



MONTANA Gardens

I love this time of year! Animals are having their cute babies, birds are singing and flowers are beginning to pop their little heads up through the ground! Spring cleaning our homes, opening windows for fresh air, and switching our winter clothing to spring t-shirts and lightweight coats are on our to-do list. Not only are we spring cleaning our homes, but we are beginning to spring clean our gardens. Old plants are replaced with new ones, and the chore of weeding begins!

I have the privilege from June 2 – 6, 2024, to attend the **National Garden Club Convention** in Denver, CO. Several seminars are being offered, and I plan on gaining valuable information to bring back to Montana. This is a perfect opportunity for me to share the wonderful projects our State and MFGC members are doing. I always enjoy hearing about other state projects and how different gardening is in various areas of the country.



2023-25 MFGC President Diane Ward

This year the **MFGC Annual Convention** is in Malta, MT from June 27 – June 30. Brenda Moore, the National Garden Club’s President, will be attending, and this would be a great time to meet her. The Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club members have been working hard on making this convention fun and full of educational programs. On Friday, a tour of the Native Prairie Pollinator Garden at Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge will be a highlight of the convention. A bus has been scheduled to transport us to and from the gardens. On Saturday the Malta club is dedicating their Gold Star, honoring those families who have lost a member serving in the United States Armed Forces. I strongly encourage you to attend this convention. Make your reservations and send in your registration form, found in this issue, as soon as you can. The meeting agenda is on our website under “News.” Make plans to carpool, who doesn’t like a road trip, and join us in Malta!



The **Communication Across Montana** project is ready to start! I will be handing a packet to each club president with the materials and instructions needed to reach out to your local radio stations. If you have questions or need additional guidance, call me (406-565-0222) and I will be there to help you. This project is designed to give the public information about your club, when and where you meet, contact information, upcoming events and programs. With this exposure, you might even see an increase in your membership!

Spring is also a time to get the recognition your club deserves by applying for **Awards**. So many of you have started and even completed projects that are worthy of an award. The **Rocky Mountain Region Awards** are due soon. Please submit applications in electronic format to the Awards Chair Cindy Carlton by July 1, and she will send them on. A Rocky Mountain Region Award Directory, application form and a photo contest form can be found on the MFGC website.

Glenna Waltee, MFGC Treasurer, is biting at the bit to award your club the **Endowment Grant** (up to \$500) to help fund your project. This grant is available twice a year. Applications are due by June 1 and September 1. Guidelines can be found on the MFGC website, www.mtfgc.org. (continued)

The **Fundraising Committee** has designed a beautiful MFGC MEMBER pin. Proudly wear this pin when you attend your club meeting or go to a flower show, a state or county fair, attend seminars and meetings or attend special events such as a Blue or Gold Star dedications or an Arbor Day celebration. Another item the Fundraising Committee is offering is a unique umbrella. It is self-opening and comes with a personalized storage sleeve. A big THANK YOU to Patty Schlaeger and Jo Lee Burman for the hard work you ladies did to get my fundraising projects completed, see page 5

Enjoy this issue of the **MONTANA GARDENS**. It is full of valuable information from clubs around the state and State Chairmen. Have a wonderful Spring and I look forward to seeing you all in Malta at the MFGC Annual Convention!

Diane

Convention Information

Accommodations and Schedule Update

You will notice on the registration form on page 4 that we have four motels listed. No business in Malta has the facilities for all events to be held in one place. On Thursday afternoon, the Executive Board Meeting and the Finance Committee meeting will be at the Great Northern Hotel. There will be a no-host dinner there, too. A meeting for Judges Council will be in the Lodge Room at the Great Northern. The hotel has a bar and very nice dining room. They are very good at taking orders off the menu for a large group. The Edgewater Inn has an exercise room, pool and spa. It's located just off Highway 2 and is an easy drive to the Great Northern. The Country Inn is located near the Tin Cup. A former assisted living home, it has handicapped rooms and is easy-access. The Sportsman Motel is a less expensive alternative but has no amenities.

All other meetings and meals will be held at the Tin Cup. If you drive south on Central Ave. (Highway 191) out of Malta, ¼ mile from town you will find the Country Inn and the Tin Cup. Everything in Malta is within 5 minutes driving time.

Friday and Saturday will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a breakfast buffet, followed by business meeting at 9:00. After our Awards Lunch on Friday, we will tour the Native Prairie Pollinator Garden, located at Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge a few miles east of Malta. The wildflower seeds for this garden were funded by Airwick through the World Wildlife Fund. The Kiosk and gravel paths with fabric underneath were funded by Visitor Services through the National Wildlife Refuge system. Dodson High School built benches to put along the trail and NWR seasonal fire crew laid the fabric and spread the gravel on the paths, all funded through Visitor Services of the NWR system. Malta Dirt Daubers was instrumental in planning and laying out the paths.

Friday evening will be our banquet in honor of National Garden Club President Brenda Moore. She and her husband are coming from West Virginia to attend our convention. On Saturday we conclude our business meeting. Educational programs after our Scholarship Lunch include "Planting Flowers to Have a Succession of Bloom", "Composting with Worms", and "How to Make a Seed Gathering Kit". We will dedicate our new Gold Star Memorial at 3:00. The Life Members Dinner will be Saturday evening and will conclude the convention on a light note. We look forward to seeing all of you in Malta!

The Tin Cup and Marion Hills Golf Course

Welcome to Marion Hills Golf Course situated just south of Malta! It is a public golf course. John Steidel designed the 9 hole facility which covers 90 acres with 7 lakes, large putting surfaces averaging 8,000 square feet each, vast fairways, elevation changes and four sets of tees. Included is a massive 10-acre practice range and large putting green. Marion Hills has something for everyone. A fleet of golf carts are available to rent. Whether it's on the course, the range, Marion Hills Golf Course or the Tin Cup Bar & Grill, we hope you enjoy our great facility! The golf course will be open during the convention from 8 a.m. until dark every day.

MALTA WELCOMES YOU!

We are so excited to host the 2024 Montana Federation of Garden Clubs Convention! Malta is like an island, up here on the Hi-Line, on the short grass prairie. For those who don't know, the Hi-Line is U.S. Highway 2 as it travels through northern Montana, on its way to connect the east coast with the west coast, over 2500 miles. It followed the new Great Northern Railroad as it was being built. There was a siding every ten miles and they all needed a name. There are two stories about how they were named. The railroad employees either spun a globe or, while blindfolded, put their finger on a world map; wherever their finger landed, that was the name they gave the siding. That's why there is a Kremlin, a Glasgow, a Malta, a Dunkirk, a Harlem, a Havre, an Inverness; the list goes on.



Our isolation is our drawing card. We have world class hunting, drawing hunters from all over the U.S. Nelson Reservoir is known for its walleye fishing. We're just over an hour to Fort Peck Dam, the largest earth filled dam in the country. A WPA project during the depression, it provided a living for many families through hard times. Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge east of town is a great place to go birding. Two rare birds that can be found there are the Chestnut Collared Longspur and the Sprague's Pippit. Our Native Prairie Pollinator Garden is a new addition to the Bowdoin Headquarters. It is planted entirely with native grasses, wildflowers and shrubs, and we are planning a tour to see it.

The American Prairie Reserve is situated in south Phillips County, about an hour from town, adjacent to the UL Bend NWR and the Charles M. Russell NWR. They are restoring the native prairie on their property and establishing a herd of bison. If you wish, you can drive through and most likely see bison somewhere. But be aware that it's an hour drive just to get there with no gas stations or restaurants along the way. And if it's been raining you would be well advised to postpone your trip until the roads are dry. In September and October, elk congregate along the Missouri River. It's a busy time for the bulls, fighting each other for breeding rights and gathering up a herd of cow elk to breed. The bull elk "bugle" at each other. Altogether it's an unforgettable experience!



Leonardo, the brachylophosaurus or duck-billed dinosaur, was unearthed north of Malta. He is the best-preserved dinosaur in the world, and was the first fossil to have preserved skin and muscle. He also has all his internal organs, including a digestive system containing undigested food (turned to rock of course); and his petrified duckbill. Unfortunately, he is not personally in residence, but is on tour at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. We do have a cast of Leonardo. Aside from Leonardo, our Great Plains Dinosaur Museum has actual fossils instead of

replicas. Leonardo is a teenage "brachy", we have Roberta who they think is a female, and Peanut who is a young "brachy". Elvis is an adult male and resides in the Phillips County Museum situated next door. It's a rare opportunity to study the dinosaurs and see how they grew. We also have the most complete raptor found, about the size of a turkey. Check out the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum website for more in depth information. <https://greatplainsdinosaurs.org/>

The H.G. Robinson House is located next to the Phillips County Museum. The Historical Society acquired the house and grounds 24 years ago. Malta Dirt Daubers took on the task of re-landscaping the grounds. It has been a big job and takes constant upkeep, but it's worth doing. The house has been furnished with period furniture and is available for touring.

The best thing about the Malta area is the wide-open spaces. We have less than 1 person per square mile in Phillips County. You can drive for miles on our gravel roads without meeting another vehicle. There is definitely "room to breathe"!

IT'S A GARDEN PARTY!

June 27-30, 2024

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
 87th Annual State Membership Convention
 Tin Cup, 1652 Hwy 191 S.



Please reserve soon as rooms are limited in Malta

Great Northern Hotel at 2 1st St. E. - Single King \$85.28 w/tax; Double Queen \$90.48 w/tax: this is where the Judges Council and Executive meetings will be held. The GN has a dining room, café, full bar. Phone 406-654-2100

Country Inn at 1568 Hwy 191 S. - Queen \$73.87 w/tax; Double Queen \$96.23 w/tax; Single Queen/Kitchenette \$82.62 w/tax : located next to the Tin Cup but has only 12 rooms, fully equipped handicapped rooms available. Phone 406-654-2198

Edgewater Inn at 47176 US 2 - Single Queen (2 people) \$92.88 w/tax; Double Full (4 people) \$97.20 w/tax: has a pool, exercise room, spa, keno machines, alcohol -2 blocks from GN on Highway 2. Phone 406-654-1302

Sportsman Motel at 231 N. 1st St. E.—Single Queen \$66.96 w/tax; Double Queen \$76.68 w/tax: older motel, has no amenities. Phone 406-654-2300

Thursday events will be held at the Great Northern Hotel; Convention events will be held at the Tin Cup 1/2 mile south of Malta

Name: _____ Club: _____ District: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Please circle applicable titles: *indicates voting member. Delegate's name must appear on club delegate registration.

Advisory Council Member*	Alternate Delegate**	Appointed State Officer*	Club Delegate**	Club President*
Club President Proxy**	District Director*	Elected State Officer*	First Time Attendee	Flower Show Judge
Garden Club Member	Guest	Landscape Design Consultant	National Board Member	National Life Member
Region Board Member	Region Director	Region Officer	State Chairman*	State Life Member
State President*	Student F S Judge	Student L D Consultant	*Indicates voting member	**indicates club delegate

Registration: Registration form and fees must be postmarked by June 7, 2024. No routine refunds after June 15, 2024. MFGC Members must register to attend any function. Add registration and meals for total cost. We are offering breakfast because only two small cafes have breakfast menus, making long wait times to be served.

REGISTRATION: Convention Registration	\$25	\$ _____
Late Fee (postmarked after June 7, 2024)	\$10	\$ _____
ONE DAY REGISTRATION:	\$15	\$ _____
MEALS: 18% gratuity included		
Friday, June 28, Breakfast at the Tin Cup: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Muffin, Juice	\$14	\$ _____
Friday, June 28, Awards Luncheon at the Tin Cup: Chicken Salad Croissant, Side Salad, Brownie	\$22	\$ _____
Friday, June 28, Banquet at the Tin Cup: Roast Beef, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Salad, Roll, Cheesecake	\$35	\$ _____
Saturday, June 29, Breakfast at the Tin Cup: Quiche with Caramel Rolls, Juice	\$14	\$ _____
Saturday, June 29, Scholarship Luncheon at the Tin Cup: Chef's Salad, Breadstick, Lemon Bar	\$22	\$ _____
Saturday, June 29, Life Members Dinner at the Tin Cup: Chicken Alfredo, Caesar Salad, Carrot Cake	\$26	\$ _____
TOTAL REGISTRATION COST:	\$	\$ _____

Any food allergies? Please list here:

Make registration checks payable to: Malta Dirt Daubers Convention Fund; Mail to: PO Box 1024; Malta, MT 59538

By entering the event and by your presence at 2024 Montana Federation Annual State Membership Convention, you consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded. You consent to use of your image, voice or name for publicity, advertising, informational, educational or promotional purposes by Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Agenda Schedule is on the website, www.mtfgc.org

LIFE MEMBERS – PLAN FOR AN EVENING OF FUN IN MALTA!



MFGC members who attend the annual Life Member's function at the state convention know they are always in for a great time, and this year promises another fun-filled evening! Although Life Member's programs are usually held on the first evening or a first day luncheon, this year we will be the final event of the convention. Our Life Member's dinner and program is always open to everyone. You don't have to be a Life Member to attend, but once you see how much fun we have you will want to join us. Of course, the first part of our meeting is a short annual recap about the Life Member's Scholarship which is now \$2,000 a year. Our 2024 Scholarship Winner will have been announced earlier at the convention, but we still honor our winner and hope he or she can attend the Malta program. We also will pass out Red Rose Pins to those who have made a \$50 contribution to our Scholarship Fund. And, we thank all our Life Members!



This year we are having a Scavenger Hunt Program. We don't have to leave the banquet premises to find things since each table will have an envelope asking for items within the room or at other tables. We want everyone to get around to meeting our members and guests from clubs all over Montana and this is a fun way to do it. When a table's team leader completes their items, they will have a bell on their table to ring. We will continue until we have second and third prizes. However, "finding and signing up" a **NEW LIFE MEMBER** will trump everything for the GRAND prize!! We will end the evening with a special sing-a-long to our own version of favorite songs.

~ Patricia Schlaeger, Life Members and Fundraising Chairman

PRESIDENT'S FUND-RAISING PROGRAM

EACH YEAR the MFGC, Inc. state president has a fund-raising program to help defray the expenses of meetings, conventions and travel throughout our vast state. This year the committee has selected two items for sale: **a new metal state membership pin and a special umbrella**. MFGC President Diane Ward is excited to offer these special items for sale.



The pin is copper metal in the shape of the state of Montana with our Montana state flower, the bitterroot, in color. The pins are priced at \$10 each and we encourage members to purchase the new pins and proudly wear them. They can be purchased from MFGC officers prior to the 2024 Convention in Malta by using the order form on page 15 and at the convention.

A new Montana Garden Club umbrella design featuring clouds on the underside is also for sale for \$25. When it is raining outside you will always have blue sky! Each umbrella comes with a storage sleeve that will be personalized with the owner's name.



See the Pin and Umbrella reservation form on page 15. Make a copy and let Diane know what your club would like to reserve for pick up at the convention. If you miss that opportunity, Diane, Jeannie and Cindy will have these items for you at District meeting.

Additional fund-raising items at the Malta convention will be silent auction gift baskets donated by each of the MFGC clubs. The silent auction items are always beautifully presented and a very popular attraction at each year's convention. The Malta Dirt Daubers would appreciate items for their Ways & Means table, too. Bring your goodies!

All of us have a role in protecting the Environment

Three types of Conservation Resources will help us understand and appreciate how vital protecting the environmental is.

1. Natural: Animals, plants, minerals, water. These are from nature and are used in their natural form.
2. Human: People who use their skills to produce goods or a service, i.e., mechanics, teachers, farmers.
3. Capital Resource. These are goods produced and used to make other goods or services, i.e., buildings and computers.

Understanding these resource types helps us appreciate how societies function and utilize their valuable assets.

- Use items multiple times until they are no longer of use. Dispose of it properly.
- Compost degradable items. Bury kitchen food scraps, cardboard, and newspapers in the garden.
- Turn the electricity off when not using.
- Utilize public transportation to save fuel and help the environment. Car share for shopping and errands.
- Buy from local merchants.
- Avoid toxic chemicals.
- Donate to conservation groups.

And the list goes on.

“When the last tree is cut, the last fish is caught, the last river is polluted; when to breathe the air is sickening, you will realize, too late, that wealth is not in bank accounts and that you can’t eat money.”

Alanis Obomsawin, Indigenous filmmaker

~ Mary Baughn, Conservation Chairman

Garden Therapy Musings

There are two places you need to go often:

The place that heals you

The place that inspires you

I believe that most of us can relate to the message shared in these words. What immediately came to my mind is that these places can vary significantly from individual to individual. We access a variety of places depending upon the topic or concern. Regarding healing, it might be spiritual in nature, family members, utilizing professional assistance, or visiting a quiet place removed from the hustle and bustle of this crazy world we live in. Regarding inspiration, our resources could possibly include attending workshops, watching Internet videos for ideas, and observing what others have done with areas of interest to us. Certainly, there are numerous possibilities.

What occurred to me is that, as gardeners, a single place obviously serves as both of these places: **our gardens!** It really doesn't make any difference whether our gardens are large or small, indoors or outdoors, or perennials and flowers versus vegetables, we spend most of our time there voluntarily. It is not the law or a set of rules and or the expectations of anyone else. It is primarily by choice. We recognize there are some stresses associated with gardening, yet they have a totally different impact on us than the daily stresses of life. The benefits far exceed any negatives. Gardening provides us with quiet, peaceful, productive, and satisfying outcomes. And we have opportunity to try growing new plants, adopt better techniques, and accept new challenges. We encourage ourselves to search catalogs, research topics, and listen to what others are doing in their yards and planted areas. It is safe to say that many of us use gardening to keep ourselves centered or return to center and to inspire us to try new things while bringing more beauty and joy into our lives and of those around us.

~ Fred Frey, Garden Therapy Chairman



Great Falls Flower Growers Garden Club

Happy spring from the Great Falls Flower Growers Club. Our club had a busy year, we welcomed 6 new members.

The District Meeting was held October 1, 2023. Because the weather can be so unpredictable in the spring, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs wanted to try having the meetings in fall. This proved to be a beautiful time of year. The registration fee of \$5 dollars was later used to offset the NGC Small Standard Holiday Flower Show, held November 7th and 8th at the Do Bar. The seasonal themes for the flower show were Autumn, Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Winter, and Christmas. There were 56 entries.

Spring gardening has begun at Tourist Park, the library is mostly done with renovations, and the ladies will be able to plant this year. The members are looking forward to planting at the Veterans Memorial. The club has two outings planned this spring, and a presentation by Jake Duty a Great Falls Horticulturist.

See you all at the convention!

~ Kerry Hovland, Member

Bullhook Blossoms of Havre

Spreading Cheer and Kindness



Member Lela Patera displays her design

This simple project brought much joy to our Club members, the staff at the Care Center and most importantly to the residents.

Bullhook Blossoms intends to make this an annual project.

In January, our members designed floral arrangements with a Valentine theme. A variety of containers were used from cups, teacups, small buckets from the Dollar Tree, or whatever we had available. We purchased our flowers, baby breath, greens, and oasis from our locally owned Gary and Leo's IGA in Havre. They were very helpful and thrilled with our project.

To make the project easier and go a little quicker, the oasis was already soaked and placed in the containers. Every design was unique, and our club had so much fun with this project. Sixteen floral arrangements were given to the Northern Montana Care Center. They placed the centerpieces throughout the common areas in the building so all could enjoy.



Dedicating a Gold Star Marker



April 20, 2024



Malta Dirt Daubers

The Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club was recently honored by the Milk River chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) in recognition for their community service projects. President Toni Ziegler was presented with a pin and certificate as the state winner of the award. The picture to the right provided by Kari Hould of Phillips County News.

The club celebrated their 63rd anniversary and have 28 members. Flower Show Judge Emeritus Madelyn Anderson has been a member for 60 years.

The members are very busy with varied projects, including planting flowers at the entrance of Trafton Park, by the Malta "Welcome" sign, and the flower barrels around town, as well as the beautifully landscaped Robinson house and gardens.

They present a scholarship to a high school senior, hand out bouquets to teachers each fall, and they work with the Kids Club to prepare gifts for their parents at Christmas. Members make entries for the county fair and provide centerpieces for the Festival of Trees. They also promote the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest where budding artists frequently win state and region awards. You'll note the members' work and skills showcased in the antique truck parked on the corner of Central Avenue and South 2nd Street East when you visit Malta for the convention they are hosting on June 27-30, 2024.



Members of the Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club. Seated: Rosemary Veseth, Wilma Mavencamp, and Kathy Waters. Row 2: Millie Kindle, Toni Ziegler, Sharon Icenogel, Jane Ereaux, Elaine Stannebien, and Dana Sue Rogers. Row 3: Larry Bauer, David Veseth, Jennifer Strzelczyk, Terry Hotchkiss, Dina Sainato-Meneely, Cassie Graffith, and Sue Hungerford. Photo by Kari Hould.

Glendive Garden Club Keeping Busy

The Glendive Garden Club is still going strong after celebrating their 75th anniversary last year. Some of our programs for this year include orchids, landscape planning, an Easter planter, willow art, terrariums, grafting fruit trees, propagating plants, and yard art.

A new project for this year will be making table arrangements for the State Clerk of Courts Convention to be held in May. We are also looking into touring an underground grow tunnel in a nearby town.

Something new for this year is that we drew names for a secret sister exchange where we buy a birthday and Christmas gift for another garden club member and reveal who we have at our Christmas meeting. Sounds like fun. Some fun gardening gifts have already been exchanged. We look forward to our "Bloomers Tour" where we tour different members yards in the summer. It is always fun to see other gardens. We have implemented a quarter door prize at each meeting where the hostess purchases a door prize and we each put a quarter into a jar in anticipation of winning the prize. At the end of the year we draw a name and that person gets to take home the jar of quarters and use it for "seed" money. Last year it was around \$60.

We are planning to help our junior garden club this summer by offering assistance with some workshops. We will start planting the flower pots and gardens in May along with holding our annual plant and bake sale. Our pumpkin decorating in the fall also helps in our fundraising efforts.

We look forward to the State Convention in Malta and will be hosting the District meeting this fall. Fun and exciting things are always happening in the Glendive Garden Club.

~ Sherry Corneliusen, Member

Traditional Floral Design

To understand the American Traditional designs, one must know there are three types. The type has grown out of fashion as it is more controlled and restrained to our modern chaotic tastes. I would argue that one must learn the traditional style first before the creative styles are attempted.

American Traditional Line- Mass Design

When constructing the design, one develops an arrangement that is linear in nature. The design line material tends to be thin on the top and the bottom with additional plant material in the center. The additional material strengthens the line and massed plant material emphasizes the center of interest but never obscures the linear pattern. It has been described as a pregnant snake. Thin top- large middle -thin bottom. Beauty of the center blooms helped by graduated smaller plant materials on the top and bottom is characteristic.



American Traditional Mass Design

This most historic of the traditional designs contains many flowers and is symmetrical in character. Mass designs are usually triangular, oval, circular or fan shaped. The silhouette is closed but not crowded. Every flower has a space and a place. The design is symmetrical and 3 dimensional-depth, plant material in front and back-design is “finished all the way around.”

Imagine a center point in the design from which all other plant material radiates outward. When placing blooms in the design you should use color and size of bloom to create a situation that allows the eye to flow through but in an organized way. The center and lowest portion of the design should carry the most weight. One can achieve this by placing the largest, most open plant material towards the bottom and center. Filler plant material is used between focal areas to disguise the rim of the container and make the design full but not too packed or crowded. In creative Mass designs the colors and materials may be color blocked. In Traditional Mass Designs the overall look appears to be more organized, and the blooms are never grouped in bunches or color blocked.



(continued)

American Traditional Line Design

Designs of this type should be used by designers who have minimal flowers available. The Design is composed primarily of line material and a minimum of flowers and foliage. The open form emphasizes the beauty of the plant material. A bare branch, a piece of decorative wood or a pine branch creates a well-defined line design. The addition of a few flowers and leaves is all that is needed to achieve a dramatic effect. Typically, it is simply a line embellished by round forms or flowers graduating from the largest at the bottom to the smallest at the top. The line itself is the show of the design as it is the component with greatest emphasis.

The fun inherent in constructing these designs comes from the designer's choices in the type of line chosen. Lines are not always straight; they may be straight up and down or vertical, straight across or horizontal, circular or a portion of a circle, or they may go in absolutely any direction. Some lines even zigzag. Remember, too, that a line can have a wide variety of characteristics, such as weak or strong, narrow or wide, flimsy and insubstantial. The line is "a one-dimensional visual path through a design." Thus, the designer attempts to guide the viewer through the design with the line the designer has selected. Following the theme from your class title the designer should select just the right line. The line chosen can help tell your story. The line can communicate a theme or mood in a floral design much as a sculpture piece of an animal. The animal's position communicates to the viewer the idea the artist is conveying. Having the animal standing up straight and erect communicates strength and majesty. When the statue of the animal is lying down, a feeling of rest or calm is conveyed. Horizontal lines communicate the same idea. An upward curving line is suggestive of happiness, while a downward curving line is reminiscent of unhappiness or a frown. Diagonal lines seem powerful and thrusting, while zigzag lines are restless or even agitated.



~ Jim Sadler, Design Chairman

How About Growing Glads?

Gladiolus are easy to grow providing you give them what they need such as, full sun, well-drained good soil, and I hope no pests like thrips.

Glads' sword-like leaves produce one-sided spikes holding trumpet-shaped florets that open from the bottom to the top on the spike. The height of the flower stalk which comes from a corm (bulblike) can be as tall as 4' or as short as 1'. Flowers range from the width of an egg cup to the size of a small saucer and have many color variations. Petal edges may be hooded, frilled, or ruffled. Some species are somewhat hardy, but most are only half-hardy.

One should plant the corms 4-5" deep and 5-6" apart in late April to early May in Montana, as a rule. Varying the planting time assures continuous bloom in late July to early September. Planting in small groups in your flower garden gives the best results. I plant them together in rows in my garden (kind of like a vegetable garden).



Dig the corms in October, shake off the dirt, save the small cormels (small bulbs for future crop) and dry for a few days in a warm room before storing in PAPER bags in a cool room for winter.

I recommend Malathion® or Merrit® for thrips pest control before you even see spikes emerge from the leaves. Some people use other controls besides poison. Study it out before you choose.



Gladiolus are divided into 5 basic groups according to certain characteristics. They are as follows:

1. Large-flowered Hybrids - Height 3-4 feet, triangular shaped flowers 5-7 inches across, flower spikes about 1.5-2.5 feet long. Examples are G. White Prosperity and G. Peter Pears.

2. Primulinus Hybrids - Height 1.5 to 3 feet high, flowers arranged loosely on stem with top petal hooded or bent forward, Average bloom width 3 inches wide. An example is G. Columbine.

3. Butterfly Hybrids - 2 to 4 feet tall, flowers 3-4 inches wide, with much ruffling in florets with striking colors in the throats, need not stake these like many glads you may have already grown. An example is G. Melodies.

4. Miniature or Pinola Hybrids - These are small Primulinus varieties that are 1.5 to 2 feet high, 2-inch-wide florets, and are frequently frilled or ruffled. An example is G. Greenbird.

5. Species Gladioli - Height is 2 feet, hardy in zones 1-5, these are hardier than most other groups. Bloom in early summer or sometimes late spring and have smaller spikes and florets than hybrids. Examples are G. The Bride, and G. 'Byzantinous' (this one is fully hardy).

Gladiolus are fun to grow and produce many beautiful flowers in many colors. With some bulb fertilizer added to your soil, with some systemic fertilizer as the season progresses you can have beautiful flowers for your designs and bouquets, these are well worth growing. I favor publications by Dr. D.G. Hessayon to increase my knowledge and give me great pictures to learn from.

~ Gary Clark, Horticulture Chairman
Images provided by the Author from his garden

Proposed Bylaw Changes

The following Bylaw changes will be voted upon at the MFGC Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IX

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2) Meetings:

a(1), a(2)

IT STATES:

2a(1) Shall meet twice a year;

2a(2) Preceding the FALL Board Meeting

Amend to Read:

2a(1) Shall meet twice a year at the time and place designated by the MFGC President;

2a(2) Preceding the Board Of Directors Meeting

ARTICLE X

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3) Meetings

3a), 3b(3)

IT STATES:

3a) The official CALL to the Annual and FALL Board Meetings shall be published in the Montana Gardens issue immediately preceding the meeting date.

Amend to Read:

3a) The official CALL to the Annual and Board of Directors Meetings shall be published in the Montana Gardens issue immediately preceding the meeting date.

3b(3)

IT STATES: Meetings

3b(3) Shall meet at least twice a year at the time and place designated by the Executive Committee: At the FALL Board Meeting.

Amend to Read:

3b(3) Shall meet at least twice a year at the time and place designed by the Executive Committee: At the Board of Directors Meeting.

ARTICLE XI

DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS

1) Districts:

1d)

IT STATES: A District Director shall be elected in each district at the SPRING District Meeting in the odd-numbered year and shall assume duties at the end of the annual MFGC meeting.

Amend to Read:

1d) A District Director shall be elected in each district in the even-numbered year prior to the MFGC meeting and shall assume duties at the end of the annual MFGC meeting in the odd-numbered year.

(continued)

ARTICLE XIV

COMMITTEES AND CHAIRMEN

2a(5)

IT STATES:

The Finance Committee: Shall meet three times a year: in the spring, prior to the Annual Meeting and FALL Board Meeting. [2020]

Amend to Read: The Finance Committee: Shall meet at least two times a year: prior to the Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting or as needed.

REASONING: The “Spring” District Meeting, Annual MFGC Meeting and “Fall” Board Meeting fall too close to each other. Eliminating the word SPRING allows the Districts to have their meetings whenever they choose, preferably in the fall months. Eliminating the word FALL allows the Executive Committee to conduct a business-only meeting by ZOOM during the winter months to be attended by the Executive Committee, Advisory Council, State Elected Officers, State Appointed Officers, Club Presidents, District Directors and Committee Chairmen. The recommended changes help clarify the intended reasoning.

**Montana Federation of Garden Clubs
Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Minutes**

Meeting was called to order 10:00 am by President, Diane Ward.

Agenda adopted.

Financials Report – Midterm financials (June 2023-December 2024) presented by Glenna Waltee, Treasurer

The Executive Board was introduced and in attendance

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

Credentials Report – Phyllis White

Officers - 7, District Directors - 3, Club Presidents - 11, Advisory Members - 6, Chairman - 25
Total Voting Strength 27 (minus duplicates)

Declaration of Quorum, Joyce Hendricks, Parliamentarian

Reading & Adoption of Rules, Joyce Hendricks, Parliamentarian

Time Keeper – Norm DeNeal, appointed by Diane Ward, President

Approval of 2022 “Fall Board” minutes and printed in MT Gardens – Glenna Waltee

Appointed Committee to approve 2024 minutes, members include: Cheryl Kuka, Jeannie Fraser, Mary Kempf

MFGC Officer Reports

Glenna Waltee, Treasurer, on file, adopt report

Cindy Carlton, 2nd Vice President, on file

Jeannie Bennett, 1st Vice President, on file

Diane Ward, President, on file

(continued)

Chairman Reports

2024 Convention, Kathy Waters, On File

Fundraising, Patricia Schlaeger – Committee recommends 2 fund raisers.

- 1. New Design for Garden Member Pin – Will send out sample pin and order form to each club president.
- 2. Umbrella

These will both be available for purchase at convention.

Long Range Planning and Organizational Study, Bylaw Revisions presented by Phyllis White, on file and will be printed in Montana Gardens.

Communication:

Facebook: Jody Haidle: A little over 1750 following the Facebook page. Would like permission to start a MFGC group page under the Facebook page with privacy/security. Phyllis White made motion to add a Facebook group page open to posts from all MFGC members. Seconded. Vote, motion approved and adopted.

Web Master: Elaine Wood, Updating the Website. She would like clubs and chairman to provide new pictures and club information that would be of interest to other clubs.

President: Diane Ward, Communication Project – use local radio stations to get information on garden club out to people. The President will send information to clubs to help them produce local spots and get started. year schools. One application and expecting more.

Club Scholarships: Diane Ward for Pam Diamond, If your clubs offer scholarships, please send the winner’s name, and scholarship amount to Pam Diamond.

No New Business

Announcements:

2024 NGC Convention is in Denver, CO June 2-5 at the Westin in Westminster, Colorado, Registration and information can be found on the NGC website gardenclub.org

2024 District Meetings, Jeannie Bennett, report on file

- September 24, Missoula
- September 25, Havre
- September 26, Great Falls/Cascade
- September 27, Conrad
- September 28, Bozeman
- October 2, Billings
- October 3, Glendive
- October 5, Whitehall

Advisory Council Special Project, Jim Sadler: Review proposal from treasurer to discuss changes and updates to the Endowment Fund.

Media Library/Speakers Bureau Chair, Diane Ward: Diana Raymond has resigned as chairman. Bob Wicks appointed as the new chairman.

Meeting adjourned 11:04 am.

Approved by: _____ Cheryl Kuka
 Approved by: _____ Jeannie Fraser
 Approved by: _____ Mary Kempf

Notes, Dates and Links

New Members:

Anaconda Garden Club: Lisa Molsey •

Butte Garden Club: Bill Boone, Sarah Borduin, Nelson Briggs, Justine Conlan, Lorna Gregory, Liz Lahey, and Jae McCabe •

Dearborn Garden Club: Tina Edwards, Christi Roberts •

Stevensville Garden Club: Larry Winter, Barb Johnson, Julie Johnson •

Whitehall Garden Club: Amber Colombo, Jo Whitman, Janet Seabase, Linda Rubin, Carol Latta •

New Life Members:

Kelli Carter, Great Falls Flower Growers

Penny Pines Program:

Stevensville Garden Club

Images in this issue provided by Jim Sadler, Gary Clark, Sherry Corneliusen, Joyce Hendricks, Kari Hould, and the Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club.

Contact Information for Officers, Chairmen, District Directors and others is available in the MFGC website's Member Section. Please send ALL change of address information to Beverly Geary, Montana Gardens Circulation Editor, bevmg@hotmail.com

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

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.

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Darlene Skari, Copy Editor

Erika Madden, Graphic Design Consultant

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

Submission Deadlines:

July 15, 2024 – Summer/Fall

November 15, 2024– Winter

April 15, 2025—Spring

MFGC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization (EIN #81-6010783). Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. As a tax-exempt organization your donation makes an impact, and we are thankful for your support.

Please review the [MT Federation's website](#) for complete details and forms.

Prior to **May 31**, Espoma Grant applications are due. [Information](#).

June 1, MFGC Endowment Interest Grant Applications due. See the MFGC website in the Member Section.

June 2-5, National Garden Clubs Annual Convention in Denver (Westminster), CO. All garden club members are invited to attend. View details at the [NGC website](#).

June 27-29, MFGC Annual Convention in Malta (see more information in this issue on pages 2-5). The registration form may also be downloaded from the MFGC website found under NEWS. All garden club members are invited to attend.

July 1, Rocky Mountain Region Awards, send to Cindy Carlton *in electronic format*. The Awards, Application and Photo Contest is on the MFGC website.

August 15, NGC Vision of Beauty Calendar Photos submissions due.

August 30-31, RMR Meeting in Sioux Falls, SD (**new date**) All garden club members are invited to attend. Registration and information is on the MFGC website.

MFGC Fund-Raising Reservation Form

Send to Diane Ward, MFGC President

216 Whitetail Rd., Whitehall MT 59759

Quantity

Items Shown on Page 5

_____ **MFGC Member Pin @ \$ 10.00 each**

**Copper Montana with Bitterroot
Flower 1 ¼"**

_____ **MFGC Umbrella @ \$ 25.00 each**

42" Blue sky with clouds inside

Your name and club:

**Items are to be picked up at the 2024
Convention in Malta on June 27-29. Send
remittance or bring a check to the
convention. Thank you!**



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Landscape School Held

Course Four in a series of four courses in the NGC Landscape Design School was held in Billings on April 11-12 with 15 participants. Barbara Lien, a landscape architect from Whitehall, was the instructor for the class. The lectures included contemporary landscape design trends, community participation in landscape projects, history and development of community gardens, suburban design, guidelines for evaluating landscape designs of residential public and commercial property, and landscape as a learning experience. After 6 hours of classroom instruction the class evaluated two landscape designs in the community. One was the Billings library and the other was a private residence. Joyce Hendricks was the local and state school chairman. Thumb R Green Garden Club assisted with the school.

