

MONTANA Gardens



President Diane Ward
2023-2025 Montana Federation of Garden Clubs

I have a lot to be thankful for! Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as the next MFGC State President in 2023-2025. The past MFGC Presidents have left some pretty big shoes to fill. This is a great honor and I will do my best to uphold the integrity of this position.

Many thanks go out to the Billings Garden Club, Thumb-R-Green, for hosting this year's wonderful Convention. Putting on any convention is a lot of work, especially when it is an Installation Convention.

To the 2023-2025 Chairmen and Committees - thank you for stepping up to the challenges and accepting your positions. Some of you are new to the positions, and I am at your beck and call if you need any assistance. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you during my term.

My interpretation of the 2023-2025 theme "**Sow It and Grow It**" is two fold: First, let's embrace the outdoors. "Plant America" has been a program that NGC started and still continues. The theme that the National Garden Club President Brenda Moore has chosen is "Go Green -- Plant America". I want to explain

on this theme a little more. Let's think outside the box. Reach out to the community. Many of you already do this with the gardens you have planted in your towns and working with organizations such as the Kiwanis Clubs, Libraries, Girl/Boy Scouts, Rotary Club, Schools, Extension Offices, Churches and Nursing Homes.

But let's try to go one step further. Maybe plan a Design Workshop and encourage the public to come and participate or excite the public to participate in a simple flower show. This can be fun and educational for everyone!

My second interpretation of this theme "Sow It and Grow It" pertains to the youth in our community. We need to plant the seed in children's heads to explore the world of plants. Introduce them to the various types of flowers, trees and crops. Give them the space to explore and grow. **They are our future.**

MY GOAL for 2023-2025: COMMUNICATION

I would like to see a closer bond between our clubs. Since Montana is such a large state, this goal will be challenging. Sharing experiences and problem solving together can be a successful and lasting experience. Conditions are so extreme from the north to the south and from the east to the west. We have **common interests**, no matter where we live. They are **education** and **friendships**.

As your President, I will keep an open door policy. I want you to feel free to call me anytime if you have questions, looking for advice or just want to talk. Honestly, I don't have all the answers, but I will find them and get back to you as quickly as I can.

The next two years are going to be GREAT. I will represent our beautiful state of Montana and our outstanding membership at the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Rocky Mountain Region events with enthusiasm. We will SHINE!

Garden Year 2024 Schedule Changes

Welcome to the 2024 Garden Year! The executive committee has approved a trial run this year for changes to our Bylaws expected at the 2024 Convention. Our President Diane Ward is dedicated to improving communication in our clubs, districts, and state level and will do her part to bring Region and National news to everyone.

We can start by changing our district meeting schedule. The district can move their meeting to roughly between September 15 to October 15 to enable President and VPs to attend, if you invite us. District 4 has selected October 14 in Bozeman. District 5 has set October 1 in Great Falls. Since it is only six months since the last district meeting you hosted, we recommend you not go all out for this one. Make it casual, fun, and as enjoyable as you choose, and we will add meaningful sessions on MFGC Endowments, Awards, and upcoming activities. We hope the change to Fall will get District Directors and Club presidents off to a great start for their year. It is easier to start on Endowments, Grants and Awards at the beginning of the year.

To free everyone from hosting or traveling to another statewide meeting, the "Fall Board" is also under a proposed change to a winter (February) Zoom meeting. The meeting will get the Executive Committee together with State Officers, District Directors, Club Presidents, State Chairmen, and the Advisory Council. Others will be welcome to attend as desired.

State Convention will be in late June 2024. We are heading to Malta where a good, fun convention is certain.

We look forward to seeing everyone this year.

1VP Jeannie Bennett

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MFGC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Diane Ward

1st VICE PRESIDENT
Jeannie Bennett

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Cindy Carlton

TREASURER
Glenna Waltee

RECORDING SECRETARY
Ann Wickum

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Mary Kempf

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Joyce Hendricks



DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Western District #2
Jeannie Fraser

Southwestern District #3
Arlis Vannett

Lewis and Clark District #4
Cindy Carlton

Central District #5
Sue O'Leary

Northern District #6
Susan Yurman

Hi-Line District #7
Kathy Waters

Yellowstone #10
Sherry Doty

Eastern Gateway District #12
Cindi Byron

MONTANA Gardens

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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.

Co-Editors: Phyllis White, gardens@bresnan.net and Norm DeNeal, denealnorman@gmail.com
Darlene Skari, Copy Editor

Editors reserve the right to edit all submissions for content and length.

Submissions are encouraged

Submission Deadlines:

November 15, 2023 – Winter

April 15, 2024 – Spring

July 15, 2024 – Summer/Fall

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.

TOP AWARD WINNERS



GARDEN CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs is fortunate that **Patty Schlaeger** dedicates her leadership skills, business expertise, and outgoing personality to improving the Rainbow Garden Club and this Federation. She carries on her mother's enthusiasm for garden club projects and the joy of networking with many people in Great Falls.

Patty has chaired countless club committees and offices, including four years as president. She organized a second Junior Garden Club, the Cabbage Patch Kids, and managed special garden therapy projects at Eagle Mount, finding 'free' flowers at the end of the season to plant around their buildings and horse barns. Patty provided unique art and planting projects with the School for the Deaf and Blind and led extensive clean-up activities there. She started special gardening projects with the Montana Children's Museum and wrote many grant applications to help fund her club's Sensory Garden. Patty saves records of all the club projects and is known as the most successful award applicant in the Federation, winning her club top honors at the state, Rocky Mountain Region, and National Garden Clubs.

Serving as editor of Montana Gardens for a decade and several terms as Life Members Chair contributes to the reach and success of these important committees. Patty's expertise in publishing, advertising, fundraising, and public relations is priceless.

Our energetic Garden Club Member of the Year continues to spread the word that "club friendships and gardening is fun." Thank you, Patty!



GARDENER OF THE YEAR

Barbara Lien earned her BS in Earth Sciences at Montana State University, then her MS in Landscape Architecture at Washington State University. Barbara took additional courses in graphic design, information design, technical writing, AutoCAD, and the Spanish language. She also has floral design and graphic/information design experience.

She taught introductory landscape design courses to homeowners through the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department from 2009-2012. She led the second course of the MFGC Landscape School. Barbara volunteers for the town of Whitehall and currently serves on the Parks, Trees, and Cemetery Board. She's worked many hours at the local Silver Tower Park, where the Whitehall Garden Club established a Native Plant Garden and added a Blue Star Memorial and Gold Star Memorial Markers. With her degrees in landscaping and design and environmental studies, she has applied her skills throughout the Whitehall community.

She has created beautiful gardens at her home, has several berms using plants, shrubs and trees, and planted many native plants around the property. Barbara is currently designing an edible garden. She excels in everything she does.



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Joe Walker has consistently donated roses on behalf of Montana Ace–The Garden Place to help upgrade and beautify the Missoula Memorial Rose Garden Park. Joe has also served as a judge for Missoula Garden Club contests.

Joe has provided roses for the Blue Star Marker area at Missoula Rose Garden Park for two years. The last donation was 26 roses for this area. In addition, when the Missoula Garden Club collaborated with the Missoula Rose Society, Joe donated over 60 roses for the larger portion of Missoula Memorial Rose Garden Park. The Missoula Garden Club and the Missoula Rose Society planted all roses contributed. While Joe declined to have a plaque explicitly made in his name, he did consent to a plaque acknowledging Montana Ace – The Garden Place mounted on a rock and placed adjacent to the Blue Star Marker. This award is an excellent way to single out Joe Walker for his hand in promoting the beautification of Missoula Memorial Rose Garden Park.

The Award of Excellence honors a non-member of MFGC who has contributed to the clubs' mission. Joe is pictured above with members of the Missoula Garden Club - Linda Sadler, Cheryl Carroll, Joe Walker, Pam Diamond, and immediate past president Jim Sadler.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Katheryn Mary Bold, a Junior at Carroll College in Helena double majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, with a minor in Chemistry, has been selected as the recipient of the \$4000 scholarship from the National Garden Clubs for 2023. She is from Big Sandy, where she was raised on the family farm, 27 miles from town. This is where she learned a great deal about responsibility, hard work and dedication to get whatever done that needed doing. She has

participated in a wide variety of school and community activities, all the while maintaining nearly a 4.0 GPA. Her list of community service activities and accomplishments is very humbling, not only to the average college student but especially to the scholarship selection committee.

After graduating from Carroll, she plans to pursue a Master's Degree at the University of Minnesota in Biochemistry so that she can become a Botanical biochemist. She is very concerned about the interplay between making a living farming and coming up with chemicals and farming practices that are effective, efficient and environmentally safe. She plans on being involved in the research that helps bring that about. After reading through all of her application, it's apparent that if there's a way for it to be done, she's the person to do it.

MURPHY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Sarah Kincy, who is in her fifth and final year at Montana State University, double majoring in Environmental Science and Conservation Biology/Ecology, is the recipient of the \$500 Murphy Scholarship this year. She is a 5th generation Montanan from Billings, and she has parents who helped instill a strong appreciation for nature and the importance of land conservation.



She plans to earn a Masters and PhD in the fields of ecology and environmental science to be able to accomplish her goals in terms of research concerning wildlife and land conservation. She has participated in several organizations concerned with wildlife and habitat management on campus and internships off campus, all while having a high enough

GPA to be on the Dean's list and the President's list at MSU most of the time there. Her Soil Management professor and the Beartooth Capital Partners manager, whom she worked for last summer, both spoke very highly of her great attitude and willingness to work hard, plus her practical knowledge in her field of study. Sarah was grateful to receive this award

MFGC LIFE MEMBERS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Jacob Steinle has always been fascinated by flora. Growing up and living in a rural part of Montana granted him unique opportunities that are becoming increasingly scarce in our society. It all started in his mom's flower garden where she would teach him how to care for and name all sorts of flowers and shrubs. When they extended their garden to a 20 by 40 foot plot, he learned about Swiss Chard, Blue Lake Bush Beans and Cylinder Beets to name a few that they harvested every year. For the last four years he has assisted a local farmer in a community garden where 80% of the produce goes to the local Flathead Food Bank. In addition to domestic flora Jacob has an even greater desire to learn about native flora and will study for a degree in Forestry at the University of Montana this fall. He achieved an AAS of Natural Resource Conservation and Management at Flathead Valley Community College.

Jacob says, "This field will grant the opportunity to continue my education in native flora for habitat typing and mega flora for varying forest types. After I obtain this degree, I plan on reaching my goal as a forester with the Forest Service. Winning this \$2,000 scholarship has had a meaningful impact on the financial burden of attending U of M. Now I can focus my attention on academics rather than finding distracting employment to fill in the gaps."

BLUE AND GOLD STAR MEMORIALS

The Bullhook Blossom Garden Club and Missoula Garden Club have received Gold Star Memorials and plan to install them very soon. Conrad Garden Club will be installing a Blue Star By-Way Marker in the near future, too. Montana has 21 Blue Star Markers in place and will soon have 6 Gold Star Families Markers. I encourage every garden club in Montana to have either a Blue Star or Gold Star Families Memorial for their city. If you know of any club thinking about either type, please have them contact me BEFORE THEY ORDER. Prices increased substantially in May, but aren't our Armed Forces and Gold Star families worth it?

Did you know that the last Sunday in September was designated as Gold Star Mother's Day by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 23, 1936. In 2011, former President Obama amended this designation to include recognition of all Gold Star family members. Through a presidential proclamation, this recognition has been observed every year. The National Garden Clubs (NGC) adopted this program May 2015 as an adjunct program to their Blue Star Memorial Markers Program. Both types of markers must be sponsored by a garden club of any level. Gold Star Families can order and pay for one themselves; however, they must work with a garden club and this state chairman.

- Kathy Austin, Chair

Rocky Mountain Region



Robbie Kupper
RMR Director

Montana members met the new RMR Director at the MFGC state convention in Billings in June. Robbie is the immediate past president of the Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, and lives in Ogallala. She is also the National Garden Clubs convention chair for the meeting to be held in Omaha in May 2025. Donna Rouch, a RMR member from Nebraska, will be installed as the president of National Garden Clubs at the meeting.

The Rocky Mountain Region is comprised of eight states -- Montana, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. They hold an annual meeting with each state rotating hosting privileges. This year's meeting will be held in Colorado Springs at the end of August. MFGC President Diane Ward and Phyllis White, Facebook Chair, will attend. Montana will host the RMR meeting in 2028.

Robbie serves on the National Garden Clubs Executive Committee and Scholarship Committee. She attends all the NGC meetings and looks forward to visiting each state in the Region. The RMR website is <https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/>



National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Brenda Moore
NGC President

Brenda Moore, of Oak Hill, West Virginia, is honored to serve as the 48th National Garden Clubs, Inc. President, and to promote her theme of "Go Green – Plant America."

Brenda has a special passion for unusual and native plants. The Moore's have a certified West Virginia Wild Yard, a

National Wildlife Federation Certified Yard, and a Certified Monarch Waystation. Being a good steward of our Earth is very important to her. As a four-star member becoming a five-star member is one of her goals. The four NGC Youth books were authored or co-authored by her.

Brenda has created several new projects that revolve around her theme. You can find information about Plant America/ Feed America, Plant for Pollinators, and Landscape for Wildlife at the NGC website, gardenclubs.org. During the 2023-2025 term, Brenda asks us to keep a running total of how much fresh fruit, herbs, produce, etc. is being donated by our members. A donation form is on the NGC website. NGC wants to spotlight how members make a difference across America!

Of course, education is a major emphasis at NGC. It provide members opportunities to learn the art and science of the environment, gardening, landscape design and floral design. Check out the website calendar for course schedules. Some of the Schools are held via Zoom so members don't have to leave home.





Districts and Membership Numbers

548 Members

Numbers within the black lines indicate the MFGC Districts in Montana

Stars indicate the cities where clubs are located in District

WESTERN DISTRICT 2

Missoula Garden Club - 33 Members
Stevensville Garden Club – 27 Members

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT 3

Anaconda Garden Club* – 35 Members
Butte Garden Study Group - 21 Members
Dillon Garden Club* – 29 Members
Whitehall Garden Club – 45 Members

LEWIS & CLARK DISTRICT 4

Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club – 18 Members
Gallatin Empire Garden Club (Bozeman)* – 18 Members
Townsend Garden and Study Group - 6 Members

CENTRAL DISTRICT 5

Dearborn Garden Club (Cascade) – 35 Members
Great Falls Flower Growers – 49 Members
Rainbow Garden Club (Great Falls)* – 25 Members

NORTHERN DISTRICT 6

Chester Garden Club* – 19 Members
Conrad Garden Club – 18 Members
Toole County Garden Club – 4 Members

HI-LINE DISTRICT 7

Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club (Havre) - 33 Members
Gumbo Gals Garden Club (Nashua)* - 6 Members
Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club* – 28 Members
Saco Garden Club – 12 Members

YELLOWSTONE DISTRICT 10

Sow and Grow Garden Club (Billings) – 17 Members
Thumb-R-Green Garden Club (Billings)* – 31 Members

EASTERN GATEWAY DISTRICT 12

Glendive Garden Club – 28 Members
Miles City Garden Club – 22 Members

*Clubs sponsoring a Junior Garden Club.

Some members belong to two clubs.

ENDOWMENT INTEREST GRANT

The MFGC Endowment Interest Grant provides grants up to \$500 to MFGC garden clubs for projects benefiting communities, residents or garden club members of Montana. The Endowment Fund was established with the fund interest earmarked for education, workshops, speakers, and communication technology. Some of the ways the grant can be used is to fund speakers, seminars, workshops or new technology to present educational programs. The MFGC Executive Committee reviews all grant requests. This past term, grants were awarded to the Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club and the Townsend Garden Study Group.

Priority will be given to projects that meet the following criteria: (1) provide a long-term, direct benefit to local residents or community, (2) enjoy support from community members, (3) have an ongoing, sustainable funding source and (4) address important, unmet needs. The criteria and application form is in the Member's Section of the MFGC website. For more detailed information contact Glenna Waltee, Treasurer, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, P.O. Box 662, Whitehall, MT 59759. Applications must be received by June 1 and/or September 1 each year. Glenna, Beverly Geary and Cindy Carlton serve on the 2023-2025 Endowment Committee.

Minutes of the 86th MFGC Convention, Billings, Montana, June 20-23, 2023

Call to Order: President, Jim Sadler, called the 86th Convention of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs to order at 9:11 am on June 21, 2023.

Mayor of Billings, Bill Cole, Welcome

Bob Wicks, Thumb R Green, President Welcome

Jim Sadler, MFGC President, Introduction of Head table

Cheryl Carroll, Inspirational Poem "Sacred Ground" and prayer

Jeannie Bennett, 2nd Vice President, Pledge of Allegiance

Pam Diamond, Conservation Pledge

Garden Club Member of the Year, Patty Schlaeger

Recognition of Former Presidents-In attendance: Sherry Corneilusen, Mary Davidson, Norm DeNeal, Joyce Hendricks, Linda Sadler, Phyllis White

Recognition of the 2023 Convention Committee

Preliminary Credentials - Merita Murdock, Registrar

Elected Officers 4

Appointed Officers 6

District Directors 5

Past State Presidents 6

State Chairman 9

Club Presidents (or proxy) 12

Delegates 11

Members Present 53

Less Duplicates 12

Voting Strength 42

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

Reading & Adoption of Convention Rules: Phyllis White read and adopted

Appointment of Committee to Approve the 2023 Convention Minutes: Roberta Fuller, Connie Snyder, Bob Wicks

Appointment of Timekeepers and Tellers: Vanette Nagamori, Kathy Austin

Appointment of Convention Positions: President's Page – Pam Diamond, RMR Directors Page – Appointed tomorrow, Photographer, Lilla Flesjer, Temporary Recording Secretary, Ann Wickum

Adoption of Agenda: Jim Sadler adopted Agenda with changes

Garden Club Memorial Service: Cheryl Carroll

2022 Committee Approval of Minutes Mary Baughn: 2022 85th Convention Minutes were approved by committee, Linda Hoinen Mary Baughn and Paula Childers

Reports of Officers

Treasurer, Glenna Waltee

On File

Parliamentarian, Phyllis White

On File

2nd Vice President, Jeannie Bennett

On File

Diane Ward, President Elect

On File

Jim Sadler, President

On File

Finance Committee Report:

Report Filed

Nominating Committee Report: Sherry Corneliusen, Diane Ward-President-Whitehall; Jeannie Bennett-1st Vice President-Missoula; 2nd Vice President-Cindy Carlton-Gallatin Empire; Glenna Waltee-Treasurer-Whitehall; Recording; Secretary-Ann Wickum-Chester Garden Committee.

Election of the 2023-25 MFGC Executive Committee:

Kathy Austin made a motion to accept nominating committee report elect slate of nominees by acclamation. Motion passed.

Recess: 10:20 am

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Call to Order: President, Jim Sadler, called the 86th Convention of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs to order at 9:11 am on June 22, 2023.

Preliminary Credentials - Merita Murdock, Registrar

Elected Officers 4

Appointed Officers 6

District Directors 5

Past State Presidents 6

State Chairman 9

Club Presidents (or proxy) 12

Delegates 11

Members Present 53

Less Duplicates 12

Voting Strength 42

Jim Sadler, President noted we have a quorum.

Audit Committee Report: appointed committee members, Lynn Weischedel, Beverly Geary, Pat Kaiser. They reviewed the report and everything was found to be in order.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Budget: Treasurer, Glenna Waltee, submitted the proposed budget June 1, 2023-May 31, 2024. Glenna moved we accept the budget, Sherry Corneilusen 2nd the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

Long Range Planning Committee: Phyllis White, proposal to change Bylaw Article VIII, #4g "Shall submit the Annual Financial Statement to the MFGC Webmaster within 30 days of the Annual Meeting." The Statement will be posted in the private member's section of the website. Motion passed.

Minutes Continued on next page

Executive Committee Report: Ann Wickum read Recommendation from Executive committee to amend State President Policy #2. President and each vice president shall be reimbursed for travel and lodging for in-state meetings (MFGC convention, District Meetings and Board of Directors Meetings) up to \$1,000.00 annually to be paid out of general fund. Receipts must be presented. Moved and 2nd. Motion Passed.

Endowment Committee: Diane Ward; Endowment Program of the MFGC provides grants for local federation garden clubs in the State of Montana. Townsend Garden Club Study Group received grant in 2023.

Report of Committee Chairs:

Kathy Austin - Blue Star Memorial	On File
Patty Schlaeger – “Montana Gardens”	On File
Susan Billmeyer – “Flower Show School”	On File
Jeannie Bennett – (for Carol Works) “Membership & Life Membership”	On File
Joyce Hendricks – “Landscape Design School”	On File

Announcements

2024 Convention – Malta extended Invitation

Board of Directors Meeting – Friday, June 23, 2023 8:00 am Diane Ward

Meeting Recessed at 10:30 am

Awards Luncheon – 11:30 am

Introduction, Rocky Mountain Region Director – Robbie Kupper

NGC Scholarship Award Winner – Katheryn Bold, Carroll College Student

Murphy Scholarship Award Winner – Sarah Kinsey, MSU College Student

Life Member Scholarship Winner – Jacob Steinle, Flathead Valley Community College

Awards Presentation

Installation Dinner – 6:00 pm

Presidents Promenade and Introductions

Installation Ceremony for Executive Board

Courtesy Resolution – Mary Davis

Benediction – Cheryl Carroll

Sine Die – Jim Sadler, 7:45 pm

**MFGC 2023-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
BILLINGS CONVENTION CENTER – COURTYARD
JUNE 23, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am

Barb Andreozzi and Jodi Haidle appointed to review and approve the minutes of this meeting

Introductions of Officers

Diane Ward, President

Jeannie Bennett, 1st Vice President

Cindy Carlton, 2nd Vice President

Glenna Waltee, Treasurer

Ann Wickum, Recording Secretary

Joyce Hendricks, Parliamentarian

District Directors, Club Presidents, Executive Board: Handbooks handed out. Please look them over. Add Judges Council Chair: Elly Darling, Gary Clark. Add Life Members Chair, Patty Schlaeger.

Approval of Committees: Vanette Nagamori made motion to approve committees, Glenna Waltee seconded. Motion Passed.

Goals and Themes for 2023-2025

Goals: Communication between National, Regional and MFGC Clubs

Theme: “Sow It and Grow It”

New Award C7 – More information will be published in Montana Gardens

New State Pin – Diane Ward wishes to create a State Pin committee. There was no debate. If no objection, Diane appointed Patty Schlaeger. MFGC Meeting Guidelines: Diane wishes to create an MFGC Meeting Guideline Committee. If no objection, I appoint Jeannie Bennett as Chair and Joyce Hendricks and Jim Sadler to work with her on this committee. The committee will present a draft report to the Executive Committee by November 15, 2023.

Fall Board - ZOOM – February 21, 2024

Board of Directors:

Executive Board, Club Presidents, District Directors, Advisory Board, State Chairman and Garden Club Members can attend.

2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION – MALTA, MONTANA (JUNE 27-30, 2024)

Education:

Landscape Design Council – programs on landscape design ideas and concepts, principles of design and related topics or take tours of local gardens.

Joyce Hendricks: Not enough landscape design consultants to do a Landscape Design School.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 am

COURTESY RESOLUTION

Whereas, the members of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs attending the 86th Annual Convention at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, Billings, Montana, June 20, 21 & 22, 2023, have benefited from the information which will provide more creative and constructive programs in our local clubs and have had encouraging networking and healthy camaraderie; and

Whereas, the MFGC President, Jim Sadler, President-Elect, Diane Ward, Second Vice President, Jeannie Bennett, Treasurer, Glenn Waltee, Acting Recording Secretary, Ann Wickum, Parliamentarian, Phyllis White, District Directors, and Members have served this organization with distinction; therefore be it

Resolved, that sincere thanks be given to Convention Chairman, Joyce Hendricks, and her Committee Members: Merita Murdock, Mary Davis, Debbie Werholz, Rosemary Power, Sherry Doty and Bob Wicks, the Thumb-R-Green Garden Club members who have planned, participated and prayed for the success of this convention and assured the success by their many courtesies extended; and

Resolved, that our gratitude be expressed to our Rocky Mountain Region Director, Robbie Kupper, for her message; and

Resolved, that State President Jim Sadler, the members, delegates, chairmen and officers, through their dedicated concern in the deliberations of this Convention, be commended for their spirit of cooperation; and

Resolved, that thanks be given to Susan Billmayer, Donna Dowell, JoAnn Gibbons and Mary Ann Carey who created designs honoring our Rocky Mountain Region Director and our state officers, and thanks be given to the Judges Council who sponsored Tuesday's dinner at the DanWalt Gardens with a self-guided tour of the gardens and the informative program by Gary Clark, Susan Billmayer and Cheryl Carroll, to Thumb-R-Green Garden Club who sponsored Wednesday's lunch followed by birthday cake for Linda Sadler, to Life Members who sponsored Wednesday night's banquet with skits, poems and songs as entertainment, to those involved with Thursday's Awards Luncheon and Scholarship presentations and to all those involved in Thursday evening's Installation Dinner, and

Resolved, that the educational presentations by Danny Choriki, Deb Ford, David Kimball and Cynthia Stallard Jessee on "Community Gardens" and the presentation about the "Plant Select Program" at ZooMT by Sharon Wetsch be extended our appreciation, as well as appreciation for the well-prepared list of gardens, gardens centers, museums, and historical sites for members to visit, and

Resolved, that the Design Only Specialty Show with Petite Designs be declared a huge success with 62 entries in nine (9) classes vying for Table Artistry, Designer's Choice, Award of Distinction and Design Excellence awards, and

Resolved, that appreciation be extended to the Billings Hotel and Convention Center manager, Cheri Milne and to the hotel staff for accommodating us so well in our physical needs and in the services rendered; and

Resolved, that this resolution is incorporated in the minutes and that copies are sent to those who have contributed to the success of the 2023 Annual Montana Federation of Garden Clubs' 86th Convention.

Mary Davis, MFGC Past-president



Many more pictures from the 2023 convention and district meetings are available at the MFGC website under Publications. mtfgc.org



Design Excellence Award in 5" miniatures in the "Adventure is Where You Seek It" section, created by Mary Baughn.

Glendive Garden Club Celebrates 75 Years

The Glendive Garden Club evolved from the Glendive Women's Club and federated in the Montana Council of Garden Clubs (now MFGC) on May 21, 1948. Harold Ullman was the first president, and the club had 15 members. "A petunia in every yard" was their slogan, and petunias were furnished to school children to take home to plant. Planting iris was the theme for 1950, and the club planted 800 iris rhizomes on Highway 10.

The club has done quite a few community plantings at various locations. Some of our big projects have been the Priscilla Hudson Garden retaining wall and the Welcome to Glendive planter. We plant seven planters at the library, three at Bell Street Bridge, and the dinosaur planter at the Eastern Plains Event Center.

We hosted a flower show for several years. Now, the club holds a yard tour with a flower show the following year. We sponsor an annual plant and bake sale in the spring and have a decorated pumpkin sale in the fall to generate money for the club.

The Glendive Garden Club has had four state presidents of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, four flower show judges at one time, and quite a few state chairmen. We hosted the state convention in 1993 and have had fall boards in Glendive in 1982, 1998, 2011, and 2017. A few of our members are currently attending Landscape Design School. Club members installed a Gold and Blue Star marker in our Veteran's Park in 2020. Membership has fluctuated throughout the years, and currently, we have 27 members.



Top left, Glendive Bridge lit in recognition of the Club's 75th anniversary, Top right, Sherry Corneliusen accepts an arrangement for the Club; Right, Glendive Club members with visiting officers from MFGC. Photos provided by Sherry Corneliusen.



2023 MFGC AWARDS

Award	Place	Club	Recipient
B-5 Kerin McCarver Special Award		Anaconda Garden Club	Club
B-4 Kerin McCarver Special Award	1st	Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club	Club
A-5, I President's Communication Award		Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Judy Ward
A-6 President's Horticulture Therapy Award	1st	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
A-11, II Marie Jones Container Gardening Award	1st	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
A-12 President's Club Scrapbook Award	1st	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
A-18 Denise Fink Past to Future Award	1st	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
B-1 Mae Burke Magill Award	1st	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
B-5 Kerin McCarver Special Award		Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Marilyn Granell and Peggy Perry
B-12 Mary Lee Award	1st	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
B-13 Anaconda Garden Club Award	1st	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
C-1 Award of Appreciation		Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
C-6 Landscape Design Award	1st	Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
C-8, III Blue and Red Award for Best Yearbook		Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club	Club
A-1 President's Awards for Community Beautification	1st	Chester Garden Club	Club
A-8, II President's Wildflower and Native Plants Award	1st	Chester Garden Club	Susan Yurman
A-12 President's Club Scrapbook Award	1st	Chester Garden Club	Club
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Chester Garden Club	Gwen Henderson
B-10, I Flower Show Education Award	1st	Chester Garden Club	Club
C-3 Floral Design Award	1st	Chester Garden Club	Club
A-2 President's Awards for Environmental Concerns	1st	Dearborn Garden Club	Club
A-5, III President's Communication Award	1st	Dearborn Garden Club	Club
A-11, II Marie Jones Container Gardening Award	1st	Dearborn Garden Club	Club
A-12 President's Club Scrapbook Award		Dearborn Garden Club	Club
B-5 Kerin McCarver Special Award		Dearborn Garden Club	Club
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Dearborn Garden Club	Charlene Moug
C-8, III Blue and Red Award for Best Yearbook	1st	Dearborn Garden Club	Club
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Glendive Garden Club	Chelsea Zeimer
C-10 Photography Contest Award	1st	Glendive Garden Club	Club
A-7 President's Membership Award	1st	Great Falls Flower Growers	Club
A-12 President's Club Scrapbook Award		Great Falls Flower Growers	Club
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Great Falls Flower Growers	Paula Lovec
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Miles City Garden Club	Donna Schmidt
A-1 President's Awards for Community Beautification	1st	Missoula Garden Club	Club
A-16 Darlene Skari Public Workshop Award	1st	Missoula Garden Club	Club
B-1 Mae Burke Magill Award		Missoula Garden Club	Club
B-5 Kerin McCarver Special Award	1st	Missoula Garden Club	Club
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Missoula Garden Club	Pam Diamond
B-9 Kathy Atkinson Creative Design Award	1st	Missoula Garden Club	Nancy Dold
B-10, I Flower Show Education Award B-11,	1st	Missoula Garden Club	Club
B-11, I Esther Hamel Butterfly Garden Award	1st	Missoula Garden Club	Club

Award	Place	Club	Recipient
B-12 Mary Lee Award	1st	Missoula Garden Club	Nancy Dold
C-1 Award of Appreciation	1st	Missoula Garden Club	Steven Hesla
C-2, I Horticulture Award	1st	Missoula Garden Club	Club
C-9 Award of Excellence	1st	Missoula Garden Club	Joe Walker, Montana Ace
C-10 Photography Contest Award		Missoula Garden Club	Club
A-1 President's Awards for Community Beautification			
		Rainbow Garden Club	Club
A-3 President's Award for Conservation, Preservation and Education	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Club
A-5, I President's Communication Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Amy Grisak
A-6 President's Horticulture Therapy Award		Rainbow Garden Club	Club
A-8, II President's Wildflower and Native Plants Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Amy Grisak
A-14 Rose Kopp Special Children Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Club
A-18 Denise Fink Past to Future Award		Rainbow Garden Club	Club
B-5 Kerin McCarver Special Award		Rainbow Garden Club	Club
B-7 MFGC State Chairman Leadership Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Kathy Austin
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Rainbow Garden Club	Kathy Austin
B-11, V Esther Hamel Butterfly Garden Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Club
C-1 Award of Appreciation		Rainbow Garden Club	Club
C-2, II Horticulture Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Club
C-3 Floral Design Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Club
C-7 Multimedia Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Club
C-10 Photography Contest Award		Rainbow Garden Club	Club
D-1 Youth Club Sponsorship Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Club
D-2 Youth Gardening Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Club
D-3, II Youth Bird/Pollinator Award	1st	Rainbow Garden Club	Club
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Sow and Grow Garden Club	Ann Marie Linneweber
B-1 Mae Burke Magill Award		Stevensville Garden Club	Club
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Stevensville Garden Club	Mary Anne Beilke
B-6 Laura Works Memorial Award	1st	Thumb-R-Green Garden Club	Club
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Thumb-R-Green Garden Club	Merita Murdock
A-2 President's Awards for Environmental Concerns			
		Whitehall Garden Club	Club
A-3 President's Award for Conservation, Preservation and Education	1st	Whitehall Garden Club	Club
A-5, III President's Communication Award		Whitehall Garden Club	Club
A-9 President's Youth Activities Award	1st	Whitehall Garden Club	Club
A-12 President's Club Scrapbook Award		Whitehall Garden Club	Club
B-1 Mae Burke Magill Award	1st	Whitehall Garden Club	Club
B-5 Kerin McCarver Special Award	1st	Whitehall Garden Club	Club
B-8 Circle of Green Thumbs Award		Whitehall Garden Club	Judy Chadwick
C-8, III Blue and Red Award for Best Yearbook		Whitehall Garden Club	Club



Thumb-R-Green Garden Club in Billings won a National Garden Clubs, Inc. Standard Flower Show Achievement Award for their show entitled "Hats Off to Our Heroes"

A Passion for Seeding Bedding Plants



For over 15 years, Diana Widhalm has been growing bedding flowers from seed in her Butte greenhouse. She chooses annual bedding plants because they bloom the entire summer. Though there is the initial cost of having a greenhouse, in a few years, that cost is quickly paid for by not purchasing bedding flowers from a commercial nursery. For example, Diana plants several trays of 512 units of wave petunias, whereas one tray of plant purchases from a commercial grower would cost about \$2,500. Diana's seed purchase cost \$669.26 this year, a significant part of which was the shipping cost. Diana seeds several thousands of individual plants. She is

motivated by passion. But the passion is generously fed by the joy of seeing the individual plants germinate, then grow to be able to transplant in her garden to bloom profusely for the entire growing season. Additionally, Diana starts so many plants that over half of her stock goes to friends without cost. And that giving reinforces her bonds of affection with those friends.

Starting with an 8x16 foot greenhouse, Diana now has two greenhouses. The second is smaller. Both greenhouses are manufactured in Norway by Sunshine Greenhouses, which has a USA distribution center. The first greenhouse has sturdy wood frame construction with double-walled corrugated polypropylene windows. It came as a kit she had to assemble. Her engineer husband built double-tiered shelves. The lower shelves work exceptionally well for plants that love the shade. Ultimately, there are four levels of plants, with the lowest level being the gravel floor. Advising someone who was going to purchase a greenhouse and had already had a concrete pad made for the new greenhouse, Diana exclaimed, "Why would you ever want a concrete floor?" A gravel floor is more maintenance-free and allows for draining any excess water that inevitably results in growing plants.



Furthermore, heating and ventilation are essential if you have a greenhouse. For Diana, a nearby propane tank provides the heating. Self-rising louvers lift when the greenhouse temperature gets warmer than the ideal 70 degrees. Turning on a fan by flipping a switch also helps. A thermometer in the greenhouse radios its temperature to a receiver in Diane's home.



Seeding Schedule 2023

Geranium 3/13-16	Impatiens 4/24
Osteospermum 3/13-16	Nemesia
Grasses 3/21-26	Coleus
Bacopa 3/21-23	Lobelia
Wave petunias 3/27-29	Cornflower 4/25
Phlox 3/29	Salvia 4/25
Dusty miller	Petunia 4/20 before 5/11
Dianthus	Kale 5/1
Dalials 4/1	Moss rose and Alyssum 5/1
Rudbeckia 4/3	Marigolds 5/8
Celosia 4/7	Cosmos 5/29
B&S	Zinnia
Gazania	Amaranthus
Double petunia 4/19	

Another bit of enthusiastic advice was to "try new things." Not only do seed catalogs offer new introductions, but there is excitement every year in seeing something different and possibly better than something tried before. Most of her bedding flowers are wave petunias, geraniums, marigolds, and rudbeckias. "If you don't journal, you don't know what you are doing," Diana noted. So each year, about ten pages of journal entries are compiled. Writing these notes takes only a few minutes every few days. In the end, she creates a detailed record that makes every succeeding year easier. Below are the notes made on when plants were seeded this year. And those notes are derived from years of experience.

The timing starts from mid-March to the end of May. Thus geraniums are first seeded since they take longer to mature before their final placement in the garden in June. On the other hand, marigolds will germinate in a day. They grow fast and thus seeded in May to be planted after mid-June. Diana's journal notes list the seed companies she orders from, the date of the order, when the order was received, and any other information that would prove useful in the future. When everything is mature in midseason, take your journal and a camera, look at all the plantings, and take pictures of what you like and don't like, what to move, and what to do differently.

Other helpful experiences that Diana shared were:

- Start looking in seed catalogs in September for your choices. Decide as early as possible on options before a supply may sell out. Compare prices.
- Watch for sales of potting soil and seed mix soils. Sales can happen anytime. Many sales items are not advertised, so you have to be in the habit of checking prices when visiting a store.
- Always water deeply. It saves labor, and it is what the plants desire.
- Petunia seeds are so small that if possible, choose pelleted seeds with a coating around the seed that helps germination and pick up the seeds one by one. But if the petunia seed is not pelleted, you can easily pick up the seed with a toothpick that is lightly licked.
- Some seeds need light to germinate. Petunias are an example. The instructions will often note this requirement. Thus place the seed on the soil surface or only very lightly cover the seed as the light will penetrate a very light soil covering. Some seeds, such as petunias and lobelia, don't need any cover, but others need only a very thin cover.
- Diana starts her seeds in the basement furnace room with a 70-degree temperature (see left). She uses ordinary fluorescent shop lights, not "Gro-lights," close to the surface of germination trays for the best results. Lights can be raised or lowered with chains. A 70-degree germination temperature and 24-hour lighting are ideal for germination.
- Nighttime greenhouse temperatures are ideally 50 degrees.
- You can make your potting soil by mixing store-bought pot soil, adding vermiculite, perlite, and peat moss.
- A recommended seed starting mix would be "Jiffy Mix," which is widely available.
- Diana likes "Miracle-Gro fertilizer (Quick Start) for small seedlings and Miracle-Gro that is diluted for maturing plants at 3-4 weeks old and applied every two weeks.
- Clean all pots and trays before use with a general water cleaning, remove nearly all dirt/soil, and then reclean (not just soaking) with a diluted 10 % chlorine bleach solution. You can do this in the autumn when there is a lull in other work. Also, clean the greenhouse gravel floor, wood, and windows with 10% diluted bleach.
- Diana purposely does not have an automatic sprinkler system in her greenhouses. Different plants need a different watering schedule, and temperatures and maturity affect the watering routine—deep water rather than just surface water. Nevertheless, do surface water in the period before and soon after the plants germinate. Watering may need to be done twice a day. They must never dry out when they are first seeded.
- Initially, keep commercial greenhouse-bought plants separate from your own greenhouse plants, as they may be contaminated with pests, fungus, or mold. Later if seen to be uncontaminated, you can move the purchased plant into your greenhouse.
- For younger plants that have grown significantly after germination, water and fertilize weekly with a hose that has a diluted fertilizer attachment. Below are small sections of Diana's yard.



Notes —

Penny Pines Program:

*\$68, Whitehall Garden Club for the Beaverhead/Deer Lodge N.F.s, in Honor of Glenna Waltee

*\$68, Rainbow Garden Club for the Lewis & Clark N.F.

*\$68, Dearborn Garden Club, Lewis & Clark and Helena N.F.s, in Memory of Louise Volkman

New Life Members:

Terry Hotchkiss, Malta Garden Club

Roberta Fuller, Thumb-R-Green Garden Club

Sherry Doty, Thumb-R-Green Garden Club

Merita Murdock, Thumb-R-Green Garden Club

Pat Ludwig, Chester Garden Club

Gary Schlaeger, Rainbow Garden Club

Gumbo Gals Garden Club, \$45 to Life Members in memory of deceased member Helen Robbins.

Judges Council:

Member dues, \$340

The MFGC Awards Program would like a sponsor for the B-6 Award: To a club for the largest % of new Life Members, \$25 yearly. Please contact Glenna Waltee.

Images in this issue provided by Lilla Flesjer, Norm DeNeal, Sherry Corneliusen, Glenna Waltee, Patty Schlaeger, Phyllis White, and Diane Ward.

Contact information for Officers, Chairmen, District Directors and others is available in the MFGC website's Member Section—Directory. Please send all address updates to Beverly Geary, Circulation Manager.

Please update Club information on the MFGC website by contacting Elaine Wood, mfgweb@gtfalls.com.

ZOOM IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR CLUB MEETINGS

MFGC purchased the Zoom application for club

members and committee chairmen to use for meetings.

The 2024 winter Board Meeting will use Zoom. If you have questions, contact Phyllis White, Zoom Coordinator.

How Does Zoom Work?

- ❖ All members who wish to use the application should download it from zoom.com by setting up an account on their personal computer, laptop or smartphone with their name and email address.
- ❖ The club president or secretary should send an email to Phyllis White at gardens@bresnan.net with the date and time you wish to meet. No two meetings may take place at one time. Your meeting may have up to 100 attendees and last as long as you wish.
- ❖ Phyllis will reserve that time for you and send you an invitation with all the information for joining the meeting. The club president or member who asked for the meeting should send the Zoom meeting invitation to the club members via email. For security, the invitation link should not be published in the paper or any other public area, such as on posters or Facebook pages. There is a link to the meeting in the invitation that once clicked, automatically takes the member to the meeting. The meeting is chaired by the president, or in the case of a committee, by the committee chairman.
- ❖ Each club may want to run a practice Zoom meeting. Send Phyllis the meeting time and date and work through the bugs and questions from your members. Members should practice turning on their video and microphone so they can see and hear each other. It's fun to see friends – *schedule time before the start of the official meeting for your members to network about how they're doing and how their garden is growing!*

Beverly Geary, Circulation Manager
1891 Sutherland Dr.
Corvallis MT 59828

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DATES TO REMEMBER

9/1/2023	MFGC Dues Payment Deadline
11/15/2023	Montana Gardens Articles due
12/1/2023	NGC Award Applications due to Jeannie Bennett and NGC Standard Flower Show Awards due to Susan Andrews
1/1/2024	Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters due
2/21/2024	MFGC Board Meeting via Zoom
4/15/2024	MFGC Award Applications due



2023-2025 MFGC Officers

from left:

Joyce Hendricks
Parliamentarian
Glenna Waltee
Treasurer
Ann Wickum
Recording Secretary
Cindy Carlton
2nd Vice President
Jeannie Bennett
1st Vice President
Diane Ward
President