

MONTANA *Gardens*



Montana winters are hard on our birds and wildlife. A pack of Yellowstone wolves huddles for warmth; a Bison cow feeds her calf in a blizzard; Hungarian Partridge fluff their feathers to keep warm; and, these deer were lucky enough to find an open stream for a drink. (Top photos courtesy of Patty Schlaeger, bottom photos courtesy of Diane Ward)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JIM SADLER
MFGC PRESIDENT

With the pleasant Fall weather, being outdoors was on top of most club member's schedules. That is why I was glad the Executive Board scheduled our Fall Board meeting online using our Zoom license for up to 100 connections.

Technology and the use of the Zoom application is not a skill found in a good share of our clubs. It is not that members don't use email or do google searches; they believe that using Zoom is just a bridge too far. I am coming to the technology age a bit late. Chairing a statewide Zoom meeting required a commitment from me. It required that I would have to practice my presentation and rehearse several times. Montana is a very large state. Our clubs are scattered all over. There is no real central location for meetings. One or more clubs travel up to 6 hours to attend conventions and other state meetings. With the high cost of fuel and the amazing amounts the motels are now charging, cost has become an issue. We did not charge to attend the Zoom Fall Board meeting. Having only one meeting a year where we gather at a central location in person is desirable. In 2023 we are going to gather in Billings at the Billings Convention Center.

The issue of widespread reluctance to use Zoom was addressed by encouraging clubs to meet in one location that had the internet. Some met where they could use a big screen smart TV. Others met where they only had a laptop to view. The strategy of having at least one person in the room with internet experience gave confidence to the less experienced. The added benefit of a group meeting for the club proved to be advantageous. After the Zoom meeting, some clubs served lunch and had their regular monthly meeting. In preparation, the State officers became more practiced and comfortable by having Executive Board meetings by Zoom. I also scheduled a dress rehearsal for the meeting going

over the details to enable the officers to become more familiar with the Zoom program. The meetings including presentations were held to a 2-hour limit. We had a presentation on Asian Design and another on trees. Both programs used photos extensively and moved along thus holding participants' interest.

I had an agenda that was similar to agendas I would have had at an in-person meeting. We did not do a pledge to the flag because we would be sitting, and I thought not standing would be awkward to pull off. We did do the gardener's pledge. Club presidents had already done reports at the State convention. I invited any president who wanted to do an update which all declined. We had chairmen of committee reports for updates after the convention. We did have to vote as a body on several motions and that was accomplished by raising of hands. Diane Ward was moved forward to be President-Elect. She will be installed at the Billings Convention. We increased the Life Members scholarship to \$2000.00. Our second Vice President used her time to arrange for the district meetings in April of 2023. The first vice-president was ill, and Sherry Corneliusen, the immediate past president, read Diane's report. For my report, I showed a PowerPoint. I find that a talking head on a Zoom meeting can be very boring. Therefore, to add interest to my presentation, I enhanced my PowerPoint with pictures of my garden.

The Zoom Fall Board meeting has been declared a success. We had 35 connections with many of the connections having multiple persons viewing the screen. Our normal Fall Board attendance is around 40. I believe we actually reached more members using this method of meeting. I recommend that we do it again. What made the meeting a success was that it moved along with no long pauses of technology adjustments, had many visual aids, and was able to complete the agenda in the allotted time. ***Perhaps the most popular comment was that the meeting was interesting and educational.***

MFGC 2021-23 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jim Sadler

jimsadler1220@gmail.com

PRESIDENT ELECT

Diane Ward

mydoubleheartranch@gmail.com

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Jeannie Bennett

thegardenjeannie@bresnan.net

TREASURER

Glenna Waltee

glennawaltee18@gmail.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Shelly Roseburg

kittyrose@gtfalls.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Pam Diamond

Diamond273@live.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Phyllis White

gardens@bresnan.net

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Western District #2

Colleen Hoffman

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Southwestern District #3

Ann Palmer

Lewis and Clark District #4

Christy Mock

Central District #5

Vanette Nagamori

Northern District #6

Diana Raymond

Hi-Line District #7

Kathy Waters

Yellowstone #10

Sherry Doty

Eastern Gateway District #12

Liz Smith

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Sherry Corneliusen, Chairman

Joyce Hendricks

Linda Sadler

Denise Fink

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Darlene Skari

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.

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

March 1, 2023 – Spring 2023

July 1, 2023 – Summer/Fall 2023

November 1, 2023 – Winter 2022-24

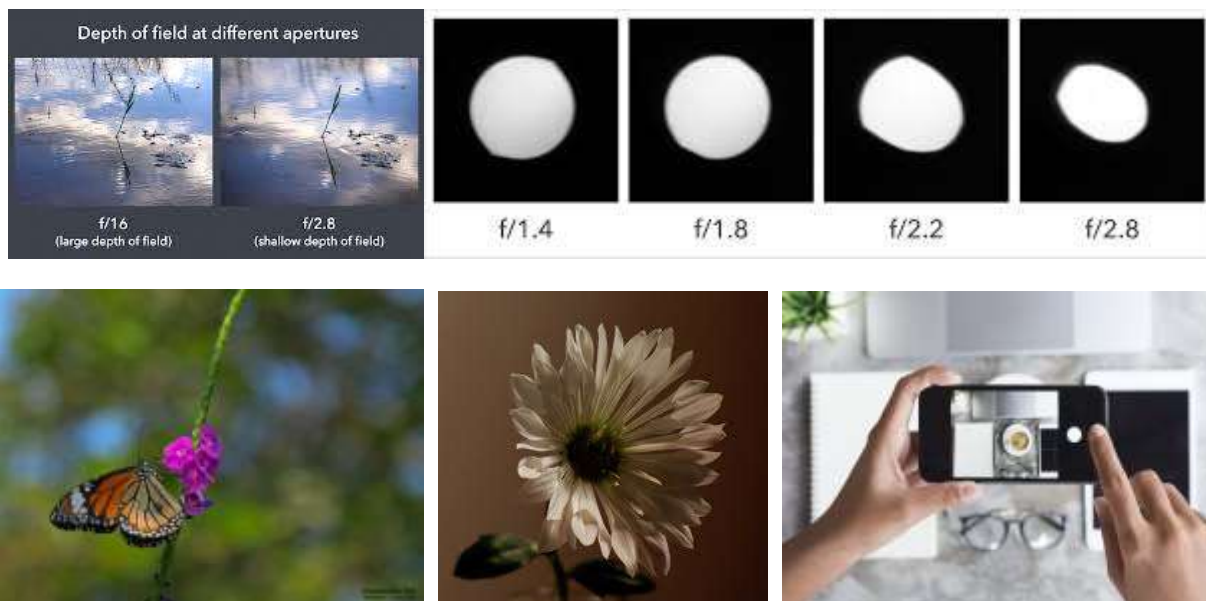
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PHOTOGRAPHY: REWARDING AND AWARD WINNING!

Photography is one of the award categories that any member can enter. The Award is C-10. When you enter you are eligible to receive a certificate and \$20 for up to ten photos for each entry sent for any of following: yard and garden beautification, entrance gates and doorways, projects to beautify your community, hanging baskets and stands, trees and shrubs, vegetable gardens and drying flowers. Include a description of photos. Photos may be digital, matte or glossy. The purpose of the contest is to stimulate gardens/gardening interest, photographic ability and NGC objectives. All exhibits should relate to horticulture, gardening, or floral design. The entry must be 3-5 pages, one side only. Send to Donna Dowell 6045 Menninger Drive, Missoula MT 59898-3910 by April 15, 2023. It is recommended that you submit photos by matte or glossy and pasted or copied to your entry. Digital photos are difficult to judge as you must comply with the 3–5-page limit for each entry. Entry forms are available on the MFGC website: www.mfqc.org. Electronic entries are accepted but they must be in PDF or Word Format and comply with the 3–5-page limit for each entry.

Some simple procedures will help you when you enter. You need to understand aperture. Aperture can be defined as the opening in a lens through which light passes to enter the camera. It is an easy concept to understand if you just think about how your eyes work. As you move between bright and dark objects, the iris in your eyes either expand or shrink. In photography, the pupil of your lens is called aperture. You can shrink or enlarge the size of the aperture to allow more or less light to reach the camera sensor. The important effect of aperture is on depth of field. It is the amount of your scene from front to back that appears sharp.



Exposure is the amount of light which reaches your camera sensor or film. It is a crucial part of how bright or dark your picture appears. Shutter speed is just the amount of time your camera spends taking a picture. This could be 1/199 of a second or 1/10 of a second, three seconds or five minutes. Play around with your exposure settings, pay attention to how they effect a photo. It is important to take many photos to practice how to the achieve the look you want.

Now many of us use our smart phones to take pictures. Great pictures are possible with your smartphone. You just need to practice. Unless your camera offers a telephoto lens, don't zoom. You see, most zoom functions use *digital* zoom, which simply crops the image to magnify the subject. In other words, it doesn't actually get you closer to the subject; instead, it just removes pixels. While digital zoom might seem convenient, it'll only serve to magnify image imperfections and noise. You can get much better results by walking toward your subject (or, better yet, composing a more scenic, environmental-type shot).

Contest photos are judged on your photographic ability,(sharpness and depth) if you have complied with NGC objectives and if you have complied with the rules.

DONNA DOWELL, PHOTO CONTEST CHAIR

HARVEST: Lesson's Learned and Relocation

Fall is usually that time of year to get your hands dirty and harvest your school garden. Sadly, our garden at East Middle School in Butte did not yield a harvest during this Autumn season. Covid 19 brought many changes to our school and garden. With the whole school remodel, expansion of gyms, science wings and new open spaces, our school garden had to be relocated. We learned that a successful garden needs to face south for those sunny days, be located in the direction the wind is not blowing, have a watering system specifically designed for our garden, a fence for protection from animals and unwanted people, a garden placed against the outside brick wall for warmth and a raised - stepped garden for more efficient planting and harvesting of our fruits, vegetables and flowers. These are the lessons all school gardens could benefit from when the opportunity arises for relocation or a much-needed garden remodel. The focus of any school garden should be to teach children and faculty about gardening, growing food for the table, and giving back to your community.

In the spring of 2023 our plants will again be grown from seeds in the science classrooms, planted in our garden by a variety of students throughout the school, harvested by regular and special education students, and used in our cooking and life skills classrooms. The vegetables we cannot use will be donated to a local Food Bank. Because growing a garden from scratch is a learning opportunity for every subject where students can explore, get dirty, wet, muddy and have a lot of fun, a plan needs to be developed for the Spring of 2023. Growing vegetables and flowers from seeds can give you a great way to experiment with varieties that will work in your garden's environment and climate. Prior planning is needed to design and organize your garden for maximum usage of space and seed varieties. You must remember to have a vegetable planting guide for spacing in-between rows and planting seed dates for your area. If you were lucky enough to already have a mature flowering garden we hope you were able to have a great harvest and are now planning for the Spring. ***Pictured below are teachers working with children to plant seedlings in a new raised garden bed.***



One activity that students can explore this Winter are books from the National Garden Club. The National Garden Clubs, publish books for kids to begin a lifelong love of gardening and caring for the environment. The newest book *Network with Nature* encourages children to put down their screens and play outdoors. *The Frightened Frog* demonstrates environmental changes from a frog's point of view. *The Saved Seed* explains a seed's round-trip journey of being saved from one pumpkin to becoming next year's Jack O' Lantern. All books were written by Brenda Moore. They are delightful and engaging books that are perfect for story time and for planting seeds of thoughts in young minds.

Another activity for children is the Youth Sculpture Contest. This contest encourages students to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment. Students in grades 4 through 8 are eligible to create a sculpture of recyclable, reused, and reduced materials. The sculpture is limited in width to 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches. Height should be proportional to width. One contestant per entry. Entries should include as many photographs as can be printed on the back of the entry form but two 4x6 photographs are recommended. Club entries must be sent to State Chairman - Linda Sadler at 1220 Clements Rd, Missoula, Montana 59804. First place entries must be sent to Region Chairman/Awards Chairman by February 1, 2023 and Region first place entries must be sent to National Chairman by March 1, 2021.

Scale of Points are as follows: Creative use of materials and self-expression: 60%, Description of sculpture and materials used: 30%, and Craftsmanship and technique: 10%. The entry form is available at the National Garden Clubs web address under Youth Sculpture Contest for any interested garden clubs.



Louisa Tierney
Youth Chair

THIS 'N THAT



*Photos from the National Garden Club
Headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri*

I had the opportunity to attend the National Garden Club Fall Board in St. Louis, MO. Shirley Nicolai, past NGC President, gave a very informative history about the National Headquarters. The founding of NGC began as early as 1929. Groups of existing clubs came together in Washington DC to organize The National Council of State Garden Club Federations. The word federation was dropped in 1935 and in 2001 the name was changed to National Garden Clubs or NGC. The National Officers gave reports and emphasis was placed on creativity, sustainability and for clubs to reach out – lead the way in the future. We should be open to change. President Elect, Brenda Moore, read a quote that summed it up: *“A bend in the road is not the end of the road if you make the turn.”* The COVID-19 virus brought more interest in gardening. People began growing new things outdoors. Community gardens became even more popular. We are the plant experts in our communities! Invest in your image, offer what others cannot and get your stories told. Two excellent programs were presented. One discussed the creation of the memorial to the victims of 911. A forest of 420 oak trees were transported and planted helping humanize the Memorial with emerging new life and representing symbolic strength. ***For more about this project go to: paulcowieandassociates.com.***

The second program was presented by a very energetic and entertaining woman – Susan Yoder, the former executive director of Seed Your Future. Her program covered the need for people to get outside more. COVID-19 had us fearing the outdoors. We were told to stay inside, to social distance ourselves from everyone! Social distancing was actually physical distancing. Susan pointed out the importance of focusing on children. Open their eyes to the wonder of the plant world. Help them learn the importance of plants not only to humans, but to animals and to Earth. Remember: *“A bend in the road is not the end of the road if you make the turn”*

Just a week ago, **WINTER** knocked at my door! Those wonderful “Indian Summer Days” are gone but it was so nice while they were here. With colder days and nights my mind starts to wander – I need to put away my summer t-shirts/shorts and pull out the sweaters. In doing this activity I also will need to sort out the ones I no longer can get into!!!! Like many of you, I enjoy the changing colors of the trees and bushes. The bright golden yellows, the brilliant oranges and the flame reds make this time of year so beautiful. If you haven’t done so yet, take some time and drive around town or to the mountains and gaze at Mother Nature’s magic! I want to wish everyone a warm and delightful holiday season. Enjoy being with family and friends.

***From my house to yours –
Merry Christmas and Best wishes for the New Year!***



Diane Ward MFGC President Elect

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs

MFGC Fall Board Minutes . October 13, 2022

President Jim Sadler called the meeting of the Fall Board to order on Thursday, October 13, 2022. The meeting was held via Zoom. Recording Secretary Shelly Roseburg was present.

Opening Exercises

Jeannie Bennett, 2nd Vice President, led the Garden Club Creed.

Jim Sadler, President, led us with inspirational thought.

Phyllis White, Parliamentarian, declared a quorum and gave the Rules for the Fall Board.

Appointment of Timekeeper

Sherry Corneliusen was appointed Timekeeper by Jim Sadler.

Convention Minutes

Sherry Corneliusen reported that the minutes of the June 2022 convention were approved and distributed.

Appointment of Committee to Approve the 2022 Fall Board Meeting

The President appointed Glenna Waltee, Diane Ward, and John Carlson to the Approval Committee.

Reports of MFGC Officers

President Jim Sadler welcomed everyone to Fall Board, and showed a picture of Fall Crocus' in his yard.

He spoke about our convention tours. Report on file.

1st Vice President Diane Ward was not in attendance due to illness. Sherry Corneliusen reported for her.

NGC would like each State to report any trees planted this year for the "Each One, Plant One" project.

Please send the information to Diane Ward. Report on file.

2nd Vice President Jeannie Bennett spoke about the interesting year we've had with the Symposium and meetings.

They would like to only make two trips to attend District Meetings. Contact Jeannie for final District Meeting Dates.

Treasurer Glenna Waltee reported on our Budget and Financial Report. Report is on File.

Parliamentarian Phyllis White spoke about the information and educational programs available on the Garden Club

Websites and encouraged members to use them. Report on File.

Committee Reports

(Many committees reported at the annual Convention and did not report due to no changes.)

Endowment Chair Glenna Waltee reported no applications were received. She reminded members to apply.

Report on File.

Blue/Gold Star Chair Kathy Austin reported that we have 21 blue and 5 gold star markers. Report on file.

Life Members Chair Patty Schlaeger reported that the evening program at convention will be a talent show with one member (or act) representing each District. More information will be announced. Report on file.

Life Member Scholarship Jeannie Bennett reported that the Executive Committee recommended an increase in the Scholarship amount to \$2000. Jeannie moved to increase the Life Member Scholarship from \$1000 to \$2000. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business

MFGC Financial Review Jeannie Bennett reported that the Finance Committee consisting of Susan Andrews, Bev Geary, and Jeannie Bennett audited the financial records and found them to be in order.

RMR Awards Jim Sadler reported that the State of Montana submitted many applications for awards.

Missoula received an award for the Gardener of the Year. Rainbow Garden Club received many awards.

2022 Flower Show Symposium Jeannie Bennett reported that 28 Certified Judges participated. 14 accredited Judges took the test. 14 took classes and did not test. She thanked everyone that helped support the event.

New Business

Nominating Committee Chair Sherry Corneliusen nominated Diane Ward as President elect of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs. The motion passed. She will be installed at the Spring Convention.

Sherry Corneliusen presented Diane's acceptance speech for her. Her theme will be "Sow It and Grow It"

2023 MFGC Convention Joyce Hendricks invited members to the Spring Convention in Billings on June 23-24, 2023

Judges Council Susan Bilmeyer reported that there are no Flower Show Schools active in Montana at this time.

Montana currently has 5 Emeritus Master Judges, 16 Master Judges, 1 Life Judge, 15 Accredited Judges, and 1 Student Judge.

Announcements

There were no new announcements.

Adjournment

The MFGC Fall Board meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a. m., on October 13, 2022, by President Jim Sadler.



Recording Secretary Shelly Roseburg
Approval Committee:

Diane Ward, Glenna Waltee and
John Carlson (signatures on file)



MONTANA FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM



Photos Top to Bottom, Left to Right: A variety of succulents used; Instructor Pam Braun reviews topiary lesson; Grooming succulents; Design Instructor Claudia Bates, talks about her designs; One of Claudia's designs; and designs made by class members that were displayed and judged by the instructor

Judges Council sponsored the Montana Flower Show Symposium in Great Falls, Montana on Sept. 13, 14th, 2022 at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls. Our hosts were the Great Falls Garden Clubs. The Symposium is targeted for Flower Show Judges in the state so they can renew their Flower Show Judging certificate for another 3 years. Others are always welcome to attend for the educational opportunity. The Symposium is very similar to Flower Show School Courses. The first day our instructor was Pam Braun from Tennessee, we started the day with a lesson on Making a Topiary followed by studying various succulents and composite flowers. Our instructor brought for us a variety of small succulents that she grew. The second day we studied Design with our instructor Claudia Bates from Florida. Our first lesson was on Fantasy Forms followed by instructions on American Traditional Design vs. Creative Design.

Several of the judges made designs for the Symposium for the practice point scoring and for the point scoring exam. The Symposium was attended by about 35 people. We had three judges that came from out of state.

We had twelve judges that took the point scoring exams and 17 judges that audited the class. Montana currently has 5 Emeritus Master Judges, 17 Master Judges, 2 Life Judges, 13 Accredited judges and 1 Student Judge. Montana will plan to have another Symposium in 2025.

Susan Billmayer - Symposium Chairman

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL COURSE 3

Twenty five people attended the Landscape Design School Course 3, on October 21-22, 2022, held at the Church of Christ in Glendive, Montana. It was sponsored by the Glendive Garden Club along with the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. in cooperation with National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Trestin Feagler was the instructor. She was the County Extension Agent in Dawson County for a year and recently transferred to Yellowstone County to serve as an agent there. Topics covered in the school were the landscape process, woody plants in the landscape, herbaceous materials, maintenance in landscaping, graphics interpretation and creating your own landscape plan.

Tarena Stortz of Glendive Nursery and Landscaping presented the special interest topic of Spotlight on Local Landscapes where she took us to the Senior Citizen Center, Dawson College, Glendive Dinosaur Museum and the Bloom and Vine coffee shop, areas that she had landscaped and informed us of the plants and details involved with each area. This part of the school was very interesting.

Sherry Corneliusen served as local chairman and Lilla Flesjer was the registrar. Joyce Hendricks is the Montana Landscape Design School Chairman.

Photos: Right Top to bottom: Student talks about her landscaping; Students gather to view landscape designed by Tarena Stortz of Glendive Nursery and Landscaping; Instructor Trestin Feagler and sketching out a landscape plan



MONTANA'S WILDFLOWERS

Ballhead Waterleaf (Hydrophyllum capitatum)

Ballhead Waterleaf (Hydrophyllum capitatum) is a low growing perennial that blooms in the early spring. The lavender round head blooms below the large deeply lobed leaves and sometimes may be hidden.

The flower head is made of numerous densely packed cup shaped flowers. The leaves grow between 4 and 15 inches tall. These plants grow in a wide range of habitats but are more numerous in the montane zone.

SUSAN ANDREWS

WILDFLOWER CHAIR

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB PROGRAMS TARGET CLUB PROJECTS AND OFFER MANY EDUCATION PLATFORMS



PLANT AMERICA MONTH is observed during the month of April. It's a time to think of beautification projects, community gardens, parks, climate impacts, and our diverse ecosystem. National Garden Week is observed the first full week of June – the 4th through the 10th.

Topics emphasizing Earth Day and Arbor Day in April relate to many club projects. It's also the perfect time to apply for the MFGC Awards for projects your members completed this past year. These awards are particularly appropriate for community beautification: A-10, A-13, A-18, A-19, B-2, B-11, B-13, and C-6. They all relate to President Jim Sadler's theme of Building Community Through Gardening. MFGC Awards are listed on the website <https://mtfgc.org>.

The new NGC Video Café has more than two dozen videos to entertain and teach. They can be used for club programs. Check out the webinars featuring Doug Tallamy, or Anna Ball from Ball Horticulture, as well as how to grow hostas, and how to help your club membership grow. Don't forget to look at the grants and award videos, too. This section is in Member Resources on the NGC website. <https://gardenclub.org/video-cafe>.

Phyllis C. White

**2021-2023 National Garden Clubs Historian and Media Communication Coordinator
Montana Garden Clubs Parliamentarian**

Why People Aren't Buying Electric Cars

by Lori Robinson Environmental Climate Concerns Representative NGC Pacific Region

As a single woman I have had to research what kind of car I should buy. The emissions from gasoline fueled vehicle exhaust create nitrous oxide N₂O, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide that damage the ozone layer. This is one reason exhaust is creating pollution and climate change. All electric cars have a flaw: the lithium batteries contain lead. China produces our batteries. They burn coal as fuel which damages the ozone layer and contaminates the air. The batteries need to be replaced every 5 years with an expense of \$5,000 or more. There have been reports of the vehicles catching on fire. California now requires by law that all new vehicle sales in 2026 be electric cars, with the idea that this will reduce pollution. In 2023 GE will have Ultium batteries for electric vehicles. In 2026 they will have close to a dozen mainstream options. *A survey discovered that charging logistics is the primary reason Americans aren't buying electric vehicles. Consumer Reports, which said it surveyed around 8,000 Americans, found that 61% said they wouldn't seek to own an electric vehicle because of charging logistics, while 55% cited the number of miles a vehicle can go per charge. Another 52% said costs of buying and maintaining

an electric vehicle are too high. Another 46% of the respondents stated they have not heard of any financial incentives available for owners of electric vehicles.

"We found that 14% of American drivers say they would 'definitely' buy or lease an electric only vehicle if they were to buy a vehicle today," said Consumer Reports. *"That's up markedly from the 4% who said the same in a 2020 nationally representative survey from CR of 3,392 licensed U.S. drivers."*

According to recent figures from Kelly Blue Book, the average price of a new electric vehicle hovered at roughly \$56,000. In contrast, the average price of a new compact was about \$25,000 at about the same time. The average price of a new, nonelectric SUV was \$34,000, while the electric version was nearly \$45,000.

Robinson says, "I will keep researching because of the high cost of gasoline and conscience to reduce pollution and cost. A hybrid like a Prius and turquoise blue is my choice at the present time."



** Credit: WestSound
Home & Garden Magazine,
Sept/Oct. 2022*

GLENDIVE GARDEN CLUB PUMPKIN SALE



The pumpkin pictures above show members decorating pumpkins and some of the pumpkins that were sold at our Junkapalooza/Harvestfest held in October in Glendive at the fairgrounds. Approximately 100 pumpkins were decorated and sold, generating \$1900 for the club's treasury. The club donated \$204 to Penny Pines, gave \$500 to the Big Horn School Harvest Garden to use towards their greenhouse for the school, \$500 to the Little Grower's Garden Club towards their greenhouse and \$500 to the Dawson County Foodbank. \$500 was also given last month to the scholarship winner who was from Miles City College

WHITEHALL GARDEN CLUB PIE AUCTION

WOW WHITEHALL!! You are beyond amazing! The Whitehall Garden Club (WGC) may have shaken out their aprons, wiped down the tables and swept the floor, but their giddy smiles remain. The Community was given the opportunity to BAKE, BID (on), and BUY PIE, and pie oh pie did they ever!! The Whitehall Fall Festival Pie Auction for Non-Profit booth was very successful. It had its most profitable year to date, and the most nonprofits designated as recipients. Forty pies were donated to the Silent Pie Auction and another twenty donated and sold by the slice. The non-profits designated by the bakers to receive the profits of their labor are the following: 4 Paws Rescue, Friends of the Whitehall Library, Girl Scout Troop 3719, Gold Junction Presents, Jefferson Valley Fine Art, Jefferson Valley Museum, Liberty Place, PTSA, PULSE, Screams Come True, Veterans, and the Whitehall Garden Club. Those organizations will be receiving checks from the Whitehall Garden Club. The WGC is beyond grateful to everyone who baked pie, bid on pie, or bought a slice of pie. We have immense gratitude to and offer a special thank you to Colton Anderson of the Star Theatre. He was the most gracious host, and the theatre a fabulous and spacious venue for this event. Due to the generosity of the Whitehall Community, we would not have fit in any other space. **So again, Colton and Whitehall, THANK YOU for your community support. Well done.**



Above: Glenna Waltee (left) and Dorie Westhoven (right) Whitehall Garden Club Pie Committee Chair

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB GIVES SALSA LESSONS AT EAGLE MOUNT

Not dance lessons (*although there was great music playing*)! Rainbow Garden Club helped clients from Eagle Mount, a program for therapy through recreation, plant a special salsa garden in their raised beds last spring. The plan was to harvest the peppers, tomatoes, onions and cilantro and make salsa in the fall. However Mother Nature did not help out. The hot dry summer winds parched the plants and left nothing to harvest. Rainbow Garden Club members purchased the necessary vegetables and took them to Eagle Mount and helped the young adults make salsa and guacamole. A fun time was had by all including some pretty good dance moves. **Pictured Left: Shelly Roseburg shows them how to make salsa and guacamole.**



THE TREASURER'S PEN

New Life Members:

#937 Judi Dritshulas, Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club
#938 Celeste Shepard, Whitehall Garden Club
#939 Lynn Hilton, Rainbow Garden Club
#940 Charlene Moug, Dearborn Garden Club

Life Member's Rose Pin Winner

Cathy Jamruszka, Bullhook Blossoms

Penny Pines Program:

Stevensville Garden Club, \$68,
Dearborn Garden Club, \$68, Lewis & Clark and Helena
National Forests, In Memory of: John Rumney
Glendive Garden Club, \$204!

Greetings

* *The Gumbo Gals of Nashua wish Peace and love to all our gardening friends.*

* *The Dearborn Garden Club sends these greetings: Celebrate the season with hope, happiness and peace.*

* *The Whitehall Garden Club is wishing all the MFGC garden members the blessings of Peace, Love and Joy this Christmas and always.*

* *The Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club members wish our gardening friends a season of traditions from nature -- holly and ivy, rosemary and bay, wreaths and swags, trees and bowers, bees wax candles, and celebrations around the tree.*

* *Greetings from Rainbow Garden Club and best wishes to all our garden club friends in the Big Sky Country.*

"May all your gardens be resting under a blanket of snow for the winter."

* *Wishing each of you and your family an extra measure of comfort, joy and peace this Christmas. ~ Phyllis White*

Big Sky Stars

Big Sky Star - The Gumbo Gals of Nashua are happy to celebrate 50 years of gardening.

A Big Sky Star to Dorie Westhoven, Whitehall Garden Club, project leader of the Fall Festival Pie Auction fundraiser.

A Big Sky Star to the committee, flower show judges, and club members involved with the fabulous and successful Flower Show Symposium held in Great Falls. We enjoyed two days of education and camaraderie featuring flowers, succulents, and beautiful floral designs.

A Big Sky Star to the MFGC Executive Committee for raising the amount of the Life Members Scholarship to \$2000. Our future recipients thank you very much!

Memorials

Betty Lowell was an honorary member of the Stevensville Garden Club. She joined the Stevensville Garden Club in 1970 and remained a member until she passed away in June of this year. She was very active as Club President, MFGC District Director and other positions. She loved flower arranging. This was during her spare time from community, church, senior center and family activities.

Wendy Lukas joined the Stevensville Garden Club in 2017 when she relocated here from Washington. She was an active club member and community minded volunteer until her death in July this year.



WRAPPING IT UP

Winter was thrown at us this year and caught most of Montana by surprise! After a horrible, hot dry Summer that extended itself into Fall, I think we were hoping for a more normal seasonal pattern. ***This was not to be; not in Montana!*** September and October were more like a nice collection of summer days. There was good moisture and the temperature was almost perfect. I'm afraid most of us did not want to let this weather go. Due to the dry and heat we suffered through the spring and summer, many shrubs lost their leaves, not only to the excessive heat, but to hordes of grasshoppers. However, when the warm winds and warm rains came this Fall, I heard from some folks that their lilac shrubs were starting to leaf out and bloom. I didn't get a single tomato in July or August, but in September they blossomed out of control.

As usual, my gardening takes a back seat every year to farming, family entertaining and work. We planned a short vacation on November 5 and, of course, I was busy harvesting bushels and bushels of green tomatoes that finally started growing in October. Being short on time I just threw them into as many boxes as I could find, covered them with newspapers and stacked them in the garage. When I returned to Montana in the freezing cold I had many other chores and forgot my tomatoes. Last week I removed newspapers from boxes and much to my chagrin I had more red and gold tomatoes than the green ones. Now I have been giving away my tomatoes as they ripen, making 4B's Tomato Soup, sauces and I even just stoop to eat them out of the box. ***It is nice to still have fresh garden tomatoes: after all Red is a Christmas color!***

Happy Holidays and call if you need a tomato!



Patty Schlaeger,
Montana Gardens Editor

MONTANA Gardens

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



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Winter backyard bird feeding is important

Winter's an especially tough time to find naturally-occurring food. Even if seed is available, winter winds often blow away food or excess moisture makes that food inedible. In summer, backyard birds have a smorgasbord of foods to eat – insects, fruits, and abundant seeds. In winter, insects and fruits are nowhere to be found. While some birds migrate, the birds that don't adjust their diet from fruit and insects to seeds.

Here's how to make a pinecone bird feeder:

Pinecones: You need large, open pinecones with flared-out scales that can hold more food and allow more space for birds to cling to.

Smooth peanut butter helps to stick the bird seeds to the cones, but chunky style is alright.

Choose seeds for the birds that are already visiting your yard. You can also add pieces of nuts or dried fruit like cranberries or raisins.

Use String or twine for hanging the pinecone bird feeder, not threads, dental floss or fish line they can get tangled in.

Go get your camera for great shots!



CONTEST POSTERS ARE DUE SOON!

Children from first through fifth grade have been invited to participate in the 2022 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest! Through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl, children can demonstrate their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental principles.

Please encourage schools in your area to have an art project that can be supervised by garden club members who can show them how to draw Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl. This is a great community project for us. We also should contact groups of home schooled children and/or children in private schools. There are prizes for state and national winners including a fabulous trip for the family of the national winner.

Poster Deadline: JANUARY 1, 2023

Jennifer Strzelczyk

Poster Chairman

Send Posters to:

PO Box 1254, Malta 59538-1254



DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 1, 2023

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

January 1, 2023

Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl Posters

January 10, 2023

NGC Publicity Press Book Award

February 1, 2023

MFGC Standard Flower Show Awards

April 15, 2023

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

