

MONTANA *Gardens*



President Jim Sadler invites MFGC members to Missoula for the 85th Annual Meeting. Some of the sites on tour to enjoy are above clockwise: The Reinhardt Peony Garden at the U of M; A featured peony at the Peony Garden; The Missoula Iris Society Garden at Fort Missoula; One of hundreds of spectacular Iris to be seen; The Champagne Reception Tea House at the Sadlers; and blossoms from Jim's cherry tree.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim Sadler, MFGC President



We have several issues to talk about at the Convention. The one that is paramount as it is being mandated by National Garden Clubs (NGC) is the permission or consent agreement by individuals to have their pictures used by in their publications, website and Facebook page. At the National Convention, the following is being posted at the registration desk:

By entering and by your presence at PLANT AMERICA, Play Outdoors, you consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded. Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, and/or recording and to any use, in any and all media worldwide for all time, of your appearance, voice, or name for publicity, advertising, informational, educational, or promotional purposes by National Garden Clubs, Inc. or its members or affiliates. You understand that all photography, filming, and/or recording will be done in reliance on this consent given by you by entering this area. If you do not agree to the foregoing, please do not enter this area.

At a recent executive board meeting, the officers discussed the issue and have asked that our organization adopt a "consent to be photographed" procedure.

I propose that each club maintain a list of each club member who has given their consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded. Each year when the club treasurer sends in the membership list the club treasurer would certify that all of the club members had consented. If a member does not consent, that member's image can never be used in any way. A

consent form will be developed and posted on our web site. In this way, if for any reason the NGC, RMR or the MFGC requires a copy of the consent form, the club would submit the form.

In our upcoming convention "**Missoula in Bloom**" a statement is included in the brochure allowing the use of photographs of persons attending the convention. It will take a little time for us to work out the various issues with the new procedure. I am confident we will be able to meet the requirements of NGC.

Each new state president has a fund raiser to help defray the expenses of travel and conventions. I have chosen to do a raffle for my fund raiser. Jeannie Bennett will be selling raffle tickets at each of the District Meetings and at the Convention. The tickets will be for \$5.00 each, if you pay \$10 you get 3 tickets. If you pay \$20.00 you get 8 tickets. There will be 5 winners. Grand Prize will be a two-night stay for two guests at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls to be used within a year. Four other prizes will be gift certificates from mail order nurseries in the face amounts of \$100.00 each. Thus, if you purchase \$20.00 for 8 tickets, you will have 8 chances to win one or all of these fantastic prizes. Winners will be announced at the convention. You will not have to be present to win.

We are going to have a fabulous and fun packed convention. Each club is asked to help fund the convention by bringing silent auction items to sell. We are not doing the baskets this year. I am looking forward to seeing you at "**Missoula in Bloom**" June 10 and 11 at the Holiday Inn, Missoula, Montana.

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MONTANA Gardens

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www.MTFGC.org

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

DEADLINE / ISSUE

July 1, 2022 – Summer/Fall 2022
November 1, 2022 – Winter 2022-23
March 1, 2023 – Spring 2023

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (MFGC) is a non-profit organization with a Federal 501(c)(3) status. All monetary contributions are tax deductible.

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MEMBERSHIP – Liz Smith, Chairman

"I WILL NOT FOLLOW WHERE THE PATH MAY LEAD, BUT I WILL GO WHERE THERE IS NO PATH, AND LEAD A TRAIL"

Be the one to Invite --- Include --- Involve!

We need to invite members to participate in club activities so they feel included. We need to include them so they feel involved. Being proactive keeps club memberships alive.

Ask. Ask again. And again --- and did you ask?

Everyone has many things they are good at, so help them find and utilize the many talents that are they have and are proud to share with your club.

Thank your members. Make sure and thank them!

Appreciation is needed by everyone. Host seasonal events, meet and greets, fall hayrides, hot cocoa parties, spring nature walks and summer ice cream socials. Meet at a park with signs telling who you are, hang balloons --- ***attract attention***. Have guest speakers, have a booth or table with club information at craft sales, farmers markets, sidewalk sales and bake sales. These are just a few places to make your club obvious . ***Be Loud! Be Proud!*** Take some of these ideas and have fun, be creative, and ***enjoy new members!***

JUDGES COUNCIL

As we enter the show season, we look forward to all of our MFGC accredited judges finding many opportunities to judge shows this year. One of our Judges Council goals is to have more judges traveling across the state to become more familiar with plant growing conditions and the different varieties of plants that can be grown in various Montana regions.

Another bonus is getting to know the many wonderful garden club members throughout the state! All judges are listed in the MFGC Directory online, but be sure to promote yourself to all the clubs in your district as well as those nearby districts.

We have been gathering information from various sources to create the schedules for the 2022 MFGC Convention's Peony and Iris Show here in Missoula. The theme is ***"Missoula in Bloom"*** and the flower show schedule will soon be available on the MFGC website. Our show will be attracting some nationally acclaimed Peony and Iris growers. Jim and Lore Sampson are peony growers coming here from Oregon. They own and operate Rarity Peony Gardens on the northern slopes of Mt. Hood and will be conducting programs to educate us about growing and showing peonies. Lore is a national peony judge who conducts seminars all over the country. Jim and Carol Adelman, who own Adelman Peony Gardens in Salem, Oregon, are national peony growers and hybridizers who will also be attending. They too will be available to provide expert information on peonies. For more information visit the websites of: Rarity Gardens - www.raritygardens.com and the Jim and Carol Adelman - www.peonyparadise.com to look over their spring catalogs this year.

Judges' Council Co-Chairs,
Ely Darling and Gary Clark



Betty Ann Gustafson is heading up the iris part of ***"Missoula in Bloom."*** Betty Ann and her husband Swede have been growing iris for more than 40 years. Betty Ann will be more than happy to visit with you about iris. The iris show schedule will also be available on the MFGC website. Betty Ann says there will be both pedestal and miniature (or small) categories for iris. There will be information online at the MFGC website to help you prepare peonies and iris for ***"Missoula in Bloom."*** This will include preparation for both horticulture and design and will be on the website in April. (Pictured below are peony and iris floral designs by Jim Sadler)



This and That

Diane Ward, First Vice President

What word begins with S and rhymes with ring? That's right – SPRING!

Like a lot of you, I have been getting seed and flower catalogs in the mail. I sit by the wood stove and flip through the pages, anticipating what new varieties of plants to put in my containers and along the borders of my flowerbeds. The days are getting longer and warmer. I begin to layout my plans for the vegetable garden. Too often I want to plant more than I can manage! The catalog pictures are so tempting and the produce looks so inviting, I want a little of everything! But I step back and think to myself, are you really ready to do this? Seems the older I get, I keep doing the things I did when I was 5, 10 or even 15 years younger. What I actually need to do, like many folks as they “age”, is to downsize my gardens. My knees and back just aren't what they used to be! To start this new plan, I will begin with the vegetable garden. Instead of 12 rows, I need to maybe plant 6-8 rows. I will select the crops I enjoy the most and increase their numbers. Spinach is a favorite in my house and is easily grown. Other favorites are beans, peas and squash! All of these are wonderful. I can't leave out sweet corn and potatoes. Wow, it looks like I'm having a hard time downsizing!!!

Let's move on to the flowerbeds. I love texture and color. This is where I have a hard time downsizing. My plan is to plant more perennials and add colorful annuals to fill in the gaps. (*Boy, this sounds like I'm creating more work but I think the end result will be worth it*). Containers are great ways to put color and texture in places that need help. They can accentuate an entrance or doorway, a patio or deck.



My dreaming is getting out of hand! These ideas will not get done in one season. What I think I will do is concentrate on one thing and next year do another. Have to remember that I'm not a spring chicken anymore!

***Happy Dreaming, Planting
and HAPPY SPRING!***

SAVE THE DATE

**Flower Show Judges Symposium
September 13-14, 2022
Holiday Inn, Great Falls, MT**

CREATING A POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDEN

Pollinators play a hugely important role in all our lives. The experts say that if the bees all die, we will survive only a few years because of lack of food. Why the lack of food? There will not be enough pollinators left to pollinate our grains, grasses, vegetables, fruits, you name it. So, what can you do to help?

First and foremost, QUIT APPLYING CHEMICALS!!!

Our land has been subjected to insecticides, pesticides and even over-applied fertilizer for far too long. As soon as you have relegated the chemicals to the “can't ever dispose of these because they are a bio-hazard” shelf, try replacing your lawn with a vegetable garden, a small orchard, small fruits, perennials that are native to your area, and annuals to fill in the spaces until everything grows to its full size. I guarantee you will have more birds to help control the insects.

One of the first insects I see in early spring are bumblebees. It's hard not to notice something so big and noisy and it's a sure sign of spring. It most likely is a queen looking for nutrients and a place to lay her eggs to replenish her colony. To help the pollinators do their job, plant a diversity of bloom to last through the growing season. ***Here are some examples:***

April – May: lupine, penstemon, plum, serviceberry, wild geranium and willow

June – July: bee balm, blanket flower, blue flax, rose, zinnia

July – August: liatris, mint, basil, rudbeckia, hollyhock

September – October: aster, goldenrod, rabbit brush, cosmos, sedum, mum

Alyssum, creeping phlox, primrose, bleeding heart, snowdrop, anemone, candytuft, lilac, apple and plum trees and chokecherry are just a few early blooming trees, shrubs and perennials.

Plant in large clumps. This will attract the insects better than single flowers scattered around the garden. Various bloom heights are recommended. Besides making your garden more interesting, this will accommodate insects that prefer short flowers. Leave an area of your yard “wild”. I have a half-dead willow tree behind my garden shed at the edge of my garden. It creates a multitude of habitats for insects and for birds.

Every living being needs water. Insects need a shallow basin of water available to them. A shallow dish with small rocks, half full of water is perfect. The small rocks allow them a place to land while they drink. Be sure it always has water.

Besides bees, other pollinators include butterflies, moths, bats and hummingbirds. Their needs are the same as bees.

Kathy Waters

Butterflies and Pollinator Chairman



(pictured above) **Kathy Waters** creates an oasis for pollinators in her yard with many annuals and perennials.

Landscape Design School

October 21-22, 2022

Landscape Design School, Course 3 is to be held in Glendive, MT, October 21-22, 2022, at the Church of Christ, located at the corner of Sargent and Grant. Trestin Benson-Feagler, Dawson County Extension Agent will be our instructor and is asking our local landscaper to help out. We will be sending more information as time gets closer. **For additional information contact Sherry Corneliusen at sher@middrivers.com.**



Gratifications of Garden Therapy

Julie Dulaney, Garden Therapy Chair

Garden or horticultural therapy involves the practice of growing and caring for plants specifically for therapeutic reasons. There are many time-tested benefits for anyone who participates in horticultural therapy programs. Studies show that gardening increases an individual's life satisfaction, vigor, psychological well being, positive effects, sense of community, and cognitive function. Additionally, reductions in stress and anxiety symptoms have also been documented. ***I have found many benefits of garden therapy include:***

Benefits for Your Brain

Pursuit of curiosity

Sensory and perception stimuli

Greater sense of self-worth

Physical activity is a stress release

An outlet for creativity

Basic motor skills are developed

Developing new skills

Improved observational skills

Benefits for Your Mental Health

More confidence

Promoting a sense of interest in the future

Benefits for Your Body

Time outdoors promotes overall well-being

These benefits come to anyone participating in gardening. I serve on the board of our local Kid's Garden and can personally attest to the gratification I get when I watch the harmony of children and adults as they are gardening. Most all MFGC member clubs have a garden therapy chair. If you don't already have an existing program, garden therapy can become a wonderful new project for your club. Many clubs throughout Montana reap the rewards of working in a garden environment with special needs adults and children, assisted living and senior homes and as well as junior gardeners and after school programs. Our MFGC president's theme is ***"Building Community Through Gardening."*** There is no better way to carry out his theme than to get involved in a gardening therapy program!



Pictured above left: Julie Dulaney plants spikes along a caterpillar crawl feature at her club's Sensory Garden Project. Pictured above right: A junior gardener learns how to plant ornamental vegetables at Eagle Mount.

A NIGHT OF FUN - LIFE MEMBERS DINNER!

“When I was ... (your occupation)!”

Calling all Life Members and Convention Attendees! We're looking forward to having a great time as the Life Members get together again for a night of fun at the Montana Federation's annual convention. Our *“costume theme”* for the evening is, *“When I was....”* We encourage you to dress up in an outfit you wore when you went to work (*or still wear if you're not retired*). Scrubs, bib overalls, suits are some suggestions...or come as you are. Costumed participants will have a jump on becoming our game show contestants! **Yes, we're back to having a FUN evening!**

We have many Life Members in Montana who do not hold regular Life Member's meetings, so this is the one time during the year when we all gather to have some fun while we conduct the business of awarding our scholarship to a worthy Montana student. You don't have to be a Life Member to attend our dinner, but when you see the fun we have, you will want to join us. The cost to become a Life Member is a one-time only fee of \$25. In addition to memorial funds and donations, we raise money through our Life Member's Rose pin sales. Each \$50 contribution goes to our scholarship fund and the donor gets a rose pin and a certificate during our annual program. We present a traveling “bronze rose” trophy to the club who brings in the most new Life Members.

What are we doing for fun this year? Well, “Come on Down! You're the next contestant on the **“Price is Wrong!”** and you may also get a chance to play **“Let's Not Make a Deal!”** Although we're “fracturing” the structure of these familiar game shows, we have lots of prizes and money to give out during our game shows. The program, hosted by the infamous “Pru Darey,” will have you cheering on the contestants as they try to guess the correct price to win great prizes! The hosts of our second game show will keep you in stitches as they try to get contestants **not** to make a deal for money and prizes! **We look forward to seeing you all on Friday night, June 10 in Missoula!**

PATRICIA SCHLAEGER, MONTANA LIFE MEMBERS CHAIRMAN

MFGC PRESIDENT'S 2022 FUND RAISER

Jeannie Bennett will be selling raffle tickets at each of the District Meetings and at the Convention. The tickets are the following amounts: \$5.00 each; \$10 will give you 3 tickets and 20.00 you give you 8 tickets. There will be 5 winners. The Grand Prize will be a two-night stay for two guests at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls to be used within a year. Four other prizes will be gift certificates from mail order nurseries in the face amounts of \$100.00 each. Thus, if you spend \$20.00 for eight tickets, you will have eight chances to win one or all of these fantastic prizes. Winners will be announced at the convention. You will not have to be present at the convention to win.



DELEGATE INFORMATION FOR REGISTRATION

All MFGC 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 forms will need to be sent to the MFGC Corresponding Secretary, Pam Diamond at diamond27@live.com.**

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**



PLEASE BRING SOME WAYS AND MEANS ITEMS TO THE MISSOULA CONVENTION

We are asking each club to price and bring your items to Missoula for the MFGC's Ways and Means fundraiser at the convention. **Thanks for your help!**



June 10-11, 2022 Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

85th Annual State Membership Convention

Holiday Inn, 200 South Pattee, Missoula, Montana 59802

Call (406) 721-8550 and reserve your Holiday Inn hotel room by May 10, 2022

Ask for "MTG", rate of \$159.00 + tax for a double room (up to 4 adults)

Name: _____ Club: _____

Address: _____ District: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Best Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

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

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



** Indicates member listed as a club delegate on Delegate Registration Form

Registration: Postmarked deadline is May 30, 2022. No routine refunds after May 15, 2022.

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

REGISTRATION – Convention Registration

\$30.00 _____

Late registration additional \$10.00 postmarked after May 30

\$10.00 _____

MEALS/EVENTS - Friday Lecture on Peonies 2:00 – 3:30 PM Atrium

FREE _____

Friday Flower Show Awards Reception 4:00 Atrium

\$15.00 _____

Friday – Life Members Program/Dinner 7:00 PM all Welcome

\$30.00 _____

Saturday Awards Luncheon 11:30 AM

\$24.00 _____

Saturday Bus Tour and Champagne Reception 2:15-5:30 PM

\$22.00 _____

Saturday Elegant Banquet 7:00 PM

\$42.00 _____

(Coffee, tea, iced tea/lemonade and gratuity included in all meal prices)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Meals - Select all that apply _____ Vegetarian _____ Gluten Free _____ Dairy Free Chef will design your meals accordingly

Tell us your needs/allergies _____

Make Registration Checks payable to: Western District, Send to: Pam Diamond, PO Box 53 Lolo, MT 59847

ANNUAL MEETING TENTATIVE AGENDA - FRIDAY JUNE 10

Flower Show Entrance	8:00 AM
Flower Show judging	10:00 AM
Lunch : On Your Own	
Registration convention	2:00 – 5:00 PM
<i>Registration and Meeting Locations to be announced</i>	
Lecture on Peonies	2:00 – 3:30 PM Atrium
Finance Committee	3:30 PM
Flower Show Awards Reception	4:00 PM Atrium
Executive Committee	4:30 PM
Advisory Council	5:15 PM
Judges Council Member Meeting	6:00 PM
Life Members Banquet	7:00 PM

ANNUAL MEETING TENTATIVE AGENDA - SATURDAY JUNE 1

Registration	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM
Convention Meeting	9:00 AM to 12:15 PM
Awards Lunch	12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
Garden Tour and	
Champagne Reception	2:15 PM to 5:30 PM
Elegant Banquet	7:00 PM

By entering the event and by your presence at Missoula In Bloom, you consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded. You consent to use of your image, voice or name for publicity, advertising, informational, educational, or promotional purposes by Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

MFGC AWARDS DUE IN APRIL

Linda Sadler, Awards Chair, requests that, if possible, all awards be printed and turned in at the District Meetings rather than Emailed to reduce the computer and printing burden on her committee judging members. Second Vice President Jeannie Bennett will be collecting all awards at district meetings to save postage for the organization. If you have already mailed your awards, thank you. To be fair awards will be accepted for the whole month of April. Please make sure you enter your club's name or the person's name exactly as it should appear on any award received.

Please submit printed copies of all A, B, C and D Montana State Awards to:

Jeannie Bennett, 2nd Vice President at the April District Meetings, or mail the printed copies to Linda Hill Sadler - State Awards Co-Chairperson

Submit E Flower Show Awards to:

Susan Andrews, 2429 Bridger Hills Drive, Bozeman, MT 59715-7654

Submit MFGC State Award B - Cathy Atkinson Creative Design Award to:

Vicky Barbieri, 504 Howie Road, Big Timber, MT 59011-7835

Submit Photography Award C-10 to:

Donna Dowell, 6045 Meininger Drive, Missoula, MT 59808-3910

Submit your Scrapbooks and Publicity books to Jeannie Bennett at your District Meeting

Books of Evidence require application information on the first page of each form submitted. Any exception will be so noted in the 2021-2023 MFGC Directory. The Directory and Application can be downloaded on the web: at www.mtfgc.org. The Award Information Classes and Application is listed on from pages 30-40. **PLEASE USE ONLY INFORMATION AND FORMS IN THE 2021-2023 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 LEADER-SHIP AWARD and (B-8) CIRCLE OF GREEN THUMB AWARD. **A Circle of Green Thumb Award should be submitted by EVERY CLUB in our federation!**

Let's get those 2021-22 Awards in so we can reward you for all your excellent work and projects!

LINDA SADLER AND COLLEEN HOFFMAN

MFGC State Awards Co-Chairman



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

Just a reminder— RMR has a NEW Website! Thanks to Lynette Jeffries and her sister, Carla Scheer, for volunteering to take on this critical task. I invite everyone to go online to view. To take a look just Google: <https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/> which will bring you to the website. It is still a work in progress, with more information to come. Please remember, I am always available to all club members in the region, and I hope each of you feels comfortable calling on me for assistance.

Don't forget to make plans to attend the 2022 RMR Conference: August 26-27, 2022 Park City, Utah. Take care and have fun putting in your gardens.

Your Friend in Gardening,

Margie Soileau, RMR Director

"Planting in Harmony with Nature"

margie@soileau.org

margie.rmrdirector@gmail.com

MONTANA WILD FLOWER

Fuzzy Tongue Penstemon Eriantherus

Fuzzy Tongue Penstemon is a perennial wildflower that blooms in the spring. It grows in dry rocky soils on plains and foothills. The blooms range from pale lavender to deep violet. It is wide open with lower lobes marked with purplish veins to help attract insects. Its name comes from the stamens which are covered with yellow hairs. It grows from 5-15 inches tall and has hairy leaves.



SUSAN ANDREWS
Wild Flower Chairman

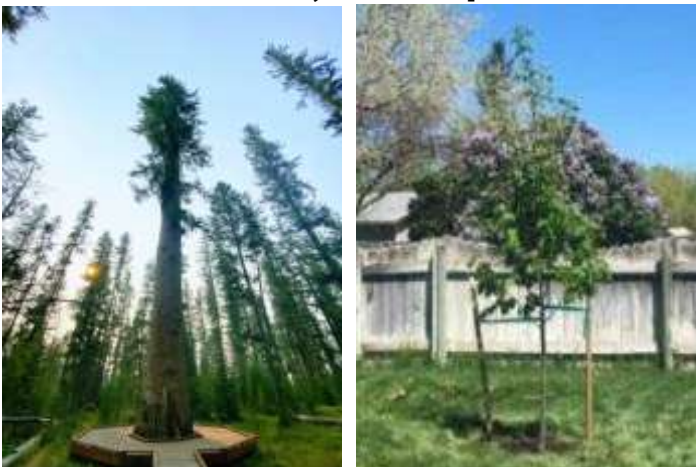
Planting Trees to Combat Climate Change

In the United States, an estimate from the University of Michigan found that 90 percent of indigenous forests have been removed since 1600. Deforestation has increased rapidly in the past 50 years due food production needs and land use changes ¹ It is well known that trees are one of the best plants to remove carbon dioxide from our environment thanks to their large “woody” nature. Studies have determined some trees work better than others. Ancient forests have denser wood and larger canopies which are more effective at absorbing greenhouse gasses. Older trees, like “Gus” the oldest larch in the world located in the Ross Creek Scenic Area near Seeley Lake, can absorb a lot more carbon dioxide over its lifetime than a faster growing pine tree with a shorter lifespan. While conifer forests are effective in reducing emissions, they are also darker than deciduous forests, thus retaining more heat which some scientists feel are less effective.

While the debate on the best trees to combat climate change continues, the results of studies so far support best gardening practices, especially in the area of biodiversity. When selecting the best trees to offset your carbon footprint, consider the right tree for the right location. Conifers make great wind breaks to help reduce soil erosion and retain moisture. While it may be tempting to only plant evergreens for all season interest, deciduous trees also play a vital role in reducing the carbon footprint. Plant deciduous trees on the south or west side to shade your house in the summer and allow the sun to warm it in the winter. Select native trees with a larger canopy that require little maintenance like the American Linden which is also a wonderful pollinator source.

Arbor Day is becoming more important every year as we search for ways to slow down climate change. As gardeners, we can always find a spot in our communities to plant more low maintenance trees and encourage others to do the same. For affordable trees, check with your local Extension office or order in bulk from the Montana Department of Natural Resources Tree Nursery. To get additional tips on reducing your carbon footprint, visit this site and take the survey: <https://climatehero.me>.

Sue Leferink, Xeriscape Chairman



Above left: “Gus” is 163 feet high with a 273-inch circumference and is estimated age to be 1,000 years. Above right: A properly planted tree.

¹ - Source - <https://climate.nasa.gov/news/2927/examining-the-viability-of-planting-trees-to-help-mitigate-climate-change/>.

MONTANA BIRD REPORT

By Nelone Nilsen, Chairman

Spring is on its way! The Starling's bills are turning yellow, the Rosie Finches are turning rosier, and the House Finches are getting redder. The Red-winged Blackbirds are arriving!

Montana has fourteen varieties of Blackbirds. They are: Baltimore Oriole, Bobolink, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Bullock's Oriole, Common Grackle, Eastern Meadowlark, Great-tailed Grackle, Hooded Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Of these, in my area, the Red-winged Blackbirds are the first to arrive and the Meadowlark is the last.

With the climate change (I'm attributing it to that anyway) I now have at least one pair of Tri-colored Blackbirds. Instead of the red and yellow strips they have red and white strips on the wings. These are usually a southern California bird.



Above left, Red-winged Blackbird (Daniel Murphy Photographer) ; Above right Tri-colored Blackbird (Phil Kahler Photographer)

YOUR PENNIES ADD UP FAST!

Keep collecting your pennies and pocket change and when you reach \$68, have your Treasurer send a check with a Penny Pine Form attached to the MFGC Treasurer so we can keep seeding more forests in Montana. **Please keep collecting your change for this great cause!**

Christi Mock, Penny Pines Chairman

(Pictured right) Rainbow Garden Club member, Gary Schlaeger was told by his wife to empty a very heavy wooden barrel filled with his pocket change and to donate the contents to Pennies for Pines. It weighed more than 10 pounds. No way to open it, but he finally found a knot-hole in the side and pried it open. It took him more than three hours to remove all the money with tweezers, shake it out and sort it into piles of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and foreign coins from six countries! The result: \$77.10 turned in to his club's Penny Pine account! \$68 was sent to MFGC with the rest “priming the pot” for future contributions from Rainbow!



MILES CITY GARDEN CLUB

The Miles City Garden Club finished out 2021 with projects, giving back to the community and a party as well. In November Paige Wallace presented a request for help for a Girl Scout project. The Yard of the Year certificate was delivered to Vandi and Marti Buckingham and *The Miles City Star* ran an article on them! All the committees have been busy with projects in the works for the betterment of the community: the Salvations Army's Bell Ringing, a donation to Wreathes Across America for sponsoring a wreath for the Veteran's Cemetery. Anna Brandt and Liz Smith put on a workshop on creating Christmas Floral/greenery decorative baskets. Charlotte Miller did a class on vases filled with seasonal decorations



and lights. The club held a fun Christmas Party and Karsyn March of Miles City was chosen as recipient of the Miles City Garden Club Isabel Myran Scholarship.

The MCGC ladies also helped with the Jaycees Children's Christmas Store at the Sleep Inn with the community donating all of the items. The club will also do the Yard of the Week and hold a membership tea this year.

We are fortunate that Horizon Storage is so community-minded, they have donated a storage shed for our use. In January Miles City Librarian, Lila Freese read Garden themed books to the children at the library. RSVP has contacted our Garden Club to join together in some activities. Eagle Ridge Iris Garden has joined our club as remote members and presented a public workshop on growing iris in February. Our February Meeting had a program by Amanda Melin, on the Resurrection Plant. We were fortunate enough that it opened up once when put in water! An excellent plan was put into place for maintenance of the Blue Star Memorial Garden. Members of the club have taken a "plot" to plant, prune, and weed. The Plotters are going to gather together for a Cleanup Day picnic in the near future. *Spring is coming!*

STEVENSVILLE GARDEN CLUB DELIVERS AMES TOOLS TO STEVENSVILLE HIGH FFA CLASS



Pictured above are photos taken in January when Stevensville Garden Club members, Beverly Geary and Colleen Hoffman, delivered the 13 boxes of Ames Tools to Agricultural Education Instructor Trevor Motley and his Stevensville High School FFA class. The FFA members were so excited to get the tools.

The Stevensville club received the tools from the Ames Companies and the National Garden Clubs 2021 Tool Grant Program. National Garden Club, Inc.'s grant program with The Ames Companies, Inc. began in 2014. Stevensville GC members were happy that the Ames Companies generously agreed to extend its in-kind grant program for 2021. Founded in 1774, AMES is the largest USA manufacturer of non-powered lawn and garden products. Their manufacturing plant located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania produces 85% of the wheelbarrows in the United States and Canada.

Greetings from the Great Falls Flower Growers!

Mother Nature can't seem to decide if she wants to be Winter or Spring here in Great Falls. *One day it is 50 degrees and the next day it is snowing.*

All the members are getting excited about the new projects we have lined up. Cheryl Hagestad and the ladies are designing a garden at the VFW. Kerry Hovland and the members are getting the long bed on the River's Edge Trail, ready for native shrubs, trees, and flowers in 2023. Our annual spring planting at the Veterans Memorial is on hold while they redo the cement walks. But the ladies will be back next year, planting red, white and purple petunias.

Cheryl Hirose and Debbie Schwandt are stepping down from their years of working on the gardens at the Great Falls Public Library and turning the trowel over to a few of our new members. A few of our members took in the very informative talk on soils hosted by River City Harvest featuring speaker Patti Armbrister. Another wonderful talk our members attended was on *Pollinator Conservation in Urban Landscapes*, hosted by the MSU Cascade County Extension featuring speaker Abi Saeed. Most important of all, we want to welcome our six new members! **(pictured right – The beautiful River's Edge Trail in Great Falls)**



FROM THE TREASURER'S PEN

New Life Members:

#934 Penny Zimmerman, Glendive Garden Club,
paid for by the Eastern Gateway District.

Penny Pines:

Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club, \$68,
Gallatin National Forest
Miles City Garden Club \$68, Any Montana National Forest,
In Honor of Miles City Garden Club
Rainbow Garden Club, \$68,
Helena/Lewis & Clark National Forests

New MFGC Members:

Stevensville Garden Club: Donna Shaffer
Anaconda Garden Club: Dana Edmondson, Judy Fogg
Belgrade Garden Club: Sandy (Wm) & Tracy McCartney
Great Falls Flower Growers Garden Club: Mary O'Malley,
Deanna Dean, Lynda Reeve
Miles City Garden Club: Katrina Luther
A New Member-at-Large: Rhonda Simmons, Helena, MT.

**A big thank you to the Miles City Garden
Club for sending their 2022/2023
dues in early!**

New Award Sponsors:

Award A-7, "President's Membership Award"
Jeannie Bennett of the Great Falls Flower Growers
Garden Club

**Award A-8-11, Pictures of Montana wildflowers/native
plants - Gallatin Empire Garden Club**

**Award A-13, Trees, A Renewable Resource, Cynthia Carlton
of the Gallatin Empire Garden Club**

**Amazon Smile: 1st Quarter 2022 = \$20.99
Keep up the good work shoppers!**



**When you use Amazon to purchase
items, start your shopping trip by going to
smile.amazon.com first so you can select
our MFGC as the charity to receive .05% on
your purchases. After you get into amazon
smile, then put into "MFGC" in the yellow box
as your charity....THEN START SHOPPING!**

MFGC, INC. ENDOWMENT INTEREST GRANTS

Remember the opportunity for a grant for your next project - The Endowment Program of the MFGC, Inc. provides grants for projects by local federated garden clubs in the State of Montana. The Endowment Program has been making annual grants since 2015. Your project must be charitable in purpose. Priority will be given to projects that meet the following criteria: *Provide a long-term, direct benefit to local residents or community; Enjoy support from community members; Projects that have an ongoing, sustainable funding source.* Grants will be up to \$500. For every five dollars of grant funding, applicants must have at least one dollar of matching funds for the project.

**Application packages must be received by May
15, 2022. Send four copies of the package to:
MFGC, PO Box 662, Whitehall, Montana 59759**

WRAPPING IT UP

PATTY SCHLAEGER

Editor MONTANA Gardens

Spring is here, but did it ever really go away? We're still waiting for the spring moisture that never came last year! It's been so warm this winter that we were able to heat our big stone house with the living room fireplace. We never even had enough snow to have our driveway from the buildings to the county road plowed. We may be in for another season of drought. The winter wheat we planted after a brief rain in October never came up above the ground. We did some digging below the surface and found that the seed had germinated, but never broke the surface. No winter pasture; such a waste of time, fuel, fertilizer. An old farmer said it may still come up so we hope he's right.

With fuel and food prices rising many people are thinking about gardens. In going through boxes when we were cleaning buildings, we found old ads promoting "Victory Gardens" during the war years. What goes around, comes around. Last year on a visit to Minnesota I saw several "gardens" springing up all over city neighborhoods. Many areas between the sidewalks and curb were filled with mini gardens. Squash climbed up small trees and no one seemed to mind if you "picked" a ripe tomato as you walked by. My Minnesota daughter now plants vegetables where once flowers bloomed and enjoys cooking fresh produce.



I will again to try to plant vegetables amongst my iris and other perennials. Of course anything green is a great temptation for many other mouths, not just ours! The sheep pastured on the ranch keep us on constant watch to keep them out of the yard and eating what we plant for our pleasure. Once we have the sheep under control we have to ward off the deer. The owls and eagles have chosen to eat all the rabbits who used to be a garden bother. Cats eat the mice and keep the snakes away. When we get one set of critters under control, another set pops up!

Such is life out in the country!!

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



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

APRIL IS PLANT AMERICA MONTH!

April is around the corner and Mary Warshauer, president of the National Garden Clubs, has signed a proclamation declaring April to be "Plant America Month." As we members know, the National Garden Clubs' mission is to provide education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility, and to share these resources within their own communities. The theme Plant America embodies the mission statement. In April we also celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day.



April 22, 2022



April 29, 2022

Our Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Winners

Here are the Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl Winners!!!

1st grade - Rayna Warren Havre, MT - Bullhook Blossom Garden Club
2nd grade - Demi Math, Malta, MT - Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club
3rd grade - Leeila Oxarart, Malta, MT - Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club
4th grade - Karsten Davis, Malta, MT - Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club
5th grade - Shelby Snellman, Malta, MT - Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club



Rayna Warren, Havre 1st Grade



Demi Math, Malta
2nd Grade



Leeila, Oxarart, Malta
3rd Grade



Karsten Davis, Malta 4th Grade



Shelby Snellman, Malta 5th Grade

A very special thanks to all the children who entered their posters and the MFGC Garden Clubs who submitted them to me!

JENNIFER STRZELCZYK, Chairman

Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl

DATES TO REMEMBER:

APRIL 1-30, 2022

Plant America Month

MFGC Awards

April 30, 2022

All MFGC State Awards Due

2022 District Meeting Schedule:

April 8, 2022 - Western District #2
(Stevensville)

April 9, 2022 - Southwestern District #3,
(Anaconda)

April 20, 2022 - Hi-Line District # 7,
(Havre)

April 21, 2022 - Central District #5
and Northern District #6, (Great Falls)

April 26, 2022 - Eastern District # 12,
(Miles City)

April 27, 2022 - Yellowstone District # 10,
(Billings)

April 28, 2022 - Lewis & Clark District #4,
(ZOOM)

NGC Convention

May 16-19, 2022 Orlando, Florida

85th Annual MFGC Convention

June 10-11, 2022 – Missoula, Montana

Rocky Mountain Region Awards

August 1, 2022 – RMR BOEs sent to
MFGC Awards Chairmen

Rocky Mountain Region Session

August 26-27, 2022 – Park City, Utah

Flower Show Judges Symposium

September 13-14, 2022

Great Falls, Montana

Landscape Design School

October 21-22, 2022

Glendive, Montana