

# MONTANA

# Gardens



**Garden Club Member of the Year**  
**Phyllis White from the Belgrade Bloomers**



**National Garden Clubs President Brenda Moore**  
**and**  
**Montana Federation of Garden Clubs President**  
**Diane Ward**



**Gardener of the Year Cheryl Kuka**  
**Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club in Havre**



**Chairman Leadership Award Winner Kathy Waters**  
**Malta Convention Chair**

**The official publication of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Convention Issue, Fall 2024, Volume 71, Issue 2**



MONTANA WEATHER! What can I say? Summer is here and so are the sweltering temperatures. In my area we jumped from the lovely 70's and 80's to mid to upper 90's!!!! I have lived here since 2005 and I still am not sure when to plant tomatoes. With any luck I might get "green" tomatoes. That's not a bad thing cause down south we have a dish called "Fried Green Tomatoes".



Japanese Water Garden at the Denver Botanic Garden

I have been doing a bit of traveling — the National Garden Clubs held their Convention in Westminster, CO., just outside of Denver. The weather was favorable for a visit to the Denver Botanic Garden. What a beautiful place, I could have spent all day there. There were unusual plants, a tropical greenhouse and a Japanese Water Garden! In addition to the botanical garden, I went to the Butterfly Pavilion and the Denver Zoo!

On the business side of the Convention, there were several Bylaw changes that were voted on. Bill Trapp, NGC Executive Director, talked about the Path of Success, a fundraiser for NGC. This will be a ¼ mile walking path of pavers through a section of the NGC Gardens at their headquarters. Pavers can be purchased by an individual, garden club or business. A 4"x 8" paver sells for \$250 and a 12"x12" for \$500. Another fundraising program will be using the lovely gardens for weddings. What a wonderful place to get married!



NGC presented entertainment by The Legendary Ladies – Unconventional Women of the West (pictured above). The ladies represented Calamity Jane (Frontierswoman 1852-1903), Margaret Brown "Unsinkable Molly Brown" (Philanthropist 1867-1932), and Katharine Lee Bates who wrote "America the Beautiful" (Poet 1859-1929).

The 2024 Annual Meeting in Malta was a real success. Thank you to all the members of the Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club for hosting us! Awards were given out, Judges Council made topiary centerpieces, Life Members held a scavenger hunt and the NGC, Murphy, and Life Members Scholarships were awarded. The Garden Club Member of the Year was awarded to Phyllis White (pictured on the front cover). She was crowned with the tiara and sash. CONGRATULATIONS PHYLLIS! It was announced that the 2025 Annual Meeting will be held in Helena on 6/20 and 6/21. Mark your calendars for this big event next year – it will be an INSTALLATION Convention.

RADIO – the medium I have chosen to get the word out to the communities you live in about your club. A visit to the station manager to arrange times and dates for 30 second spots is just a beginning. Additionally, word of mouth is your best means of advertisement. Get the word out when your club meets, location of meetings and who to contact for more information. You might be surprised with the results – an increase of membership!

I will be traveling to Sioux Falls, SD for the Rocky Mountain Region meeting on August 30-31 and hope to bring back interesting happenings from our surrounding states. I always enjoy talking with other presidents and learning what their clubs have been doing.

We have our District Meeting travels the last week in September and the first week of October. This is such a great time for hearing about the clubs in Montana, meeting the club members on a more personal level and seeing the sites in Montana along the way. Our state is HUGE and the landscape changes from mountains to prairies in just hours. I truly love this country and our State of Montana.



President Diane Ward wearing the new MFGC President's Pin/Necklace

*Diane*

## 2024 Scholarship Winners



NGC and Murphy Scholarship Chair Carol Brady with Brenda Moore, NGC President presenting the NGC Scholarship Certificate and \$4000 to Eve Heeley-Ray (pictured below)



Eve is a junior in Environmental Science at MSU Bozeman with a concentration on Soil and Water Science. She works in a lab conducting soil and crop research as a soil scientist to protect our beloved wild places, as well as make agriculture fruitful and sustainable. She is involved in some studies involving pulse crops, i.e., lentils and such, determining whether addition of nitrogen-fixing bacteria produces higher yields in legume crops. The research is also looking at using alternative crops in Nebraska, such as lentils, instead of leaving the fields fallow every other year.

Because Eve is working her way through college, she doesn't have much time for other activities. However, she volunteers at the Gallatin Valley Farm to School program which is helping families with getting and growing nutritious food, and Gallatin Sunrise, a grassroots group which is politically involved in efforts to protect the environment. She wrote, "I could not do it [attend college] without the help of organizations like the NGC who believe in my dream and believe in me. Thank you so much."



True Gannon, MSU Bozeman

### \$2000 Life Members Scholarship

After graduation True hopes to continue working in Montana and contributing to the family business Swan River Gardens in Bigfork. She loves all kinds of plants and apologizes to anyone who visits her home because she does indeed have a "gajillion" plants. True's landscape design professors lauded her approach to their residential design project and said working with real clients demonstrated her care and passion for her work.



Katherine Bold, Carroll College

### \$500 Murphy Scholarship

After graduating from Carroll, Katherine plans to pursue a Master's Degree 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.

# 2024 Award Winners

## In Recognition of Outstanding Effort and Projects

### Anaconda Garden Club

C-7 Multimedia, 2nd, 4th and 5th

C-8-III Best Scrapbook, 2nd

### Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club

A-6-A President's Horticulture Therapy, 1st

A-11-II Marie Jones Container Garden, 2nd

C-4 Garden Club Member of the Year,

Phyllis White

### Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club (Havre)

A-1 Presidents Community Beautification, 3rd

A-6-C Presidents Horticulture Therapy, 1st

A-8-II Presidents Wildflower and Native Plants,  
2nd

A-12-C Presidents Club Scrapbook, 1st

A-17 Norm DeNeal Gardener of the Year,

Cheryl Kuka

A-20 Linda and James Sadler Rose Award,

1st, Lela Patera

B-1 Mae Burke Magill Garden Tour, 1st

B-5 Kerin McCarver Special, 1st

B-12 Mary Lee Artistic Expression of Flowers,  
2nd, Karen Vosen

B-13 Anaconda Community Beautification, 3rd

C-1 Award of Appreciation, 1st

C-6 Landscape Design, 1st

C-8-iii Best Club Yearbook, 4th

C-9 Award of Excellence, Havre Lions Club, 1st

### Butte Garden Club

A-7 President's Membership Percentage, 1st

B-4 MFGC Most New Members, 1st

### Chester Garden Club

E-1 Club Flower Show (Fall Festival), 1st

E-9 Flower Show Schedule (Fall Festival), 1st

### Dearborn Garden Club

A-1 President's Community Beautification, 2nd

A-2-C President's Environmental Concerns, 1st

A-12-C Presidents Club Scrapbook, 2nd

A-11-II-1 Marie Jones Container Garden, 1st

A-14 Rose Kopp Special Children, 1st

A-19 Sherry Corneliusen Dahlias/Gladiolus,

1st, Trish Vielleux

B-5 Kerin McCarver Special, 2nd

B-12 Mary Lee Artistic Expression of Flowers,  
2nd, Judy Fettig

C-8-III Best Club Yearbook, 3rd

### Gallatin Empire Garden Club (Bozeman)

B-5 Kerin McCarver Special, 3rd

### Great Falls Flower Growers Garden Club

A-12-C President's Club Scrapbook, 3rd

B-9 Cathy Atkinson Creative Design, 1st

Patty Howse

B-12 Mary Lee Artistic Expression of Flowers,  
3rd Patty Howse

C-8-III Best Club Yearbook, 1st

E-3 Holiday Flower Show (Holiday Fun), 1st

### Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club

B-7 State Chair Leadership, Kathy Waters

C-8-III Best Club Yearbook, 5th

### Missoula Garden Club

B-10-I Highest Percentage of Judges

### Rainbow Garden Club (Great Falls)

A-1 Presidents Community Beautification, 1st

A-3 Presidents Conservation, Preservation and  
Education, 1st

A-5-1 Presidents Communication Award,

1st Amy Grisak

*(continued)*



**Rainbow (continued)**

- A-6-B Presidents Horticulture Therapy, 1st
- A-8-II Presidents Wildflower and Native Plants, 1st Amy Grisak
- A-14 Rose Kopp Special Children, 1st
- A-16 Darlene Skari Public Workshop, 1st
- B-5 Kerin McCarver Special Award, 2nd
- B-11-II Esther Hamel Butterfly Garden, 1st
- B-12 Mary Lee Artistic Expression of Flowers, 1st Donna Wigmore
- B-13 Anaconda Community Beatification, 2nd
- C-1 Appreciation, 2nd
- C-2-II Horticulture Report, 1st Amy Grisak
- C-3 Floral Design Program, 2nd
- C-7 Multimedia, 1st
- C-8-II Best Club Yearbook, 1st
- D-1 Youth Club Sponsorship, 1st
- D-2 Youth Gardening Award, 1st

**Thumb R Green (Billings)**

- C-11 Life Members Increase, 1st

**Thumb R Green (continued)**

- E-10 Club Standard Flower Show, 1st
- “Have You Met Your Pollinators?”

**Whitehall Garden Club**

- A-9-II President’s Youth Activities, 1st
- A-11-II Marie Jones Container Gardening, 1st
- A-13-b Mary J. Olson TREES, Educational Program, 1st
- B-5 Kerin McCarver Special, 4th
- B-9 Cathy Atkinson Creative Design, 2nd
- B-13 Anaconda Community Beautification Report, 1st
- C-3 Floral Design, 1st
- C-7 Multimedia, 3rd

**Big Sky Star**



Many thanks to all the brave souls from around Montana who came to the wide open spaces for MFGC Convention! - Kathy Waters

**Circle of Green Thumb Honorees**

- Mary Lynne McKenna, Anaconda
- Mary Keck, Belgrade Bloomers
- Karen Vosen, Bullhook Blossoms
- Donna Hays, Dearborn
- Nikky Oswald, Dillon
- Mary Tyler Holmes, Gallatin Empire
- Donna Buxbaum, Glendive
- Kathy Stuart, Great Falls Flower Growers
- Sharon McDowell, Malta Dirt Daubers
- Judy Bloxham, Miles City
- Steve Hessla, Missoula
- Darlyne Dascher, Nashua Gumbo Gals
- Amy Grisak, Rainbow
- Nena Williams, Stevensville
- Marilyn Lane, Townsend
- Laura Horn, Whitehall

**MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS**  
**EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONVENTION MEETING MINUTES**  
**MALTA, MONTANA – JUNE 27-29, 2024**

**Call to Order:** President, Diane Ward, called the 87<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs to order at 9:11 am on Friday, June 28, 2024.

**Presentation of Colors,** American Legion Post 57

**Pledge of Allegiance,** Toni Ziegler

**Welcome,** John Demaris, Mayor of Malta

**Recognition of National President:** Brenda Moore

**Recognition of Former Presidents in attendance:** Mary Davis, Darlene Skari, Norm DeNeal, Phyllis White, Linda Sadler, Joyce Hendricks, Sherry Corneliusen, Jim Sadler

**Recognition of Convention Committee:** Kathy Waters, Chairman

**Diane Ward,** MFGC President, Introduction of Head table

**Recognition of Garden Club Member of the Year,** Jeannie Bennett presented to Phyllis White

**Cheryl Carroll,** Inspirational Poem “Dancing Like a Flower” and prayer

**Recognition of the 2024 Convention Committee**

**Preliminary Credentials** – Dina Meneely, Registrar

Elected Officers & Appointed Officers - 6

District Directors 6

Past State Presidents 8

State Chairman 11

Club Presidents (or proxy) 15

Delegates 16

Members Present 67

Voting Strength 62

**Reading & Adoption of Convention Rules:** Joyce Hendricks, Parliamentarian. **Adopted 6-28-2024.**

**Appointment of Committee to Approve the 2024 Convention Minutes:** Kerry Hovland, Pat Ludwig, Charlene Moug.

**Appointment of Page for NGC President Brenda Moore:** Elaine Stannebein

**Appointment of Timekeepers and Tellers:** Kathy Austin, Elaine Wood

**Adoption of Agenda:** Joyce Hendricks, Parliamentarian. **Adopted 6-28-2024**

**Garden Club Memorial Service:** Cheryl Carroll

**2023 Committee Approval of Minutes Bob Wicks:** 2023 86<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes were approved by committee, Barbara Andreozzi, Roberta Fuller and Bob Wicks

**Reports of Officers**

Treasurer, Glenna Waltee **On File**

Parliamentarian, Joyce Hendricks **On File**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Cindy Carlton **On File**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Jeanne Bennett **On File**

Diane Ward, President **On File**

**Finance Committee Report:** **Report Filed**

**Business:** Motion by Long Range Planning

**By-law Changes** and Additions

**ARTICLE IX -Executive Committee**

2) Meetings - a(1), a(2)

2a(1) Shall meet twice a year at the time and place designated by the MFGC President. **Adopted 6-28-2024**

2a(2) Preceding the Board of Directors Meeting. **Adopted 6-28-2024**

**ARTICLE X – Board of Directors**

3) Meetings – 3a). 3b)

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. **Adopted 6-28-2024.**

3b Shall meet at least twice a year at the time and place designated by the Executive Committee at the Board of Directors Meeting. **Adopted 6-28-2024**

**ARTICLE XI – Districts and District Directors**

1) Districts:

1d) A District Director shall be elected in each district prior to the Annual Meeting in the odd-numbered year. The District Director-Elect will be installed at the Annual Meeting. (Referred to Committee for correct verbiage)

**ARTICLE XIV – Committees and Chairman**

2a(5) The Finance Committee shall meet at least two times a year prior to the Annual Meeting and prior to a Board Meeting. (Referred to Committee for correct verbiage)

**Recess: 10:25 am**

<b>District Directors Reports</b>	<b>On File</b>
<b>Presidents Reports</b>	<b>On File</b>
<b>Chairman Reports</b>	<b>On File</b>
Kathy Austin-Blue Star Memorial	<b>On File</b>
Susan Billmeyer-Flower Show School	<b>On File</b>
Joyce Hendricks-Landscape Design School	<b>On File</b>
Fundraising & Life Members Patricia Schlaeger	<b>On File</b>
Social Media – Jodie Haidle	<b>On File</b>
Website– Elaine Wood	<b>On File</b>
Pollinator Gardens – Kathy Waters	
Smokey Bear – Jennifer Strzelczyk	

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Saturday, June 29, 2024**

**Call to Order:** President, Diane Ward, called the 87<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs to order at 9:11 am on June 29, 2024.

**Preliminary Credentials** - Dina Meneely, Registrar

- Elected Officers & Appointed Officers 6
- District Directors 6
- Past State Presidents 8
- State Chairman 11
- Club Presidents (or proxy) 15
- Delegates 16
- Members Present 67
- Voting Strength 62

Diane Ward, President noted we have a quorum.

**ARTICLE XI – Districts and District Directors**

1) Districts:

1d) A District Director shall be elected in each district prior to the Annual Meeting in the odd-numbered year. The District Director-Elect will be installed at the Annual Meeting. **Adopted 6-29-2024**

**ARTICLE XIV – Committees and Chairman**

2a(5) The **6-29-2024**

**Election of Nominating Committee, Past President Jim Sadler, Chairman:** Dist 2-Western-Cheryl Carroll, Dist 3-Southwestern-Barb Andreozzi, Dist 4-Lewis & Clark-Phyllis White, Dist 5-Central-Sue O’Leary, Northern, Dist 6-Susan Yurman, Dist 10-Yellowstone-Mary Davis, Dist 12-Eastern Gateway-Cindi Byron. Moton made and approved to accept nominating committee.

**Proposed 2024-2025 MFGC Budget, Glenna Waltee** motion made and approved to accept proposed budget.

**2024 Convention Invitation** – Helena, MT June 20-21, 2025

**Announcements**

**Presentation of President Pin** to MFGC Diane Ward from NGC President, Brenda Moore

**Resignation of Susan Andrews as Wild Life Native Plant and Flower Show Award Chairman,** President Diane Ward,

appointed Vicki Barbieri for year 2024-2025.

**Resignation of Fred Frey as Therapy Garden Chairman,** President Diane Ward appointed Norm DeNeal for year 2024-2025

**Meeting Recessed** at 10:30 am

**Scholarship & Grants Lunch – 12:00 pm**

President Diane Ward & NGC/Murphy Scholarship Chairman, Carol Brady, Presiding

NGC Scholarship Award Winner – Eve Heeley Ray

Murphy Scholarship Award Winner – Katheryn Bold

Life Members Scholarship Winner – True Ann Gannon

MFGC Endowment Grant Winner – Chester Garden Club

**Resolutions of 2024 Convention – Joyce Hendricks, Resolution Chairman**

**Courtesy Resolution**

**Whereas: The members of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., attending the 87<sup>th</sup> annual convention at the Great Northern Hotel and the Tin Cup and Marion Hills Golf Course, June 27-29, 2024, have benefited from information which will create more constructive programs, and**

**Whereas: The president, Diane Ward, The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc officers, chairmen and members have served this organization with distinction, now, therefore be it**

**Resolved: That sincere thanks be given to Kathy Waters, chairman of the 87<sup>th</sup> convention and Hi Line District Director; all those who participated in designing table decorations; all those who made educational displays; those who designed the floral arrangements for the dignitaries; those who served as pages and hostesses and all the members of the Malta Dirt Daubers Garden Club who have planned and participated in many courtesies extended and assured the success of this convention and**

**Resolved: That our gratitude be expressed to Brenda Moore, National Garden Clubs President, for her warm greetings and timely message**

**Resolved: That the Montana State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. president Diane Ward, through her gracious presiding; 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 the speakers and presenters be extended our appreciation for their contributions**

**Resolved: that appreciation be extended to the management and staff of the Great Northern Hotel and the Tin Cup and Marion Hills Golf Course for accommodating us so well in our physical needs and in the services rendered, and**

**Resolved: That this resolution be incorporated in the minutes and that copies be sent to those named in this resolution and the management of the Great Northern Hotel and the Tin Cup and Marion Hills Golf Course.**

**Meeting Adjourned.**

Ann Wickum, MFGC Recording Secretary

Approved by

Kerry Hovland \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Charlene Moug \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

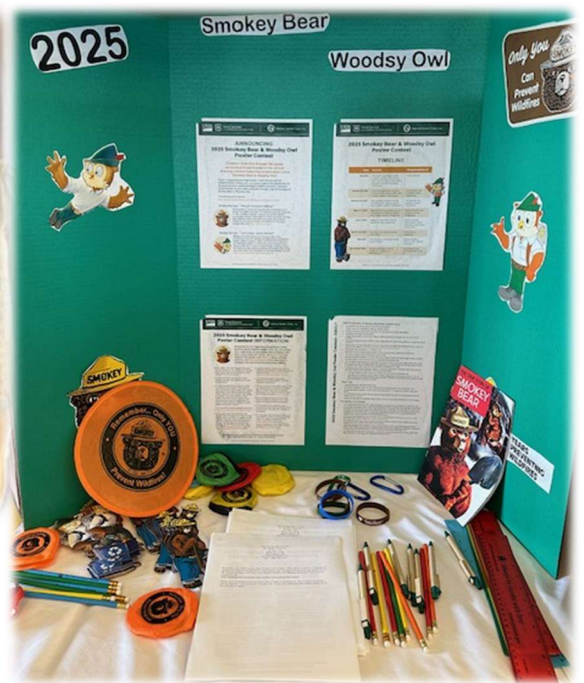
Pat Ludwig \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



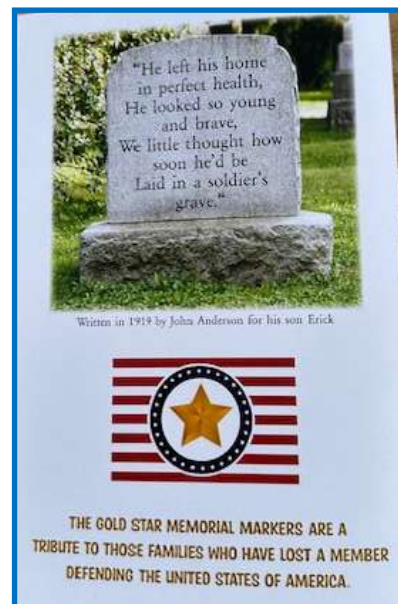








# Gold Star Memorial Dedication in Malta June 29, 2024



THE GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS ARE A TRIBUTE TO THOSE FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST A MEMBER DEFENDING THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



## MFGC Club History and Yearbooks

As the MFGC Historian, I am trying to update our history information for each of the garden clubs in the Montana. I have compiled a list of what information I have in the storage boxes in my basement as of July 2024. Some of the information was gathered from reports or from Montana Gardens if you celebrated an anniversary. I would like a more complete history of your club; please send me that information to [sher@midrivers.com](mailto:sher@midrivers.com) or Sherry Corneliusen, 1014 Road 248, Glendive, MT 59330. I appreciate all your help with this project. If the club history is blank, that means I have no information in my files.

Anaconda Garden Club, organized 1960, 64 years old

Belgrade Garden Club, organized 2012

Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club

Butte Garden Club

Chester Garden Club, organized 1956, 68 years old

Conrad Garden Club

Dearborn Garden Club, organized 1955, yearbooks 2017-20 w/ President list from 1987

Dillon Garden Club

Gallatin Empire Garden Club

Glendive Garden Club, organized in 1948, 76 years old with history in file

Great Falls Flower Growers, organized 1933, 91 years, yearbook 2019-2020 with president list from 1934

Gumbo Gals Garden Club, organized 1972, 52 years, 2016-20 yearbooks

Malta Dirt Daubers, organized 9/7/1959, 65 years old, yearbooks 2014-20 with list of Pres from 1960

Miles City Garden Club, 2021 yearbook

Missoula Garden Club

Rainbow Garden Club, organized 1956, 67 years, 2019-20 yearbook, 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary program & fashion show program 1992

Saco Garden Club

Sow and Grow Garden Club, organized 1961, 63 years old

Stevensville Garden Club, organized in 1939, 85 years old

Thumb R Green Garden Club, organized 1960, 64 years old

Townsend Garden Club

Whitehall Garden Club

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### Club News Roundup

The **Miles City Garden Club** co-hosted a seed swap at the Miles City Library in the spring (pictured right). Community members enjoyed the selection of seeds and each went home with plans to add beauty to their yards. In early June the club gathered to add new soil and blooming plants at Eastern Montana Fair grounds. A fun day of planting and a pizza lunch followed. Members also planted flowers at various locations around Miles City. ~Judy Bloxham



The **Great Falls Flower Growers** installed new officers in June. Elaine Wood is our new President, Whitney Olson -Treasurer, Corliss McKamey - Secretary, and Cheryl Hagestad remains First Vice along with Kerry Hovland as Second Vice. Our garden projects are all up and running, members planted red , white and blue petunias at the Veterans Memorial. The last of the planting is done on the Tourist Park project, and the Library Garden has been renovated. Our club had two fun outings this spring. One was to a Hutterite Colony and greenhouse. We saw the Biggest tomatoes grown totally organic! Maris Greenhouse in Conrad is a must stop. The owner will take you through his organic gardens, rock sculptures, sea buckthorn hedges where he picks the berries and makes a juice for good health, and his raised beds made from bark and mulch. We welcomed five new members this spring. Check out the club's Facebook page. ~Kerry Hovland



## Judging Attitude in Floral Design

I have been designing and entering flower shows for some time now. I enjoy the chance to create and express my ideas that interpret the class title. Once I have entered, the first thing I want to do when I first view my entry after judging is to read the judging comments. For some the ribbon is the important issue. For me, I want to know if I have conveyed my idea to the judging panel. What I usually find in the comments are a list of deficiencies. It occurs to me that judges in general do not appreciate the power of a compliment. In one show that I observed the judges spent quite a lot of time picking apart the design in front of them. When they moved on, I was quite surprised to see that they had given the exhibit a Blue Ribbon. When I had the chance, I turned the entry tag over to view the comments it read "hole on upper left". I asked myself, to whom was the comment written. Was it to the judges to justify the decision? Was it for the public to understand their decision? Was it for the designer who would learn from their decision? The answer of course, in this case, was the comment was to justify their decision.



Writing comments is one of the most important parts of judging NGC flower shows. To begin with, a Judge should start with a positive attitude and examine the exhibit in that frame of mind. If you start immediately to have your clerk, or the assigned judge who is writing the comments, record the positive attributes you will be on your way to becoming a fair and good judge. If your attitude is to look for deficits first, you could be putting yourself in a trap. That trap is writing comments that are full of negativity. My experience is that one has only a few short minutes to view an exhibit, form an opinion, write comments, and to assign a numerical position to the entry. If you first write the compliments, they will not be given short shrift, and you will encourage the designer.

Writing comments should be for the public and the designer. One of the features of major flower shows is for the show committee after the judging and before the public is able to view, to take the positive compliments of the judges and make a card with the best comment that is unique to the design and place by the design for the public to view. Comments such as "unique use of color" or "great

interpretation of theme" are some examples that, seen by the public, would educate them and give encouragement to the designer. You are giving the designer some bragging rights. Compliments made public are always appreciated.

At a recent flower show in which I participated one of the exhibitors said to me in frustration that they never seem to win. What they meant was they did not win any blue ribbons. The judges' comments are generally where the designers learn. When that card is flipped over and only negativity is found, the designer feels undervalued and discouraged. Pointing out the good in an arrangement is important for the designer as it gives them something to build upon.



*(continued)*



Judges comments in many cases are the only way designers are able to learn. Unless one lives in one of the large metropolitan areas, schools on flower design are not generally available. In Montana the Missoula and Stevensville Garden Clubs held a school just for people who wanted to design and who did not have any aspiration to become a judge. NGC judges taught the school. From that school, one of the students won the "Design Excellence Award" in the Missoula Garden Club show in 2023. Judges have the obligation to judge fairly, give accurate comments that include compliments and deductions for impairments. When the show is over, the designers have taken their exhibits home, they should have a good feeling that it has been a learning experience and that they want to enter again. After all good people, we are in this for our enjoyment.

~ Jim Sadler, Design Chairman



Convention Designs -

Upper left a miniature design by Jim Sadler in honor of 1st Vice President Jeannie Bennett.

Lower left another miniature design by Jim in honor of 2nd Vice President Cindy Carlton

Susan Billmayer's creative design for National Garden Club President Brenda Moore on the right.



## Flower Show School

Would you like to learn what a flower show judge is looking at when they view your flowers, vegetables or floral designs at a county fair or a flower show? Do you think you'd like to become a judge?

MFGC would like to hear from you to determine if there is interest in organizing the Flower Show School educational courses. The School is a series of four two-day courses.

Examples of horticulture and design are displayed and critiqued. Learn point-scoring to evaluate how entries are judged, and see what it takes to get the blue ribbon. Learn about awards, types of shows, and what committees are needed to produce a show. We invite you to join this unique experience and become an active part of flower shows. All garden club members are welcome and encouraged.

Contact Susan Billmayer [gsee@itstriangle.com](mailto:gsee@itstriangle.com) or Jeannie Bennett [mfgc.jeanniebennett@gmail.com](mailto:mfgc.jeanniebennett@gmail.com) and let them know you're ready to GROW!

## Notes, Dates and Links

### Big Sky Star



Kudos and many thanks to the Malta Dirt Daubers who worked so hard to make our Convention a success!

### Big Sky Star



Thanks to Jim and Linda Sadler for contributing the diamonds and the design for the new MFGC President's pin. The pin may also be worn as a necklace.

### Notes from the Treasurer —

Penny Pines Donations,

\$68, Miles City Garden Club

\$68, Rainbow Garden Club

Judges Council Member Dues, \$400

New Life Members:

Debbie Lineweaver, Chester Garden Club

Cindi Byron, Glendive Garden Club

Images in this issue provided by Diane Ward, Jim Sadler, Lilla Flesjer, Cassie Griffith, Judy Bloxham, Patty Schlaeger, Carol Brady, and Phyllis White.

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

Email clarification for Mary Kempf, mh.kempf@hotmail.com

Please submit MFGC Membership dues and roster. Send to Glenna Waltee, P O Box 662, Whitehall, MT 59759

**August 30-31**, RMR Meeting in Sioux Falls, SD  
Registration and information are on the MFGC website.

**August 30-31**, Flower shows in Dillon — Beaverhead County Fair and in downtown Billings — D.A. Davidson Building.

**September 29, Gold Star Dedication**, Missoula, MT  
**District Meetings —**

Sept. 24, Missoula

Sept. 25, Hi-Line District #7 Meeting, 1st Lutheran church (6th Ave. and 3rd St.), Havre, convene at 10:00am. Hosted by the Bullhook Blossoms Garden club.

Sept. 26, Great Falls

Sept. 27 Conrad

Sept. 28, Lewis & Clark District #4, Bridger Canyon Fire Station, Bozeman. Hosted by the Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club.

Oct. 3, Glendive

Oct. 5, Whitehall

**October 15**, PLANT AMERICA Grant Applications Due

## MONTANA Gardens

Official Publication of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Member of the Rocky Mountain Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc. All rights reserved. Full color issues are available at: [www.MTFGC.org](http://www.MTFGC.org)

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

Submission Deadlines:  
November 15, 2024— Winter  
April 15, 2025—Spring  
July 15, 2025 – Summer/Fall

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.

## MFGC Fund-Raising

Diane Ward, MFGC President  
916 Whitetail Rd., Whitehall MT 59759

The officers will bring the new MFGC Member Pin to each District meeting this fall. They are \$10 each. The pins were a best seller at convention!



If you would like to order the MFGC Umbrella @ \$ 25 each, please send Diane your name, club and a check for \$25 each. The umbrella sleeve will have your name on it (or let us know if this is a gift, and we'll put their name on it).

**42" Blue sky with clouds inside and the bitterroot flower on the outside.**





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## Montana Smokey Bear Poster Contest Winners

Macey Wyatt, Malta  
 5th Grade



Cooper Pankratz, Malta  
 4th Grade



Calypso King, Havre  
 3rd Grade



Eden Domire, Malta  
 2nd grade

