep them.

So---Find them a job, make them feel needed. *Why? Because They Are!* Let them know it. Once a job is delegated to them, **let them do it.** They might come up with a new a different approach and that is OK. It is OK not to be in control.

Let the direction you go as a club, be the direction the club members want it to be. Every member needs to know the value and input the club has on a community. Every member needs to know their value in the club.

THANK YOU'S ARE NOT SAID OFTEN ENOUGH!!!!!!

Don't let a member leave the club without knowing why.

1. They are moving - - OK, that happens.
2. They don't have transportation - Can we help? Carpool? Offer rides?
3. No one talks to or includes me, **---DANGER---DANGER---DANGER**

What is your club doing to combat or change this?



Liz Smith, Membership Chairman

YOUTH GARDENING

Do you remember, as a kid, when the Christmas catalogs came? I would sit for hours, looking at all the wonderful toys. Mom would give me a marker and I'd circle everything I thought I needed.

Well, now it's the same with seed catalogs. I think doing something similar with kids would be fun. You'll need seed catalogs, scissors, glue and paper. Let the kids go thru the catalogs and cut out pictures of plants they want in their gardens. Then they can glue the pictures on paper. Depending on their ages you can make this a great learning time. Have the kids look for their gardening zone. Do the plants do well in sun or shade? How tall are the plants? Would they look good in containers? The kids could glue the pictures onto the paper the way they would like them in their garden. **Any questions? Feel free to give me a call at 406-654-1187.**

**Toni Ziegler,
Youth Gardening**



A CONSERVATION-WISE GARDEN

When reading my gardening magazines, I have found that the terms preservation and conservation are often used interchangeably. It is true they are closely related but have distinctly different meanings. Conservation is the proper use of our environment and preservation is to protect the natural world from use. Conservation is more than likely what gardeners practice in their gardens. While in one sense planting a rare non-American plant helps in its preservation, it is being conserved. What a gardener is really doing is practicing conservation by taking the plant out of its native environment and placing it in special settings and given special care. The plant is being conserved and used for its inherent attributes. If you were preserving it, you would have left it alone in the wild.

Biodiversity is a goal that I have tried to practice in my garden. I plant a garden that has an abundance of different plant species that attract many kinds of birds and insects. Visual beauty, fragrance, and my curiosity are governing principles. I am practicing conservation because the plants I choose are used properly as they thrive in my alkaline clay soils and attract many kinds of birds and insects.

I have stopped using chemicals such as pesticides and insecticides. If I find a plant that succumbs to disease and or insects, I tend to shovel prune the plant. I do use environmentally friendly soap sprays. I will squish an unwelcomed bug. I do it when Linda is not looking. I have learned, to be tolerant of insects that may nibble a bit. Unless one is picking for a flower show in the scheme of things, a little imperfection does not really matter.

Planting American plants is a goal of mine. It is another way I practice conservation in my garden. One often sees catalogs using the term native plants interchangeably with American plants. Native plants are strictly defined as plants that would naturally grow in your specific area. If the plant does not grow in the fields around your garden, it is not a native plant. A plant found in the mountains of Colorado and not in Montana is native to Colorado. If the plant is found on the prairie, for example, a coneflower, it is native to the prairie. If I planted native plants, here in the mountains of Western Montana, I would be limited to spring wildflowers that are extremely difficult to propagate and grow on. While sagebrush and invasive grasses are native here, they are not my garden choices. American plants that were collected sent to England to be educated and improved are the ideal. They include Russell lupines, coneflowers, roses, dahlias, and asters. Choices are limitless. Wonderful gardens can be planted using these improved American plants. Maintaining a conservation wise garden with American plants that encourages birds, and insects have been a lifetime goal of mine. If you thought about it, it probably is your goal too.

Jim Sadler, Conservation Chairman



Dahlias, Russell lupines and coneflowers grace Jim Sadler's flower gardens to encourage birds and insects.

Penny Pines Report

2021 In the Winter edition 2021 of The National Gardener, Heather White, NGC **Penny Pines** current Chairman, noted that from June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020 members of NGC contributed \$71,944 to US state and national forests via the **Penny Pines Program**. This amounts to approximately 1,058 plantings.

The **Penny Pines Program** began in California as a statewide conservation program and is now present in all 50 states. For \$68, the planting of replacement seedlings that are indigenous to forested areas damaged by insects, fires or natural catastrophes aid in soil and watershed protection, soil stabilization, provide beauty and shade for recreation. **Penny Pines** seedlings vary in composition and size but a planting may have up to 200 seedlings. Members of the USDA Forest Service plant the seedlings and the plantings are offered the same protection as other forested areas from fire, disease and insects.

The **Penny Pines Program** is a great way to inexpensively provide a sustainable way to restore our national forests. For \$68 or multiples of that, our forest can be kept beautiful. It's been harder to collect the pennies during the pandemic but hopefully you have all been hoarding your pennies at home. Give to your **Penny Pines** Chairman soon. The **Penny Pines Program** is also a great way to mark your donation in memory of a member or of a loved one. My thanks to the Glendive Garden Club for their generous donation of \$136 and Sherry Corneliusen for a \$68 donation last November and to Rainbow Garden Club for \$68 in January and \$68 in March.

**Colleen Mason,
Penny Pines Chairman**



DO YOU WISH YOUR FEEDERS ATTRACTED MORE HUMMINGBIRDS? Consider These Four Suggestions:

1. **Keep your feeders full and clean them every time you refill them.** It seems obvious. But it's so hard to do on a consistent basis. Don't let the feeders go completely empty for long. As soon as there is no hummingbird food those little pollinators will go looking elsewhere for their needed sugar. Don't just top off your feeders. They have been sitting in the sun for a couple days and mold can start forming on the glass and in the crevices as well as bacteria in the food which can make the birds sick. It needs to be cleaned and refreshed every couple of days. Be sure to give it a vigorous scrubbing with hot water and detergent. The glass part of your feeder can withstand the dishwasher but the plastic cannot.

2. **Change the style of your hummingbird feeder.** You are probably most familiar with the inverted type of hummingbird feeders. These feature a glass or plastic bottle that you fill and then invert. Gravity pulls the liquid down, but a vacuum keeps it from all pouring out at once. As the hummingbirds drink, air goes into the bottle and a bit more hummingbird food is released. Some of these inverted hummingbird feeders have "pinched waist" or other shapes which are difficult to clean. Some of the plastic feeder ports do not come all the way apart and are difficult to clean. Look for wide mouth bottles or feeders that come completely apart for easy cleaning. The saucer type feeders keep the hummingbird nectar in a small bowl and a feeder port are in the lid allowing the hummingbird tongue to reach the liquid. The hummingbird water will not leak out unless the feeder swings and tips in the wind. These are often easy to clean and refill. They don't hold very much liquid, though.

3. **Add flowers to your yard.** Hummingbirds naturally go together with tubular flowers. Of course, real flowers are probably better than feeders to attract hummingbirds. Flowers also attract small insects and spiders that hummingbirds love to eat. Hummingbirds don't just eat nectar! All those bright flowers will catch the attention of the hummingbirds from far and wide. You will need several types so that one or another is blooming all through the year. **Some flowers that attract humming-birds?** Consider *Agastache* (giant hyssop or hummingbird mint), *Zauschneria* (California-fuchsia or hummingbird flower), *Monarda* (bee balm or horsemint), *Nepeta* (or catmint), *Buddleja* (butterfly bush). Other recommended flowers include *Lonicera* (trumpet honeysuckle), *Lobelia*, and *Salvia* (sage).

4. **Multiple hummingbird feeders.** Having more than one hummingbird feeder has advantages. The dominant, or bully, hummingbird can only chase one hummingbird away at a time. This allows other birds to get into another feeder. You can stagger the filling of hummingbird feeders so that only one feeder at a time runs low. When the first is empty, the second is still half full. If you want more hummingbirds it is important not to let all your feeders go completely empty!

Jody Haidle
Pollinator Chairman

HUMMINGBIRD NECTAR RECIPE

Ingredients

1 cup of refined granulated white sugar
4 cups of water

Directions:

In a sauce pan heat your measured water, but it is not necessary to boil. Stir in measured sugar until dissolved. Allow to cool to room temperature.

Fill the hummingbird feeder with nectar. Fill feeder with food enough for 2-3 days. Store excess sugar water covered in refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. *I don't add red food coloring.* Some say that red dye is from a petroleum product and can be harmful to hummingbirds. The red on the container attracts them.

Refilling feeder:

Clean and rinse feeder thoroughly. Refill with only enough hummingbird food for 2-3 days.





HAPPY DAYS!!!

Registration Form for September 10-11, 2021

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

84th Annual State Membership Convention

Holiday Inn, 1100 5th Street South, Great Falls, MT 59405

Call (406) 727-7200 and reserve your hotel room by August 30th.

Ask for "MTGC", rate of \$109 + tax for a double room (up to 4 adults). Rooms have a minifridge & Keurig coffee pot. (Room Block hold is until August 30th for rate)



Name: _____ Club: _____ District: _____

Address: _____

Best Phone: _____ Email Address: (Must have for zoom) _____

Please circle applicable titles: *indicates voting member – name must appear on club delegate registration form.

Garden Club Member	Club President*	District Director	Region Board Member
Club Delegate*	Flower Show Judge	State Chairman	Region Officer
Alternate Delegate*	Student FS Judge	Elected State Officer	Region Director
State Life Member	Landscape Design Cnslt	Appointed State Officer	National Life Member
First Time Attendee	Student LD Consultant	State President	National Board Member
Guest	Club Pres Proxy*	Advisory Council Member	

Registration: Postmarked deadline is **August 27, 2021.** No routine refunds after **September 7, 2021.**

MFGC Members must register to attend any function. Add registration and meals for total cost.

In person and virtual Zoom Convention Registration **\$30.00** _____

Late Registration, in person or virtual Zoom if postmarked after August 27 **\$35.00** _____

CM Russell Museum, Historic House and Log Studio Docent Led Tour (\$11.00) **no cost to MFGC**

Meals: Select all that apply (*gratuity and coffee, tea, iced tea/lemonade included in prices*)

Vegetarian, Gluten, Dairy Free? Chef will design your meals accordingly. Tell us your needs/allergies.

Friday – Judges Council Dinner Social, all welcome **\$28.00** _____

Chef's Pot Roast Dinner-Slow cooked 7 bone roast with Carrots, Parsnips, Potatoes

& Vegetable Du Jour. Served with rolls & butter.

Saturday Breakfast: Start Fresh Breakfast, a Hotel Specialty

Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Country Fried Potatoes, (Awesome) Bacon **\$17.00** _____

Saturday Life Members Luncheon: Includes scholarship presentation. **\$18.00** _____

½ Ham Salad and Swiss Cheese Sandwich w/ cup of Chicken Noodle Soup, fresh fruit garnish.

Saturday Night Installation Dinner. After a sweatpants year let's "Shine and Dine". **\$40.00** _____

Asiago Chicken-Baked Panko Crusted Boneless Breast of Chicken filled with Sauteed Spinach/Shiitake

Mushrooms/Asiago Cheese, with Creamy Pesto Sauce, Roasted Red Potatoes, Asparagus, Raspberry Sorbet.

For no spinach/mushroom stuffing check here. _____

TOTAL Registration Cost \$ _____

Make Registration Checks payable to:

District 5 Life Members, c/o Myrna McCollum, 4413 Central Ave, Great Falls, MT 59405

ANNUAL MEETING TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, September 10, 2021

2:00 – 5:00 pm Registration
 2:30 pm Finance Committee
 3:30 pm Executive Committee
 (MFGC Elected/Appointed Officers)
 4:30 pm Advisory Council (Former State Presidents)
 5:15 pm Judges Council Member Meeting
 6:00 pm **Judges Council Welcome Meal**
 (All are welcome)

DELEGATE INFORMATION FOR REGISTRATION

The Club Presidents will be receiving the Delegate Registration Form either at the District Meetings or via Email. Please be sure and fill out who your delegates and alternates will be at the Convention so they can be recognized. These will need to be sent to the MFGC Corresponding Secretary. Each Club President has a vote; each District Director has a vote, each State Chairman has a vote and each member of the Advisory Committee has a vote.

The number of voting delegates allowed from each club is as follows:

Clubs up to 50 members: 2 delegates, 2 alternates
 Clubs 51-100 members: 3 delegates, 2 alternates
 Clubs 101-150 members: 4 delegates, 2 alternates

Saturday, September 11, 2021

8:00 am Breakfast
 8:30 -9:00 am Registration
 9:00 am Annual meeting

Noon - Life Members Luncheon

1:00 pm Awards presentations
 Business resumes
 2:30 pm Russell Museum Complex Tour
 4:00 pm Kid's Garden Complex Tour: RGC
 Sensory Garden, Southside Community Garden and Children's Garden

6:00 pm Installation dinner

Sunday, September 12, 2021

8:30 am Board of Directors meeting

BASKETS REQUESTED FOR MFGC WAYS AND MEANS SILENT AUCTION

We are asking each club to prepare a special basket and bring your club's contribution to the Annual Meeting for our Silent Auction Fundraiser for MFGC.



LIFE MEMBERS NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The MFGC Life Members Program was started in the 1950's as an organization to gather socially and have fun in a separate meeting from their respective Garden Clubs. Members paid a one-time (for life) membership fee of \$25.00 and used these accumulating funds as an endowment to gather interest for an annual \$1,000 scholarship for a student in a horticulture related course at a Montana College. Although not required, several MFGC Clubs hold monthly Life Members meetings where they meet for good company and conversation with little or no business conducted.

Through the years the endowment interest has not been able to replace the corpus funds and MFGC Life Members has had to resort to programs such as the \$50 Red Rose Pin contribution and other funding efforts to maintain our annual scholarship. We encourage you to purchase a \$25 Life Membership as a "gift" to your out-going president, or hold a drawing to raise \$50 to award one of your club members a Red Rose Pin. Some Districts have even presented their out-going chairman with a \$25 Life Membership. With very few club or Life Members meetings this year, we need your financial support for Life Members. We will still offer to paint your pets on rocks for \$50, pass the hat for Dollar\$ for \$scholars and there will be silent auction items dedicated to Life Members at the state convention.

Your support is appreciated! PATRICIA SCHLAEGER, LIFE MEMBERS CHAIRMAN

DRAWING FOR "CLIMBING ROSE" QUILT AT ANNUAL MEETING

YES! Tickets for this very beautiful quilt are still being sold and will be drawn at the Annual Meeting in Great Falls.

"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." MFGC members have been selling tickets since the spring of 2020 and we know you are all anxious to have your name pulled "out of the hat" as the winner!

Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.



THIS AND THAT

by Jim Sadler
President Elect



Planning for the June District Meetings is in progress. District Directors have been contacted concerning the change. A consensus was gained to switch the dates from April to June. The Annual Meeting is also being moved from June to September. The final details are still being worked out. It was the feeling by all that more time was needed for this planning because of COVID.

Parliamentarian Phyllis White reminded the MFGC officers that the District Meetings are the providence of our Districts, and that the officers are invited as guests. With this in mind, a Traveling Flower show is only a suggestion for a program. The various Districts can do what fits their particular situation. My suggestion is that the officers bring all of the necessary materials to put on a miniature design and regular horticulture show. That would include: a theme, ribbons, place cards, entry cards and a flower show schedule. All Districts that want to participate will be given the schedule ahead of time. The purpose of the show is to have fun and put on a show with as little hassle as possible. If your District wants the Traveling Flower show, please contact me. If you do not, do what fits your situation. District Meetings should be fun and educational events. ***Right now, I am so tired of being cooped up, I am anxious to visit with my friends and enjoy a little fun and education.***



Landscape Design School Whitehall, Montana September 17-18, 2021

The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. in cooperation with National Garden Clubs, Inc. presents Landscape Design School Course 2 September 17-18, 2021, Historic Borden's Building Conference Room Corner of Legion and Main Streets, Whitehall, Montana. The School is sponsored by Whitehall Garden Club.

Registration Form:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please check the correct box:

() Course fee: \$50.00

() Exam Fee \$5.00

Total \$ _____

Note: The cost of your meals and lodging is not included in the registration fee. Refunds for medical emergencies only.

Make checks payable to: Whitehall Garden Club

Mail to: Barbara Willis, P.O. 109, Whitehall, MT 59759

Deadline: September 3, 2021

Course 2 of the Landscape Design School includes: Designing for Pollinators and Wildlife; Plants in the Landscape; Accessible, Enabling and Therapeutic Gardens; Structures in the Landscape; Redesign of Areas; Development of North American Landscape Design; Preservation of Historic Sites and Structures; Overused, often Invasive Plants and Native Alternatives.

Instructor: Barbara Lien - Barbara is a retired landscape designer who lives in Whitehall, Montana. She has a B.S. Degree in Earth Science from Montana State University and a M.S. Degree in Landscape Architecture from Washington State University. Please contact Glenna Waltee: phone 406-498-8780 or glennawaltee18@gmail.com or if you have questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE will be in the Summer/Fall Issue of **Montana Gardens** magazine.

GARDEN CLUB PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES!

CHECK OUT OUR SPEAKERS BUREAU AND VIDEO LIBRARY



Looking for a program to present at a club meeting? Did you know that Montana Federation of Garden Clubs has a media library with some great DVD's for you to borrow. Have you seen "*The Most Challenging of Gardens*" or "*A Cottage Garden in the Sagebrush Desert*"? Go to our website at mtfgc.org and login to the member's page to see a full list and to download an order form.

Need a speaker at your next meeting? Check out our Speakers Bureau list for possibilities on the Member's Page at mtfgc.org. If you have a recommendation for a speaker to be added to our list or a DVD you think might be of interest as a club program, please email me at dkraymond5@gmail.com.

Diana Raymond, Video and Speakers Bureau List



OUR BEAUTIFUL MONTANA WILDFLOWERS

By Susan Andrews, Wildflower Chairman



CLARKIA

Clarkia pulchella is a self-seeding annual wildflower. It has very unique blossoms so it is easy to identify.

Clarkia grows best in dry sandy or gravelly soils found in western Montana. It was named for William Clark as it was collected during the Lewis & Clark expedition.

The four deeply lobed petals are atop a slim stem with narrow alternate leaves. The flowers are pink white or rose. Clarkia blooms from May to July.

Proposed MFGC District Meetings Schedule for 2021

- June 15** – Eric Bergeson public presentation in Glendive, 7:00 pm, Moose Club. This is a pre-District Meeting kick off. **All are invited.**
- June 16** - Eastern Gateway District Meeting in Glendive 9:30 am, Courthouse Community Room, 207 W Bell, **“Gardening is Good for the Soul”** theme, Program – Traveling Flower Show – **Jim, Diane & Sherry**
- June 17** - Hi-Line District Meeting in Malta. 9:00 am Tin Cup, 50's theme.
- June 18** – Yellowstone District Meeting in Billings. 10:00 am, Canyon Creek Nursery

The following week:

- June 23** - Northern District Meeting in Chester. Liberty County Senior/Community Center, 9:30am
- June 24** - Central District Meeting in Great Falls. A local garden (outside), 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Theme **“What have you been doing during COVID?”**
- June 25** - Western District Meeting in Missoula. First Christian Church, 10:00 am-2:00pm. Mini flower show in a box Traveling Flower Show – **Jim, Diane & Sherry**
- June 26** - Southwest and Lewis and Clark District Meetings in Whitehall, St. Theresa Church, 9:00 am. Tree Theme.

THIS YEAR, EARTH DAY FALLS ON APRIL 22

Join thousands of organizations around the world in taking action to better understand and meaningfully address the changing climate responsible for so much of our planet's crises — from natural disasters to socioeconomic inequality.

Check out the many environmental speakers on-line who bring a wealth of expertise on the science and tech breakthroughs that will inform the fight against climate change for decades to come.



Eric Bergeson presentation to be held in Glendive, June 15

Eric Bergeson, author, speaker and horticulturist from Fertile, MN will be doing a public presentation at the Moose Club in Glendive, Montana at 7:00 pm on June 15, 2021. Eric has spent his entire life as part of Bergeson Nursery which he owned for seventeen years.

Over the past 20 years, Eric has spoken to hundreds of groups about the joys and challenges of gardening on the northern prairie. Eric has written two books on gardening in the past five years. His book **“Successful Gardening on the Northern Prairie”** has sold over 15,000 copies. **“Let’s Grow on the Northern Prairie”** is Eric’s second book about landscaping and gardening. The books contain a wealth of information for any type of gardener, whether you are a beginner or a master gardener.

All MFGC members along with the public are invited to this presentation hosted by the Glendive Garden Club on June 15.

For more information on Eric Bergeson, check out his Facebook page, Eric Bergeson. His brother Joe is the current owner of the family business. Several members of the Glendive Garden Club traveled to Minnesota last year to visit the beautiful nursery and we brought a pickup load of plants home with us. **Bergeson Nursery** is their Facebook page.



Bergeson Nursery

4177 County Highway 1 . Fertile, Minnesota 56540

218-945-6988

info@bergesonnursery.com



Notes from the Rocky Mountain Region January 27, 2021 Meeting

Darla Anderson, Rocky Mountain Region Director, welcomed all RMR district officers and committee members to the meeting which began at 4:32 p.m. on January 27, 2021, via Zoom. **Phyllis White**, Chairman, RMR Facebook, planned to write an article for *The Rambler* on how to set up a Zoom account for each state in the Rocky Mountain Region.

* **Darla** stated that membership increased in Colorado, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

* **Darla** relayed the sad news that **Brenda Slaughter**, RMR Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Chairman had passed away in November 2020. **Brenda** had been Chairman for the past seven years. *Our deepest condolences.* **Connie MacKay**, Chairman, RMR Personnel, of Utah will fulfill the duties of Chairman of Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl for the remainder of the term.

* **Darla** introduced **Margie Soileau**, currently President of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., as our new RMR Director for 2021-2023. **Margie** will take office in May 2021. Congratulations, **Margie**!

* **Donna Rouch**, Chairman, NGC Award of Excellence, reported that the annual NGC Convention will be conducted via Zoom on May 18 and 19, 2021.

* **Jackie Watts**, Editor, *KS Gardener*, reported on details for accommodations for the RMR Annual Meeting on August 27-28, 2021, which will be hosted by the Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc. The prices which were established in 2020 will remain the same. **Jackie** will let us know more about side trips and the photo contest at a later date.

AWARDS DEADLINE MAY 15

Because we have moved our Annual Meeting to September 10-11, 2021 the awards deadline has been moved to May 15. We realize due to COVID not much has been done with club work, but maybe a few of you can get something done and apply for awards by May 15.

Please send Books of Evidence/Awards (BOE) as soon as they are ready. **IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO WAIT UNTIL MAY 15, 2021.** SEND BOEs to:

Myrna F. McCollum - State Awards Chairperson
4413 Central Avenue, Great Falls, MT 59405
Phone # (406) 452-1431.

E-mail address: mccollum@bresnan.net

AWARD JUDGES NOTE THAT JUDGING WILL BE DONE ON FROM MAY 17 TO 21, 2021. MEETINGS WILL BE HELD at the CASCADE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE at 9:30 am.

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

Remember there are three special awards for your consideration. They are: (A-17) GARDENER OF THE YEAR AWARD, (B-7) STATE CHAIRMAN LEADERSHIP AWARD and (B-8) CIRCLE OF GREEN THUMB AWARD. **A Circle of Green Thumb Award should submitted by EVERY CLUB in our federation! Note that Categories C and D have raised prize money to \$25.00.** Contact me if you have any questions. **Let's get YEAR 2021 off and rolling!**

MYRNA MCCOLLUM

MFGC State Awards Chairman

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The MFGC nominating committee composed of: Jodie Haidle, Mary Ann Carey, Susan Andrews, Mary Davis, Carol Works, Gary Clark, Jeannie Bennett and Joyce Hendricks is pleased to announce the following as candidates for 2021-2023:

First Vice President: Diane Ward, Whitehall Garden Club

Second Vice President: Jeannie Bennett, Great Falls Flower Growers Garden Club

Recording Secretary: Shelly Roseburg, Rainbow Garden Club of Great Falls

Treasurer: Glenna Waltee: Whitehall Garden Club



Diane Ward



Jeannie Bennett



Shelly Roseburg



Glenna Waltee



Mary Warshauer, In-Coming President of National Garden Clubs, Inc. to be installed in May

Mary Warshauer, President of National Garden Clubs, Inc., is a lifelong gardening and floral design enthusiast who is dedicated to promoting initiatives focusing on civic and environmental education. Through her volunteerism at NGC, Mary aspires to spread awareness throughout schools, groups, clubs, and communities regarding the need to educate future gardeners and help the next generation with tools to develop creative ways to sustain our world.

Born in Patuxent River, Maryland to a military family, Mary quickly learned to adapt to new communities, cultures, and climates. As a perpetual “new kid in school,” local organizations became a bedrock of support, instilling in Mary a deep understanding of community service-oriented projects and the impacts they can have.

This passion led Mary to join the Garden Club of Fair Haven, NJ in 1987, where she participated in many community projects including earning her flower show judge accreditation. Mary has served garden club at the district, state and regional levels becoming President of the Garden Club of New Jersey, Inc., from 2009 to 2011 and Central Atlantic Regional Director in 2013-2015. Joining the NGC Board of Directors in 2007 as Water Quality & Conservation Chair, Mary has held a variety of positions, including Blue Star Memorial Highway Chair, and culminating in her most recent position as First Vice President.

When not volunteering for NGC, Mary has served on the Rutgers Gardens Advisory Board and been a member of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society and the American Horticulture Society. Among the local philanthropic organizations, she supports are Children's Psychiatric Center Mental Health Services, Visiting Nurses Association and Clean Ocean Action.

Mary holds a Bachelor of Science in Child Development Elementary Education from Florida State University. Mary and her husband, Jim, have three adult children and currently reside in Rumson, New Jersey.

Companion Gardening by Glenna Waltee



Companion gardening or sometimes called **companion planting** means putting plants together in the garden that like each other, or help each other out. Companion planting can have a real impact on the health and yield of your plants. There are numerous Websites on the internet offering information on the benefits of companion planting and how planting specific vegetable plants with other plants create an ideal environment for successful vegetable plant growth. In fact, many Websites include a table of favorable companion plant combinations as well as which vegetable plants shouldn't be planted with each other. There is also a table of which plants work best with each other to ward off garden pests and discourage them from invading your vegetable garden. **All this can be accomplished through companion gardening:**

- **Reduce Pest Damage and Pesticides**
- **Attracting Beneficial Garden Pests**
- **Provide Nutrients to other plants**

Whether we like it or not, vegetable pests come with the territory when gardening. To reduce the use of pesticides as a last resort, many vegetable gardeners use a variety of companion gardening techniques. Here are a couple of suggestions: **Planting Marigolds near your vegetables.** They have distinctive odor due to a chemical that comes from their roots and flowers that discourage garden pests (*especially grasshoppers, right Dorie?*) Marigolds in your vegetable garden don't need a lot of attention and will hold up quite well during the hottest temperature. **Sweet Basil, when grown among vegetables,** repels mites, aphids, and mosquitoes. Basil also acts as a fungicide and can slow the growth of milkweed bugs.

There is another method of garden pest control where you plant crops such as collards or radish near your vegetables to **ATTRACT** garden pests. **They are called trap crops.** A couple of examples are: nasturtiums and radishes which work well to attract aphids, flea beetles and other plant pests, and eggplant works well for potato bugs. When a trap crop plant is heavily infested with garden pests, pull out the plant and throw it away. Make sure you have planted enough trap crops for future invading garden pests. Thyme, mint, or rosemary are excellent choices to attract beneficial insects. If you devote a section of your vegetable garden to perennial flowers, try growing aster, black-eyed Susan, liatris, and coneflower. Certain cover crops concentrate specific nutrients in their tissues and release their nutrients in the soil. Potassium levels can be increased significantly by selecting cover crops such as grain, rye and buckwheat. Plants in the legume family convert nitrogen from the air in their roots and as they decompose they release stored nitrogen which increases soil fertility.

Companion gardening may seem like an awful lot of work and somewhat complicated in practice, but don't get discouraged. Don't try to do too much at one time. As with any type of gardening, your learning curve will increase through trial and error. Do keep notes to remind you what you have done and how it worked out. With **Rotation gardening** (see article on page 16) and **Companion planting**, you are now ready to expand your knowledge in coming years and have a productive, healthy vegetable garden.

Meet the Leaders in the Rocky Mountain Region Serving on the National Garden Clubs 2021-2023 Executive Committee



Donna Rouch

2nd Vice President



Donna was raised on a farm in eastern Nebraska where she learned about life and responsibility. Her family raised a large vegetable garden with a huge potato patch and orchard. As a small child, her first gardening chore was to pick potato bugs off potato leaves. She attended a one-room country school from first to eighth grade with a total enrollment of ten students. From that small school, she attended Omaha South High School, the largest high school in Nebraska. Quite a culture shock for a country girl!

Donna has served as club and Nebraska State President, District Director and Region Awards Chair. For NGC, she has chaired the Membership and Website Search Committees and served on the Nominating and Communications-Non-Print Committees. Donna has completed Landscape Design, Gardening and Flower Show Schools and is currently enrolled in Environmental School.



Phyllis White

Historian



Montana's former state president has served on the NGC Board of Directors for more than ten years, beginning as the NGC Fall Board registrar for the national meeting in Great Falls. Since then Phyllis was the editor of Keeping In Touch for six years, served on the Nominating and Website Search Committees, chaired the NGC website development this past term, and coordinates the various media platforms. She will continue as the NGC Media Coordinator as well as serve as Historian. She is also an accredited Flower Show Judge and Montana's parliamentarian.

Phyllis loves growing succulents, bird hunting, hiking, camping, and spending time with her three grandchildren in Bozeman.



Lynette Jeffres

Treasurer



When Lynette became a garden club member in Wyoming nearly 20 years ago, she never dreamed that she would serve three terms as state president or that she'd be serving the organization on the national level. The daughter of farmers/ranchers, she loves all things green and growing.

A graduate of the University of Wyoming with a BS in Agricultural Business with a minor in Farm & Ranch Management, she's turned her agriculture background, knowledge of accounting, and customer service experience into a thriving accounting practice. With the help of fellow officers, she was able to quickly secure the 501(c)3 status for the Rocky Mountain Region.

Her involvement in the community reaches from garden club, to cattlemen, to Fremont County Jr. Livestock Sale Board, and beyond.



Margie Soileau,

**Rocky Mountain
Region Director**



Margie is excited about this volunteer position and is looking forward to visiting and getting to know the garden clubs located in the Rocky Mountain Region. Her goal is to have open communication with all states in the Rocky Mountain Region and invites all garden club presidents to contact her with any issues, problems, or just for a friendly chat. margie@soileau.org.

She and her husband Raphael have lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for 36 years. Margie writes, "I have finally adapted to Xeric gardening. After struggling for many years, I now have perennials, shrubs, and trees but not a bit of grass."

"My last two years as President of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. have been fun, fulfilling, and educational. I now will go forward to increase the knowledge and experiences with the garden clubs of RMR."

The Rocky Mountain Region is proud to have four members serving on the seventeen-member NGC Executive Committee this term. This group meets regularly to guide the nonprofit's policies, provide club support, and institute innovative methods to keep garden clubs in North and South America growing strong. * RMR Leaders are shown with their state flower



It's spring and for gardeners our thoughts turn to seeds, plants and our summer vegetable garden. This article is about the **Rotation Gardening Method** of growing a better, healthier garden. Crop rotation is the practice of growing a series of different types of crops in the same area across a sequence of growing seasons. In other words, the same vegetables should not be planted in the same place year after year. **Why do it?**

1. **It lessens the need for pest control (large groups of the same crop make an easy target for pests);**
2. **You reduce the spread of diseases lurking in the soil;**
3. **It helps to control weeds, diseases and pests by breaking their life cycles;**
4. **It avoids nutrient depletion in the soil since different vegetables extract different nutrients from the soil (such as beans and peas that fix nitrogen in the soil).**

Divide your crops up in groups by family. Even if you grow a small vegetable garden, it's smart to arrange your crops to avoid pests and problems. "Family groups like Fruits, Leafy, Roots and Legume; plants that favor the same growing conditions. Fruit Family plants are heavy feeders, so add compost to the beds and feed with nitrogen-rich fertilizer in summer. Leafy group are easy going plants that add nitrogen to the soil. The Root Family group are also heavy feeders, but more balanced needs than the fruit plants. The Legume plants don't like too rich of a soil so avoid fertilizing." This is the secret of rotation gardening: get the requirements right at the beginning and you will have a successful vegetable garden

Divide your garden into quarters. For the average gardener, that is the easiest way to organize a crop rotation. Assuming that you grow the same vegetables every season and that all members of a vegetable family fit into one quarter, this system is perfect. Every year the plants grown in each given area are changed, so that each group (with its own requirements, habits, pests and diseases) can have the advantage of new ground. Most crop rotation schemes tend to run for at least three or four years, as this is the number of years it takes for most soil-borne pests and diseases to decline to harmless levels. If your beds are divided into four groups, this means that members of each plant family won't occupy the same spot more than once in a four-year period. *(There are exceptions; for example, mint spreads easily and it's often best contained to one bed or container.)* Perennial vegetables such as soft fruit, rhubarb, asparagus and globe artichoke aren't replanted each year, so they may need their own dedicated bed. We also do not want to use the same bed for the same crop next season because the soil becomes so impoverished that artificial fertilizers are needed. And soil subjected to the same mechanical processes year after year will inevitably become compacted. You may see a drop in plant health and productivity if crops are grown in the same spot for many years.

Keep plant appetites in mind: Corn is a heavy feeder and does best growing where nitrogen-fixing peas or beans have grown. A combination of good soil and a healthy environment is the key to a good garden. If you nurture your soil and the microorganisms in it, your plants will be healthy and productive. Adding lots of organic matter rather than applying chemical fertilizers will create a soil that's able to nourish your tomatoes, even if they grow in last year's pepper patch. Plants need 13 minerals from the soil, and a bag of 10-10-10 provides only three of them. Do your best, add lots of compost *(I cannot say this too often)*, and you will be rewarded.

The main reasons to rotate crops:

For Disease Prevention: Crop rotation prevents the spread of plant disease.

For Insect Control: Crop rotation also helps reduce insect infestations.

For Nutrient Balance: Different families of plants require different nutrients.



WHAT DO BEES DO IN THE WINTER?

So what happens to honey bees in the winter? Bees pretty much disappear from the flowers and our minds as well, not to be thought of until pollen and flowers are abundant again. The easiest way to describe what happens to bees is that they hibernate. They don't hibernate like a grizzly bear does, but they do hunker down. By the time winter is here, the population of bees in every hive has dropped significantly. The main reason for the drop in population is it takes too much honey to feed lots of bees when it's too cold to fly and nothing is blooming. Less mouths to feed means the honey already made by the bees can last longer. Before and during winter, certain bees are responsible for carrying dead bees out of the hive. That is why you can typically see the dead bees littered outside the entrance.

Turns out, honey bees don't make all their honey for us to eat. They make it to eat during winter when nothing is blooming. **During the winter, bees don't leave the hive unless the temperature is around 50° or warmer.** If you do need to feed bees during the winter or want to add a little extra food as insurance against starving, the best option is to buy products on the market that include protein in them for winter feeding. What you want is simply a sugar without any water in it and possibly a supplement added to it to make it more appealing to your bees.

Pictured (left) Don Roseburg feeds his bees a commercial sugar pack

UNDER MONTANA'S BIG SKY

WHITEHALL GARDEN CLUB

Spring is almost here and Whitehall Club Members are getting anxious to get outside. The Whitehall Garden Club has been having their monthly meetings using ZOOM. Participation has increased every month! Many activities/tours have been planned to get everyone outside. We are planning an Arbor Day celebration on Friday, April 30th in our Legion Park from noon to 5 pm. The Town of Whitehall will raise our 28 Tree City USA flags along Legion Street to celebrate our 28th year as a Tree City USA. Mayor Mary Hensleigh will welcome the attendees and read a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day, its history and its future. To recognize this honor, the Club will distribute 28 free small trees to the first 28 attendees. There will be Quaking Aspen, Limber Pine and Honeylocust trees available. A variety of tree and plant-related information tables and vendors will be on hand to answer any questions people may have. In addition to these organizations, there will be a specific area for children to enter a coloring contest with prizes being given. For everyone, there will be a tree limb identification table and a tree trivia table. A walking tour of Whitehall will be given pointing out the oldest, the largest and unique trees growing in Whitehall. The tour will end at the Native Plant Garden at Silver Tower Park where a native tree will be planted. The Club is encouraging members and the public to support the National Garden Club's program of "Each One-Plant One". The club will be selling container planted trees for \$10 and giving clear instructions to the buyers on how to plant, care for, and how to record the planting of the trees they purchased. **HAPPY ARBOR DAY EVERYONE!**

Creating Light in a Dark Year

ANACONDA GARDEN CLUB

COVID-19 made for a dark and frustrating year. But the Anaconda Garden Club nevertheless twice transformed straw into gold. For years, every winter holiday season the club would decorate the city's historic street lampposts (*one of the first fully electrified city-wide lampposts in the nation*) with evergreen boughs and red ribbons. But that meant getting permission to cut forest evergreens every year, and the wind would sometimes damage the decorations. In 2019 two garden club members, Wini Stokke and Karla Valentini, hatched an idea of wrapping the lampposts with lighted garland and huge high-quality maintenance free red ribbon. That year 18 lampposts along Commercial Street and eight on the Courthouse grounds were decorated with quality artificial garland and ribbons. The local government was so impressed that it also added strings of lights in both its iconic Courthouse and Public Library. It was quickly seen by others that the vision of creating a highly visible improvement at relatively low cost should be expanded. In 2020 the local government procured \$20,000 and the garden club received a \$4,500 grant to decorate more lampposts. Thus 104 more lampposts were decorated, exceeding the 2020 goal of 60 lighted garland along Main Street. Originally, in 2019 about 15 garden club members and about 8 other volunteers assembled, hung, and took down the decorations. So much good will was generated in 2019 that in 2020 over 45 volunteers eagerly contributed to the effort with over 40 others who delivered materials, provided logistical support, and rewired the lampposts with different voltage wire. Even a new warehouse was constructed in part to correctly store all the garland, extra lights, and ribbons. Literally, a cheerless year ended with a very visible symbol of hope and happiness. The successful lighting project is now envisioned to be a five year project that will expand for another three years.

The Anaconda Garden Club for the first time since 1962 has had an annual Christmas Holiday Show, one of two major fundraisers. The other fundraiser is the Spring Plant Sale. With the pandemic we were not able to have the Holiday Show. Some members suggested having a raffle and the rest of the club agreed. The raffle committee then decided to print 500 tickets selling for \$10 each. Prizes were donated by garden club members and some community members, with the club paying for a meat variety package worth over \$400 retail. The club president thought maybe \$1,200 would be raised, though the committee was much more optimistic. In the end all the tickets were sold, with people not able to find tickets, contributing an additional \$160 toward the effort. It was the most successful fundraiser the club had in its 60 year history! The Anaconda Garden Club president who is from Butte noted, "*Only in our small town, with one third the population of Butte and such tight community cooperation, could two amazingly successful projects be completed resulting in a remarkable year.*"



Some of the 60 decorated lampposts along Anaconda's Main Street looking toward the County Courthouse whose windows were outlined in holiday lights.

UNDER MONTANA'S BIG SKY

Stevensville Garden Club Loses Honorary Member

Jo Ann Notti, a long-time member of the Stevensville Garden Club, passed away peacefully at the age of 86 on October 20, 2020. She was born November 3, 1933 in St Regis, Montana.

She served as President of the Garden Club from 1999 thru 2001. Jo Ann also chaired the committee that developed the plans for and installation of the Blue Star Memorial in Veterans Park, Stevensville. Then, as Chairwoman she served as Master of Ceremonies for the dedication.

Jo Ann was very active, creative and adventurous. Those who knew her best nicknamed her the "Energizer Bunny" as she was always busy gardening, crafting or stitching. Not only was she active in her local gardening club but also at the state level, in the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs. She never missed helping at annual conventions. When she wasn't gardening, she was quilting. Several of our members talked about her teaching them to quilt.

Jo Ann Notti was a real asset to our club and we will really miss her.

Dearborn Garden Club Keeps Active in the Face of COVID

Small groups of ladies got together and managed to get a lot of our usual activities completed. A group of about six or seven women got together in the church basement and sewed Christmas stocking and gathered children's blankets for the Receiving home. Fifty stockings were completed and items for stuffing them were also collected. Although we planned on delivering cookies to the residents of quiet day manor we were unable to complete that endeavor.

The first of December Carol Brady and five members of the club refreshed the Christmas wreathes and placed them in our barrels around the community.



Carol Brady, Marsha Clark, Robin Williams, Claire Howell, Doretta Clevenger and Marian Rau

In mid-December, the stockings were ready to be stuffed with all the goodies that had been collected. Again, in Carol Brady's garage a small group of members got together to stuff the stockings.

Rainbow Garden Club Gets Plant America Grant for Sensory Garden

In January RGC received a \$1,000 grant from NGC's Plant America for the Club's Sensory Garden project at the Kids Garden in Great Falls. In early March club members measured the sensory garden area in the Kid's Garden on Great Falls Westside and documented existing trees and shrubs and waterlines. They also were given the entire area at the entrance gate to landscape for the Kid's Garden. Club members will start planning work sessions throughout the spring since there are no children's groups planting due to COVID restrictions still in place. RGC will plant their Arbor Day tree in the Kid's Garden.

Rainbow club members are also busy with their Eagle Mount Garden Therapy project. Eagle Mount asked RGC to outline a plan for a 10 x 30 foot garden plot for their adult clients. The Rainbow will supervise seed planting and transplanting bedding plants. This program will continue with Rainbow showing how to care for the garden; harvest the produce; create a small cookbook with recipes for clients to make a meal from the garden and even help them sell extra produce.



Carol Brady, Doretta Clevenger, Marsha Clark, Claire Howell, and a friend of Carol's

We delivered 28 blankets and a barrel of animal crackers to the Receiving Home and the Rescue Mission. Our club members helped make this a Merry Christmas for many children who received these gifts.

We have also suffered a plethora of sad news. We lost one of our new members, Cheri Berg to COVID 19, and Donna Ahlert had a sever bout of COVID. After many days in the ICU and being intubated Donna has recovered and is home and back to feeling like her old self again.

From the Treasurer's Pen

NEW MFGC MEMBERS

Thumb-R-Green Garden Club is the only club that has brought in new members this winter: Rayanne Schuler, who is also a Level 2 Master Gardener and Debbie Wicks.

MEMORIALS

Endowment Fund

\$20 Doris Richard - from Sherry Corneliusen
\$20 Emily Billmeyer - from Sherry Corneliusen
\$20 JoAnn Notti
from the Stevensville Garden Club

BIG SKY STARS

\$10 In honor of Rainbow Garden Club's Lucille Johnson's 100th Birthday on April 30, 2021 – From Rainbow GC

\$20 In Honor of Lucille Johnson's 100th Birthday.
Happy Birthday from Gary & Patty Schlaeger

PENNY PINES

Stevensville GC - Bitterroot National Forest, \$68, in memory of JoAnne Notti

Rainbow GC – January \$68 and March \$68

Miles City GC - \$68

AWARDS

New Awards Sponsor A-7

President's Membership Award, Glendive Garden Club
There are several of the awards that still need sponsors: A-5 II, District Newsletter; A-8 II, Wildflowers/Native Plants; A-10, Living Legacy. *Won't your club consider sponsoring one of these worthwhile awards?*

Amazon Smile brought in \$34.85 from members
Holiday shopping. Good job members!

REMINDERS

*Endowment Interest Grant applications due by June 1st
Instructions and Form on mtfgc.org.

*There are still **Quilt Raffle Tickets** available. Ask your President for any remaining tickets your club has or just send me a text and I'll get you some.

* State dues are due by June 1st!

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO LUCILLE JOHNSON



On April 30, 2021 MFGC will be celebrating a very special birthday for our 2013-14 Garden Club Member of the Year, **Lucille Johnson**. **Lucille** is a member of the Rainbow Garden Club and has served eight terms as club president. There will be a public celebration of her birthday at the Elks Lodge in Great Falls from 1 – 3:00 pm on Friday, April 30. All Garden club members are invited to celebrate with **Lucille**. *A very happy birthday, Lucille and many more!*

WRAPPING IT UP



It's springtime in Montana, finally! But that means that you still have to keep your winter jackets and snow boots close at hand! Winter was a little cruel this year, popping in and out of the state. Just when we were getting used to wearing a light jacket and normal shoes, winter came back with vengeance!

I appreciated the snow since we were starting to get into a drought pattern. But, I found no humor with sub-zero temps in March! As this magazine goes to press we are expecting a new line of snow storms in the state to bring us much needed moisture. The deer, turkeys and geese are complaining about the winter wheat not coming up very high this spring.

Over the Easter Holiday we left home because we lost our heat exchanger in the ranch house. Three weeks without any heat or hot water! My plants enjoyed the cool temps in the house and thrived while we were gone. We told everyone we had to go to Phoenix to take a shower! Arizona is beautiful in the spring and I had a wonderful time taking pictures of the desert in full bloom. Other than the golf courses and gated communities with lots of green grass, there is a full color pallet everywhere as plants that normally are gray or brown now are blossoming.

This issue of Montana Gardens is filled with lots of information. Please read and pass it on!

PATTY SCHLAAGER, EDITOR

ARE YOU ZOOMING?

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 her email address: 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.



MONTANA Gardens

Diane Ward – Circulation Manager
P.O. Box 444
Whitehall, Montana 59759-0444

ID CHART FOR MONTANA BUTTERFLIES



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



Mourning Cloak



Red-spotted Purple



Viceroy



Monarch



Red Admiral



American Copper



Gray Hairstreak



Spring Azure



Summer Azure



Silvery Blue



Cabbage White



Checkered White



Clouded Sulphur



Orange Sulphur



Mormon Metalmark



Black Swallowtail



Canadian Tiger Swallowtail



Arctic Skipper



Grizzled Skipper



Silver-spotted Skipper

WOODSY OWL POSTERS

The winners of the Woodsy Owl Posters this year are all from Malta. COVID restrictions made it impossible for some of the other Junior Garden Clubs to meet to draw their posters. *Our congratulations go out to the winning posters featured below!*

JENNIFER STRZELCZYK, Chairman
Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl



2nd grade
Hennessey Williamson



3rd grade
Riya Salvesson



4th grade
Titus Wiederrick



5th grade
Klohie Zieger

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 15 – Awards Deadline

June 15 – Eric Bergeson public presentation in Glendive, 7 pm, Moose Club - pre-District Meeting kick off. Everyone is invited.

June 16 - Eastern Gateway meeting in Glendive

June 17 - Hi-Line in Malta

June 18 – Yellowstone in Billings

The following week:

June 23 - Northern District in Chester

June 24 - Central District in Great Falls

June 25 - Western District in Missoula

June 26 - Southwest and Lewis and Clark Districts in Whitehall

Times and meeting locations are listed inside on page 12. Please mark these dates to your calendar.

Other Meeting Dates

August 27-28 – RMR meeting, Kansas

September 10-11, 2021
MFGC Annual meeting
Great Falls.

September 17-18 – Landscape Design School, Whitehall

September 24-25 - NGC Fall Board, St Louis, Missouri