

MONTANA *Gardens*



SUSAN BILLMAYER – MFGC GARDEN CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JIM SADLER MFGC PRESIDENT

We had our Annual meeting June 10 and 11, in Missoula. The convention was well attended with clubs from all over Montana. On Friday June 10 the Missoula Iris Society and the Missoula Garden Club had a flower show featuring Iris and a separately placed show featuring Peonies. On Saturday June 11th we had a bus tour of the Peony Garden at the University of Montana and the Iris Garden at the Museum at Fort Missoula ending at a champagne reception at our garden.

The general consensus is that the education received from the speakers at the Friday lecture was extremely informative. The Friday afternoon lecture was presented by Lorë Sampson of Oregon. She noted that the current resurgence in peonies is no accident. Until recently, their omission from modern garden design had persisted nearly half a century, but that's rapidly changing as gardeners discover the exceptional qualities of newer varieties that have been specifically developed for today's smaller, low maintenance gardens. She noted that the new peonies aren't your grandmother's peonies. Her lecture covered everything one needed to know including peony selection, flower forms, planting, propagating and care. In addition, Lorë discussed how to use peonies as cut flowers including tips on storing peonies for later use in flower arrangements and competitive shows. She shared the historical journey of three millennia of garden use of both tree and herbaceous peonies and the ongoing development of the exciting new Itoh intersectional crosses. The Life Members banquet Friday evening was fun filled with Patty Schlaeger hosting her meeting of Life Members and putting on game shows.

Our Garden Club Member of the Year is Susan Billmeyer. When her accomplishments were read to all those attending, during the announcement of her award there was a chorus of folks calling out her name. ***Congratulations Susan, you are loved and deserve your recognition.***

The Fall meeting of the Executive Board is going to be via Zoom. The Executive Board will gather in Whitehall at the Borden's Conference room at 10:00 am on October 13th. All members will be sent a link and will be able to join by the internet on Zoom. A new twist will be educational programs done on the internet. We have two programs in the works: one on Asian style arrangements and another on trees. Proposals for other short programs are encouraged. Please contact me with your ideas. A link will be sent closer to the date of the meeting.

The upcoming Montana Symposium is scheduled for September 13, 14th in Great Falls, Montana at the Holiday Inn. Montana Judges Council will cover the cost of registration for this Symposium for all Montana judges. Please send in your registration form to Patty Howse, 3704 6th Avenue North, Great Falls, MT 59401. Payment for the lunches must accompany the registration form. The registration form is on page 4. Pam Braun the horticulture instructor will be lecturing on Succulents and Composite Flowers. Participants are asked to bring Succulents and Composite flowers for study. Design instructor Claudia Bates is presenting a program on traditional designs compared with modern designs. I met both instructors in Orlando at the National Convention and was duly impressed.

Linda's health has been improving as she moves through the various scheduled operations. We have great expectations that all will eventually be resolved, and she can return to her normal routine. We both thank everyone for your prayers and best wishes.

We are both grateful for your understanding and consideration during this very stressful year.

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MONTANA Gardens

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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.

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Copy Editors: Phyllis White and Norm DeNeal
Editors reserve the right to edit all submissions for content and length

DEADLINE / ISSUE

November 1, 2022 – Winter 2022-23
March 1, 2023 – Spring 2023
July 1, 2023 – Summer/Fall 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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SUSAN BILLMAYER GARDEN CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Susan Billmayer has devoted well over three decades actively volunteering for her club and the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs. Serving as a project chairman and engaged leader in the two local clubs where she's been a member, her enthusiastic, outgoing, and "can-do" attitude has attracted new members along the Hi-Line area of rural Montana. Members want to be in her club because she's an active and welcoming friend.

She is a Montana Life Member, attends state and district meetings, and reports about programs and policies to the membership. You will see her regularly volunteering at club, district, and state meetings, as well as graciously hosting the MFGC officers during their statewide tours.

As a gardener, she's closely tied to the vagaries of Mother Nature on the farm she shares with her husband. She shares her horticulture knowledge to teach club members and youth about growing edibles, flowers, and houseplants. She has traveled many miles to present educational programs throughout the state.

For the past 15 years, one of her most notable contributions has been her oversight of – and ultimate responsibility for – the Montana Flower Show Schools program and Symposiums for flower show judges. In this position, she is in contact with over 30 judges across the state and provides them with opportunities to maintain good standing as judges. She encourages the judges and club members to create educational and high-caliber flower shows, and she maintains close contact with the Montana Judges Council.



As a contestant, she handily wins an impressive number of blue ribbons in the horticulture and design areas whenever she enters a flower show.

Susan demonstrates her high level of dedication by negotiating contracts with instructors and at school venues, creating the budget and marketing for the events, registering the schools and symposiums with National Garden Clubs, arranging for the exams, tracking the vast amount of paperwork required for a school, and maintaining current records for both students and judges. ***She is an inspiration for her organized work ethic, countless volunteer hours, and commitment to the MFGC educational mission.***

FRED FREY - MFGC GARDENER OF THE YEAR

Fred is a retired employee of the Montana State Unemployment Service and now devotes his time in the gardens on his family homestead farm located next to the Clark Fork River. He has been a member of the Missoula Garden Club for many years and is active in several horticultural societies. Taking a tour of his gardens is such a treat. Everywhere you turn another garden of wonder appears. His attention to meticulous detail is evident everywhere. His inspiration and magic comes from finding an interesting piece of art or a rescue from a thrift find and telling a story around it with flowers and plants. In addition to his outdoor gardening talents, he has a very impressive plant collection indoors including growing his own pineapples! Fred's passion for gardening is so inspiring. He is a true artist who paints with flowers. Fred's gardens are full of eclectic wonders and artistic details. Just to name a few: he has a whimsical little gnome village tucked under the trees with a little cast iron stove that has a burning flame; an old 1940's washing machine full of flowers, a laundry basket filled with flowers and an antique iron to complete this story; a large tree with life-size carved wooden bears playfully hanging from the limbs and a beautiful Asian Meditative Garden with benches to take time to relax. However Fred is too busy tending to his gardens to actually stop and relax himself. ***Congratulations Fred on earning the honor of MFGC Gardener of the Year.***

Pictured below (left) Fred is congratulated by Gary Clark (right); a slide show featuring Fred's garden; his winning Iris.



ENDOWMENT INTEREST GRANT GOES TO BELGRADE BLOOMERS

An Endowment Interest Grant of \$50 went to Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club. The club will create and edit a YouTube video of a recorded presentation by Toby Day, former MSU Horticulture Specialist, speaking on trees to plant to replace ash trees affected by the Emerald Ash borer. The video will be placed on the MFGC website. The 1.5 hour meeting was recorded on Zoom. The club will edit the recording so that Toby's presentation can be produced and stored as a YouTube video.

A YouTube account will be opened and that video link will be published on the MFGC website as an educational tool for all club members and for use at club meetings. It could also be published in *Montana Gardens*. Edits would include a title page, logo, disclaimer and MFGC contact information. The club envisions that this will be a new arm of the Speaker's List because the world is going digital, and the Federation should modernize, too. This is a natural extension of the MFGC's educational mission. Over 500 MFGC members will have the opportunity to view the video. The video link will be exposed to countless other gardeners in every Montana community.

Congratulations to the winner of the MFGC Endowment Interest Grant, the Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club!



MONTANA WILDFLOWER

Shining Penstemon "*penstemon nitidus*" is one of the earliest wildflowers to bloom. (May to late June) Its bright blue flowers make it easy to spot. The plant grows from 4 to 12 inches tall. The smooth leaves are broadly lance shaped. It grows in the foothills and talus slopes in Montana and Wyoming. It reseeds well in most environments.

SUSAN ANDREWS, Montana Wildflower Chairman

REGISTRATION FORM

MONTANA SYMPOSIUM 2022

Sponsored by MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

September 13 & 14, 2022 Host: Central District #5

Holiday Inn 1100 5th Street South . GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A JUDGE TO AUDIT THE SYMPOSIUM

HORTICULTURE INSTRUCTOR: PAM BRAUN- FRANKLIN, TN – Succulents and Composite Flowers. Allied topic "Making a Topiary"
DESIGN INSTRUCTOR: CLAUDIA BATES-NEWBERRY, FL - American Traditional Design Contrast with Creative Design



Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Email address required to receive and print Documents for Symposium

***For a brochure with information and schedule contact Jeannie Bennett at 56PHILLYTRAVELER@GMAIL.COM**

Registration Fees - Amount Enclosed For Credit

All Judges . . . \$155.00 _____ Lunch 2 days. \$44.00 _____ Audit Full time\$150.00 _____

Audit Sept 13th Hort. \$75.00 _____ Audit Sept 14th Design..... \$75.00 _____

Late Fee (postmarked after August 10th)\$10.00 _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: LIFE MEMBERS GREAT FALLS

SEND TO: PATTY HOWSE 3204 6TH AVE NORTH GREAT FALLS, MT 59401 PHONE: 406-452-1455

A block of rooms has been reserved for September 12, 13, 14 under MFGC Symposium. The rate is \$114 plus tax per night. This block of rooms will be held until August 23, 2022. It is recommended you make reservations early.

For Reservations call the Holiday Inn 1100 5th St. South, Great Falls, MT 406-727-7200

By entering the event and by your presence at Symposium, 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 the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs.

2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Three scholarships were awarded in 2022. Tyler Noyes was selected as the Montana winner of the National Garden Clubs Scholarship for \$4000. He will graduate from Montana State University in December of 2022 with a double major in Agricultural Business and Ag Education. He is from a farm near Toston, MT and is working there this summer. Katherine Bold of Big Sandy, MT, who is a Sophomore at Carroll College, was the winner of the Murphy Scholarship for \$500.00 for 2022. Her desire is to pursue a career in Botanical Biochemistry, therefore she is majoring in Molecular Biology and minoring in Chemistry. She is from a farm 27 miles outside of Big Sandy and she credits the farm with giving her the work ethic and experience to be successful in her pursuits. The winner of the Life Member's \$1000 scholarship is Elyse Caiazzo, a graduate student at the University of Montana who is pursuing a Master's in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Sustainable Food and Farming.

Both Tyler and Elyse attended the Missoula MFGC convention and talked about their future plans. We were all duly impressed with these students and their commitment to maintaining the livelihood of new farmers and ranchers.



(Pictured Left to Right) Tyler Noyes, Katherine Bold and Elyse Caiazzo



“Come on down ... You’re the Next Contestant on the PRICE IS WRONG ... and LET’S NOT MAKE A DEAL!”

MFGC Life Member's Chairman, Patty Schlaeger promised us all an evening of fun, and she delivered! The Life Member's program had us in stitches as Schlaeger tried to give away a new car (only a model) and even a brand new washer and dryer (how about a wash pan, laundry bar soap and a clothesline and clothespins). Life Member's Secretary, Shelly Roseburg (the model in her sequin gown) helped set up each of the price guessing games with the help of the show's announcer Diane Ward. They gave away more than \$200 in donated prizes and gift cards to the lucky contestants. In between the fun everyone was having, Schlaeger reminded the MFGC Life Members and guests about the serious side of the Life Members. She urged them to support the Red Rose \$50 pin and memorials to continue raising funds for our \$1,000 annual scholarship. **Now, what do you think the Life Member's team has in store for an evening of fun in 2023?**

Pictured above, left to right, Patty Schlaeger tells her first contestant they have a chance to win a brand new car; Sherry Corneliusen was so excited to really get to play “Plinko” since she and her husband rarely miss the “Price is Right.” She was even more excited when she hit the big money slot; and Shelly shows her contestants the next item up for their wrong bid.

Landscape Design School Course 3

Glendive, Montana . October 21-22, 2022

The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. in cooperation with National Garden Clubs, Inc. presents Landscape Design School Course 3 (in a Series of 4) October 21-22, 2022, to be held at the Church of Christ, Corner of Sargent and Grant in Glendive, Montana. The school is sponsored by the Glendive Garden Club.

Course 3 of Landscape Design School includes: Landscape Design Process, Woody Plants in the Landscape, Herbaceous Materials in the Landscape, Landscape Design with Maintenance in mind, Graphics Interpretation, Creating Your Own Home Garden Landscaping Plan.

Instructor: Trestin Benson-Feagler. Trestin is the Dawson County Extension Agent in Glendive, Montana. She has an undergraduate degree in Natural Resources and Rangeland Ecology and a Graduate Degree in Animal and Range Sciences.

Questions, please contact Sherry Corneliusen, sher@midrivers.com, 406-486-5787

Further information as to course schedule and lodging information will be provided later.

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: Glendive Garden Club

Mail to: Lilla Flesjer, 741 Windham Square, Glendive, MT 59330

Deadline: October 1, 2022

BEING CONSERVATION-WISE

As our fall weather leads to the cold and snow of winter there are a few things we can do to prepare for it conservation -wise. We know hoses and the sprinkler system have to be drained. There are also a few other duties outside to attend to. As the day light is shorter the amount of water on the lawns needs to be decreased. As tall lawn grass left over the winter may smother new growth in the spring, cut the lawn 1½ to 2 inches tall. Fall is also a time to fertilize your lawn. Deep watering trees and shrubs will help them go into the winter in good shape. Do not just water around the trunk, but also in the canopy areas around the tree.

Unless they are covered, rain gutters on the roof of your home may fill with fallen leaves. A pancake type spatula may be used to lift the leaves for easy removal. Don't forget to check the spouts as they may become clogged. When on a ladder it is best to have another adult holding the ladder even though you know it is secure. Some people have found out the hard way that falling off a ladder can be very costly, not only in medical bills.

As window wells are tightly sealed inside, any water in them has to evaporate. Thawing and freezing of water may begin to cause cracks in the foundation. Covering the window wells may prevent this. Checking for and filling small holes around patio doors and windows will economically save money during cold weather. Older windows may also need to be replaced. Placing stuffed lengths of material the length of the door way or window at the bottom of doors and windows will help keep out the cold.

There are just a few conservation tips to prepare for the cold of winter in your garden and home. And, don't forget to winterize your equipment and tools. Store them correctly and keep them in top conditions. They can be costly to replace.

Marie Hoyer – Conservation Chairman



THIS & THAT

WOW, we went from winter to a cool, wet spring and now a hot summer with temperatures in the upper 80's and 90's!! In my last article, I talked about downsizing my garden. ***That I did do – went from ten rows to four.***

The only problem now is if things will mature before we get into fall weather. The spring was so cool that I didn't get anything planted till late June. That being said, I only got peas, beans, tomatoes, potatoes, kale and spinach planted. Everything looks OK. The peas & beans are sprouting and the kale and spinach are coming along. But, the tomatoes are lagging behind. The nights are still too cool for them. The potatoes are growing as well. I put in corn seed that's supposed to mature in 65 days ***(we'll see about that!)***.



Now a word from my experience – I bought some zinnia and marigold seed from the Dollar Store. Not too bright – I don't see anything trying to grow. In the future I will purchase better seed and not have to keep checking the flower bed every day. ***I know what worked for me in the past why in the world did I not buy the same thing this year???????***

The much needed rain has been a blessing though. I have not needed to water my flowerbeds as often as I did when we had a dryer season. With summertime here, that will change. The rainfall is not as frequent and the wind has not let up. Nothing dries things out faster than gusting wind. The grass in the pastures looks great – tall and still green. That's a good thing. On the other hand, I have been cutting our lawn more times this year than all of last year. ***Good exercise – right?***

I hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoying the "big sky" without smoke! *(I better not say that too loudly – so far the "fire season" has been put on hold for now).* ***Best to you all and I'll keep you updated next time on how my garden grows!***

Diane Ward

First Vice President

2022 Annual 1st Place Awards Listed by Club

Anaconda Garden Club

B-6 Works Memorial Award (LM)

Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club

A-3 President's Award for Conservation,
Preservation and Education

C-7 Multimedia Award

Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club

A-5, I President's Communication Award
(Vicky Niederegger)

C-4 Garden Club Member of the Year –
Susan Billmeyer (Tiara)

C-8-II Yearbook

Dearborn Garden Club

A-1 President's Award for Community Beautification

A-11-II Marie Jones Container Gardening Award

A-12 President's Club Scrapbook Award

B-5 Kerin McCarver Special Award

C-8-III Yearbook

Glendive Garden Club

C-10 Photography Contest Award (Lilla Flesjer)

Great Falls Flower Growers Garden Club

A-7 President's Membership Award

A-8-I President's Wildflower & Native Plants Award

B-4 Kerin McCarver Special Award, Membership

B-7 MFGC State Chairman Leadership Award
Trophy (Elaine Wood)

Miles City Garden Club

A-16 Darlene Skari Public Workshop Award

Missoula Garden Club

A-17 Gardener of the Year (Fred Frey)

A-18 Denise Fink Past to Future Award
(Fred Frey)

B-10-1 Flower Show Education Award

C-1 Award of Appreciation

C-3 Floral Design Award

B-12 Mary Lee Award (Cheryl Carroll)

Rainbow Garden Club

A-6 President's Horticulture Therapy Award

A-10 President's Living Legacy Award

A-11-I Marie Jones Container Gardening Award
(Patty Schlaeger)

A-14 Rose Kopp Special Children Award

B-11-V Esther Hamel Butterfly Garden Award

B-13 Anaconda Garden Club Award

C-2 Horticulture Award

C-6 Landscape Design Award

D-1 Youth Club Sponsorship Award

D-2 Youth Gardening Award

D-3-II Youth Bird/Pollinator Award

Stevensville Garden Club

B-1 Mae Burke Magill Award

C-8 Blue and Red Award for Best Yearbook

Whitehall Garden Club

A-13-B Mary J. Olsen TREES, A Renewable
Resource Award

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THESE
GARDEN CLUBS AND THEIR MEMBERS!**

IT WAS A GREAT CONVENTION! THANKS MISSOULA FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!



(Row 1) Iris and Peony Floral Designs at the MFGC Flower Show (Row 2 L to R) Past MFGC Presidents Darlene Skari, Linda Sadler and Sherry Corneliusen pose in Linda and Jim's Garden; A few of the hundreds of Oregon Peonies on display; and Susan Billmeyer, the MFGC Garden Club Member of the Year gets her crown and sash from MFGC President Jim Sadler. (Row 3 L to R) Tour of Peony Garden; Tour of Iris Garden; Norm DeNeal and Vanette Nagamori get their Judges Pin (Row 4 L to R) Jim Sadler welcomes guests to his garden reception; the awesome Sadlers Garden, Colleen Hoffman and Cheryl Carroll start the memorial service to honor all the MFGC members who passed away in 2021-2022.

MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

EIGHTY-FIFTH CONVENTION MEETING MINUTES

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN – MISSOULA, MONTANA – JUNE 11, 2022

Call to Order: President Jim Sadler called the 85th Convention of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs to order at 9:15 a.m., June 11, 2022

Opening Exercises: Shelly Roseburg, Recording Secretary was present. Inspiration – Cheryl Carroll read a poem and led us in prayer. Pledge of Allegiance – Pam Diamond.

Montana Garden Club Creed – Jim Sadler

Preliminary Credentials: Pam Diamond, Registrar.

Members Present 6
Elected Officers 4
Appointed Officers 2
District Directors 3
Past State Presidents 6
State Chairmen 13
Club Presidents 9
Delegates 11
Members Present 54
Less Duplicates 3

Voting Strength 51

Declaration of Quorum: Jim Sadler accepted the report and declared a quorum.

Introductions: Jim Sadler introduced MFGC Officers: 1st Vice President Diane Ward, 2nd Vice President Jeannie Bennett, Treasurer Glenna Waltee, Recording Secretary Shelly Roseburg, Parliamentarian Phyllis White.

Reading and Adoption of Convention Rules: Phyllis White, Parliamentarian. Adopted 6-11-2022

Appointment of Committee to Approve 2022 Convention Minutes: Judy Ward, Mary Baughn, and Paula Childers.

Appointment of Timekeepers: Mary Tyler Holmes, Vanette Nagamori, and Creuza Squires.

Appointment of Convention Positions: Presidential Page Donna Dowell, and Photographer Lynn Weger.

Member of the Year: Susan Billmayer.

Memorial Ceremony: Cheryl Carroll.

Adoption of the Agenda: President Jim Sadler made changes to the Agenda. Adopted 6-11-2022

Executive Committee Report: 1st Vice President Diane Ward. On File

Finance Committee Report: Treasurer Glenna Waltee. On File

MFGC Officer Reports:

President Jim Sadler	On File
1 st Vice President Diane Ward	On File
2 nd Vice President Jeannie Bennett	On File
Treasurer Glenna Waltee	On File
Parliamentarian Phyllis White	On File

Past Presidents Recognized: Sherry Corneliusen, Norm DeNeal, Phyllis White, Darlene Scari, and Mary Davis.

Nominating Committee: Norm DeNeal (Southwestern), Susan Andrews (Lewis and Clark), Sue O'Leary (Central), Ann Wickum (Northern), Susan Billmayer (Hi-Line), Rosemary Power (Yellowstone), Lilla Flesjer (Eastern Gateway), and Cheryl Carroll (Western) as alternate.

Passed 6-11-2022

Report of Committee Chairs:

Susan Billmayer – State Flower Show School, Credentials, Symposium On File

Kathy Austin – Blue/Gold Star Memorial On File

Carol Works – National Life Members, Member Services On File

Sherry Corneliusen – Design School On File

Patty Schlaeger – Montana Gardens, Life Members On File

Carol Brady – Murphy Scholarship, National Scholarship On File

Susan Andrews – Flower Show Schedule, Wildflower On File

New Business:

Adoption of the Proposed Budget: Treasurer Glenna Waltee submitted the June 1, 2022 to May 21, 2023 budget. Adopted 6-11-2023

Motions:

Diane Ward – Diane made a motion to amend MFGC Life Member Policy and Procedures No. 3 and No. 4. The motion is on file. Adopted 6-11-2023

Sherry Corneliusen – Sherry made a motion to change MFGC Policies and Procedures, Item State President, Item A. The motion is on file. Adopted 6-11-2023

Sherry Corneliusen – Sherry made a motion to change the MFGC Policies and Procedures, Item First Vice President. The motion is on file. Adopted 6-11-2023

Announcements:

Rocky Mountain Region Meeting – The Rocky Mountain Region meeting will be held in Park City, Utah, on August 26-27, 2022.

Convention – Billings extended an invitation to attend the convention in Billings in late June of 2023 for the Annual Meeting. The date will be announced later.

Fundraiser – Jeannie Bennett announced that tickets for the raffle to be held at dinner on 6-11-2022 were still for sale.

Fall Board – Jim announced that the Fall Board will be held in Whitehall. Just the Officers will go to Whitehall, and members may attend by Zoom. It will be in October after the Symposium.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned by Jim Sadler at 11:51 a. m.

Approved by: Judy Ward	Date: August 7, 2022
Mary Baughn	Date: August 7, 2022
Paula Childers	Date: August 7, 2022



2022 DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Western District 2 Meeting

Roundup in the 'Root', was held on April 8 at the Holt Heritage Museum in Lolo, Montana. MFGC President Jim Sadler and 2nd Vice President Jeannie Bennett joined Western District Director, Colleen Hoffman and the Missoula Garden Club and host club, Stevensville Garden Club. The informative meeting was followed by a delicious western themed BBQ lunch enjoyed by all attendees. A guided tour of this interesting western heritage museum concluded the meeting.

(Pictured below, top to bottom: meeting inside the museum; Missoula Garden Club and the Stevensville Garden Club members in attendance.



Southwestern District 3 Meeting

Anaconda hosted the Southwest District Meeting on April 9. Karen Ranta was the guest speaker on the "Hidden World of Fairies." Keeping with the elegant atmosphere of their formal luncheon, district members donned their best "fairy" attire for the meeting. ***Everyone had a fairy good time throughout the afternoon!***



(Pictured above L to R) Karen Ranta, Dorie Westhoven and District Director Ann Palmer. (Pictured below top to bottom) The Anaconda Garden Club; the Dillon Garden Club and the Whitehall Garden members.



2022 DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Lewis & Clark District 4 Meeting

The meeting of Lewis and Clark District 4 held via Zoom on April 28 and was presided by Christi Mock, District 4 Director. MFGC Officers, Jim Sadler President, Jeannie Bennett 2nd Vice President and Phyllis White Parliamentarian and NGC Media Director were introduced as well as past state officers in attendance.

Second VP Jeannie Bennett talked about the photo consent statement that is included on the 2022 Convention Registration form. She said this is now a requirement from National Garden Clubs so that when we submit on awards with the photos, consent has been retained. MFGC will start doing this as well. Each club will have a statement on record for their membership that can be updated as members are added. This form will be certified when annual memberships are renewed.

President Jim Sadler reminded the district members that his theme is "Building community through gardening" and urged everyone to advertise their club as community service. Following reports by the respective club presidents and information on NGC by Phyllis White, a program on "Trees to Use to Replace those Affected by the Emerald Ash Borer" was given by Toby Day – former Gallatin County MSU Extension Agent, now with Barrington Nutritionals. Toby's presentation will be published as a YouTube Video this fall and shown via Zoom at the MFGC Fall Board meeting on October 13.

(Pictured below L to R top) Christie Mock, District 4 Director and the program speaker, Toby Day. (Pictured bottom) Toby is shown inspecting an apple orchard at a Montana state park.



Central District 5 and Northern District 6 Joint Meeting



Districts 5 and 6 had a joint luncheon meeting in Great Falls on April 21, 2022 at the Meadowlark Country Club. Vanette Nagamori, District 5 Director, welcomed the MFGC officers, club presidents and members of the combined districts. ***(Pictured above is the head table with both District Directors and the State Officers)***

The MFGC officers promoted the June MFGC convention and the ease of registration on the MFGC website. They encouraged district members to purchase tickets for many prizes to be given away at the convention. President Sadler promoted the Peony and Iris flower shows and seminars at the convention. He also cordially invited everyone to his home for an afternoon gala reception following tours of both Peony and Iris Gardens.

District 6 clubs provided door prizes and District 5 clubs took care of the registration, 50/50 drawing and centerpieces. Combining some of the District Meetings helps cut down on travel expenses for the officers and program expenses for the clubs. It was discussed that a joint meeting should be again considered hosted possibly by the clubs in District 6.

The featured program speaker was Morgan Marks, the Montana Wildlife Federation's North-Central and Eastern Montana Field Representative who covers key wildlife, habitat and access issues throughout the central and eastern part of the state. Morgan said, "MWF has been a partner with landowners ever since it was formed over eight decades ago to restore and conserve wildlife and I look forward to building on that." ***(Pictured below is Morgan working on one of the rivers in Central Montana.)***



2022 DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Hi-Line District 7 Meeting

District Director Kathy Waters welcomed the District 7 garden club members and the state officers. The meeting was a formal tea luncheon and was held on April 20, 2022 at the Boys & Girls Club in Havre. Each table at the luncheon was hosted by one of the district club members who provided her personal china for the table. The tea table was filled with many delicious items. President Jim Sadler, who enjoys formal teas, complimented the ladies for their extra touch.

The speaker for the afternoon program was Carolyn Anderson who lives near Fresno Dam just west of Havre. Carolyn explained that xeriscaping is the process of landscaping, or gardening, that reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation. This often means replacing grassy lawns with soil, rocks, mulch, and drought-tolerant native plant species. Many herbs and spices can be also be used in xeriscaping, such as thyme, sage, and oregano.

Pictured (below top) Garden Club Members prepare to serve items from the tea table during the District 7 Meeting. (below bottom) One of the beautiful formal tea place settings hosted by the District 7 members.



Yellowstone District 10 Meeting



On April 27, 2022, the Yellowstone District #10 meeting was held at Roots Garden Center in Billings. As part of the program, members of the Sow & Grow Garden Club arranged for owner Jon Switzer and Jerry Anderberg, to share why Roots has become more than just your typical garden nursery. It is truly a garden lover's ultimate destination! As you walk through the door and make your way through the nursery, there are surprises at every turn. Jon said their goal was to make you feel like you are walking a path in a park or garden. There is even an art gallery featuring local artists and a coffee shop! We all enjoyed learning about one of Billings' newest gardening nurseries. ***(Pictured above are District 10 members and MFGC officers enjoying the program at the Roots Garden Center)***

"A special thank you to Katz Schenk Gillstrom, Linda Buckingham, and Cheryl Ikeda from Sow & Grow for arranging and using their special touches to make this meeting a success!" said District Director Sherry Doty.



Pictured above from left to right are Julie Rowen, Cheryl Ikeda, Linda Buckingham and Katz Schenk Gillstrom

2022 DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Eastern Gateway District 12 Meeting

District 12 members held their annual meeting on April 26 2022 in Miles City at a luncheon hosted by the Miles City Garden Club. MFGC officers introduced by District Director Liz Smith were President, Jim Sadler and 2nd Vice President, Jeannie Bennett.

Reports were given by club Presidents Cindi Byron of Glendive Garden Club and Lynne Weischedel of Miles City Garden Club. Sherry Corneliusen reported on the upcoming Landscape Design School Course 3. It will be held in Glendive October 21-22. Registration is due by October 1. Jim asked the clubs for approval to have the Fall Boards via ZOOM. The group's consensus was to approve this action.

Special Speaker Mike Schuldt, County Agent-Custer County Extension Office, gave an excellent talk, with a slide show presentation of "Edible Plants". He included flowers, weeds and plants found in gardens and on the prairie. He had samples of a variety of the plants he talked about. His "dandelion leaf salad" was part of our luncheon.

The Ways & Means table was full of fantastic garden items to bid on. It was a successful fundraiser for the district. The beautiful wood 'floral centerpiece door prizes, made by Amanda Melin were given away in a drawing.. Recipients loved them. The attendees enjoyed a luncheon hosted by the Miles City Garden Club. (Pictured left top) Mike Schuldt, Custer County Extension Agent (left bottom) Mike's dandelion leaf salad at the luncheon



GRASSHOPPERS — A REFLECTION ON AN ARTICLE IN MONTANA GARDENS FALL 2006

NOTE: These are excerpts from an article by Crueza Squires, Chairman, Garden Dwellers printed in a past issue of Montana Gardens. - Vanette Nagamori, Historian.

The appearance of young grasshoppers in spring usually coincides with blossoming lilacs. These pests continue feeding until cold weather kills them in the fall. Grasshopper problems are often worst in yards and gardens after vegetation in surrounding crops and rangeland dries from summer heat, causing the grasshoppers to search for "greener pastures."

Although grasshoppers will feed on any kind of vegetation, they are often present without causing enough damage to warrant control measures. When control is warranted, grasshopper management can be difficult because these insects are strong flyers and can continue migrating into your yard through the entire growing season. For this reason, commercially available biological controls products will not help to control grasshoppers in the relatively small areas of yards and gardens. Most biological control products should be used in areas at least five acres in size or larger.

Grasshoppers are most susceptible to insecticides when they are young, at the beginning of summer. The problem with most of the least-toxic sprays is that they must be reapplied every four to eight days and after again rainfall. Insecticidal soaps can only kill some species of grasshoppers if they are sprayed directly on the insects. However, many beneficial insects, such as ladybugs, are also killed by insecticidal soaps, so selective application is a must. Insecticidal soaps are the least-toxic alternative, but are not as effective as other chemical controls, but have no residual effect.



Baits containing the insecticide carbaryl can be fairly effective, but be aware that any animal or insect that picks up the bait could also be affected. Baits can also be carried by rain or sprinklers into nearby streams or ponds.

Long-term management tactics should encourage the natural predators of grasshoppers as much as possible. Birds, including sparrows, starlings, meadowlarks, bluebirds and crows are among the best natural predators. Chickens, skunks, spiders and toads also consume many of these insects. Many rodents eat both the grasshoppers and their eggs. Insect predators include the ground beetles, tiger beetles, robber flies and tachinid flies.

Floating row covers, available from most garden suppliers, can protect garden crops. Lay the light fabric, which will let air, sunlight and water through over the crop, making sure the edges are tacked to the ground closely, to prevent insects from crawling inside. If grasshoppers or other pests are already present on the crop, you may wish to make an application of an insecticide labeled for the crop before you tack down the floating row cover.

Cultivation of the soil in the fall can help destroy grasshopper eggs, but will do little to prevent migration from other areas.

UNDER MONTANA'S BIG SKY

GREAT FALLS FLOWER GROWERS

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow: The Great Falls Flower Growers Club has had a busy spring. Our club welcomed 7 new members and took on a big project, the **Rivers Edge Trail**. Great Falls Flower Growers Club received three awards at the 2022 State Convention, in Missoula Montana. *Pictured below is the club's work on the trail.*



RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB

Rainbow Garden Club worked at the Cascade County Courthouse planting annuals on the front steps and around the raised planters. The club has been making progress on their Sensory Garden Project at the Kid's Garden. A living teepee has been planted with pole beans and grapes with plastic bag pavers being placed inside the sensory star. The club held their annual fund-raising yard and plant sale. Members helped the clients at Eagle Mount plant vegetables including a special salsa garden. Debra McCorriston who works long hours on our gardening projects was our Circle of Green Thumb Winner.



THANKS AGAIN MISSOULA GARDEN CLUB!



MILES CITY GARDEN CLUB

Miles City Garden Club has been expanding our horizons! We attended art classes, a movie and assorted other interests! Miles City hosted the Eastern District Meeting with a theme of Dining with Nature. Guest Speaker, Mike Schuldt spoke on Edible Weeds and provided us with a dandelion salad and winter onions. The Educational Committee has been busy with a program for three local elementary schools, a total of 267 children enjoyed the program. In May we did pumpkin patch planting that has produced 12 pumpkin plants and a row of Sun Flowers! Also, all of the community planters have been completed, helping make Miles City even more attractive! We also started our Yard of the Week program in May, made a trip to Jordan to visit a green house and had a luncheon. Although we were unable to attend the State Convention in Missoula, we did receive several awards. Judy Bloxham received the Circle of Green Thumb Award! As a means to increase membership as well as attendance to our meetings a survey was sent out, and will be discussing responses at a future meeting. We will continue working on our "Thinking of you" baskets. Hope everyone is enjoying their Montana Summer!

GLENDIVE GARDEN CLUB *Happenings*



The Glendive Garden Club has been busy this year with a variety of activities. Some of our lessons have been on pruning trees, flower pot success, Mountain Blue Birds, and we had Kelly Nicholas from the Duman Orange Company out of Columbus, OH talk to us about new plants offered this year. Quite a few members attended the District meeting in Miles City and also an iris workshop hosted by Miles City Garden Club. We held our "Welcome Spring" contest where we offer prize money for the first tulip and first daffodil blooming.

May found us planting the flower pots and our garden areas around town that we maintain. We held our annual plant and bake sale in June and in July we had our club picnic where we meet at a member's home and invite our husbands. The end of July we hosted a Garden Tour of three individual beautiful gardens. Each one had a variety of plants and flowers and were all very unique. Some of our members furnished planters and arrangements for our local hospital fund raiser. We sponsored a \$500 scholarship this year and we donated prize money to the Dawson County Fair.

FROM THE TREASURER'S PEN

New Life Members:

#935 Roma Lee Fuson, Conrad GC
#936 Susie Kress, GFFG Garden Club



Penny Pines Program

Thumb-R-Green GC - \$136
Custer National Forest, Red Lodge District

The 2021/2022 Fundraiser

A special thank you goes out to all the MFGC Club members who purchased raffle tickets for the drawings held in Missoula at the convention.

Congratulations to all the winners! The MFGC Raffle resulted in \$1,010 going to the General Fund.

BIG SKY STAR MESSAGE

"Thank you to the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs for the honor of being chosen as the Garden Club Member of the Year. It is a privilege to be part of this wonderful organization.

GARDEN CLUB PEOPLE ARE THE BEST!"
- Susan J. Billmayer

DUES ARE SOON OVERDUE

This is a reminder that clubs had to pay their MFGC state club membership dues - \$10 per member by June 1. Dues are delinquent if not paid by September 1st and names will be removed from the garden club membership list and the Montana Gardens mailing list. Along with the dues payment, please send a list of paid members, their address, telephone number, and indicate if they are a Life Member. List your garden clubs' new officers with their email addresses. It helps to be able to contact these members for all official correspondence.

MFGC membership cards are available from the MFGC Treasurer. New members should be added as soon as possible so they are on the Montana Gardens mailing list.

Membership dues for new members joining after January 1st are \$5.00.

GLENNA WALTEE, MFGC TREASURER

MONTANA JUDGES COUNCIL JUDGES IN GOOD STANDING

MFGC Judges in Good Standing, July 2022

Judge Emeritus:

Madelyn Anderson, Lilla Flesjer JoAnne Gibbon,
Marie Jones, Betty Taylor

Accredited Master Judges:

Susan Andrews, Vicky Barbieri, Susan Billmayer,
Cheryl Carrol, Gary Clark, Sherry Corneliusen, Mary
Davis, Patty Howse, Marie Hoyer,
Luana Maxwell, Vicki Niederegger, Jackie
Preedom, James H. Sadler, Darlene Skari,
Cathy Speich Ferguson, Susan Yurman

Accredited Life Judges Advanced Refresher:

Ellen Darling

GC15 Accredited Life Judges:

Phyllis White, Glenna Waltee

Accredited Judges 1 st Refresher

Joyce Hendricks, Mary Kempf, Carol Works

Accredited Judge GS Date:

Mary Baughn, Jeannie Bennett, Mary Ann Byerly,
Mary Ann Carey, Donna Dowell, Sue O'Leary, Arlis
Vannett, Diane Ward, Norman DeNeal,
Vanette Nagamori

Student Judges

Nina Eadie

WRAPPING IT UP EDITORIAL



Not much to say here, the photos say it all! **MY GLADS ARE NOT GLAD!** We are just over-run by grasshoppers everywhere. They were bad last year, but this year they came back with vengeance. Everything Crueza wrote about grasshoppers in 2006 is the same today. If you add to that the heat and high scorching, drying winds it makes one want to rethink being a farmer or rancher these days. We could only cut part of our hay crop (*one issue was a breakdown-parts not available from China; and the other was weather related - dry heat just shrunk up the remaining hay not cut*). We only have three large round bales on over 375 acres that used to produce 200 or more.

Accepting hay and prayers for rain.

PATTY SCHLAEGER, EDITOR

MONTANA Gardens

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



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

CIRCLE OF GREEN THUMB 2022 WINNERS



Anaconda Garden Club – Wenonah Jones
Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club – Christie Copeland
Chester Garden Club – Darlene Skari
Dearborn Garden Club – Ginny Jones
Dillon Garden Club – Celine Beaucamp-Stout
Glendive Garden Club – Bonnie Rieger
Great Falls Flower Growers – Ember Woods
Miles City Garden Club – Judy Bloxham
Missoula Garden Club – Raelynn Roadhouse
Rainbow Garden Club – Debra McCorriston
Stevensville Garden Club – Theresa Campbell
Toole County Garden Club – Debra Swanson
Townsend Garden Club – Marilyn Lane
Whitehall Garden Club – Dorie Westhoven



2022 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Contest

The Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest is an opportunity for local Garden Clubs to connect with their communities. The contest may be used to promote the club, attract children and their parents, and raise awareness of the importance of caring for the environment. Smokey Bear is known for his fire prevention program, **"ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES."** Woodsy Owl is America's icon for the conservation of the environment. Woodsy Owl says, **"LEND A HAND—CARE FOR THE LAND! AND GIVE A HOOT – DON'T POLLUTE!"** The National Garden Clubs, Inc. will award a \$50.00 check to each of the first-place national winners.

"A good poster has a bold and simple design. Its message is easily understood and is delivered both in the picture and in text," says Jennifer Strzelczyk, MFGC Poster Chairman. Deadline is January 1, 2023.

For more information contact Jennifer at PO Box 1254, Malta 59538-1254 or email at: stdjes37@shsu.edu



MEMBERSHIP MONDAY AT NGC

Membership Monday is a free monthly Zoom event for all federated garden club members. Join us on the 2nd Monday of each month from 2PM - 3PM EST. Learn new skills, share success stories, resolve commonly encountered issues, and brainstorm solutions with fellow members across the Americas.

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and we can all benefit when we help each other Recruit, Retain, and Revitalize our clubs. Together we are stronger! Membership Monday workshops present a topic of the month with a special guest speaker, followed by a Q&A session and follow up. We may not have every answer, but NGC Membership is committed to bringing us all together to explore solutions in a spirit of collaboration.

Reach us at Membership@GardenClub.org.

Subscribe to our mailing list for future meeting invitations!

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST 10 – Deadline for Symposium in Great Falls, Montana
AUGUST 25, 26, 27 – Rocky Mountain Region Meeting in Park City, UT
SEPTEMBER 1 – Deadline for MFGC Endowment Award Application
SEPTEMBER 13.14 – Symposium in Great Falls at the Holiday Inn
OCTOBER 1 – Deadline for Landscape Design School in Glendive October 21-22
OCTOBER 1 – NGC Plant America Grants Application Deadline
OCTOBER 21-22 Landscape Design School in Glendive, Montana
NOVEMBER 1 – NGC Award of Excellence to Linda Sadler
DECEMBER 1 – Club Yearbooks to Jeannie Bennett
DECEMBER 1 – All National Awards to Linda Sadler
JANUARY 1 – Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl to Jennifer Strzelczyk