

MONTANA *Gardens*



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**The Official Publication of The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, INC.
Spring 2015 Volume 61 Issue 1**

A MESSAGE FROM MFGC

President Denise Fink



Greetings Fellow Gardeners:

As winter deepens and we peruse our new seed catalogues, I am working hard on the 75 year history of our State Association. I am learning many interesting items as I compile data. One of the recurrent themes that is so strong from the early years, is our sense that Montana, along with the Rocky Mountain Region and National Garden Club, *are a force for good.*

Sometimes it is hard when watching the evening news to be upbeat, but pause, and reflect on all the things you have done in your life to improve your club, community, state and country.

How often has the gift of a flower brightened a friend's face? How many people smile as they look at our containers full of flowers, bushes, trees, parks, gardens and historical spots that have been planted by our Garden Clubs? As NGC President Linda Nelson says, "*We Make a Difference*" every day. So turn off the news, put on some nice music and dream of Spring with joy and contentment.

—Denise Fink, President

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs

P. S. — Don't forget to bring your gently used purses and costume jewelry to District Meetings so we can reuse and recycle for convention. See you in the Spring!



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#2 Cheryl Carroll **#3 Nancy Johnson**
#4 Judy Rente **#5 Pat Biggs**
#6 Vanette Nagamori **#7 Jane Ereaux, Sharon Miller**
#8 Marie Jones **#10 Joyce Hendricks**
#12 Anna Brandt

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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Mary McLane, Mary Olson, Jean Thomas, Marie Jones

MONTANA Gardens

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MISSION STATEMENT

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Taming the Wild

by Sue Leferink, MFGC Wildflower Chair

When we install a new garden we sit back and admire the beauty of our new masterpiece. Unlike decorating a room in our home which stays the same until we change it, a garden has a mind of its own. Constantly evolving either for better or worse.

When I planted my first garden, I had spots that would die out. I would keep planting the same plant over and over again every year in the same spot hoping for a different outcome (I believe this is the definition of insanity). Eventually, I realized that mother nature had a solution to my problem.

After studying more about Montana wildflowers, I realized native plants were perfect for areas where the soil was poor, dry, windy or soggy. The trick is to find the right plant for the right place.

First, assess the location and determine what caused the plant to die. Was it too little or too much water? Is there too much heat, wind or sun and it shriveled up? Was it drowned or was washed away? Is the soil rocky and dry or clay and gumbo style?



Next, do a bit of research. Check with your local native plant experts. The Montana Native Plant Society has a list of Montana nurseries. If there isn't any in your area, contact the local Native Plant chapter for information. There are many great resources on their web site at <http://www.mtnativeplants.org>.

Also check with your local library and see if they have this great reference book called Manual of Montana Vascular Plants by Peter Lesica, containing in depth information on native plants with maps showing which regions in Montana they are found. If they don't have a copy, consider donating one.

After you identify what plants are available which match the garden area growing conditions, it is time to select a new plant. Narrow your choices by determining what color and bloom time you desire. Some great ideas for dry locations are Penstemons, Columbines or Coreopsis. Blueeyed grass and Irises are great for areas that change over the season from wet to dry. Try some native Violets, Monkeyflower or Sneezeweed in wet boggy areas. Tucking a few native plants into your stubborn garden areas will bring you more joy with less work.

This tactic will draw in more pollinating insects which in turn will bring in more wildlife such as birds making it a win win situation for all. So take a minute this spring to select a few native plants to make your dead garden areas come alive this summer and every summer after.

Growing Edible Flowers

by Sherry Corneliusen, Growing Edibles Chairman

Growing edible flowers in your garden is a fun way to bring extra flavors, colors and textures to your cooking. This art has been said to have been around since the stone age and can be traced back to Roman times, along with Chinese, Indian and Middle East cultures. Flowers are used in teas, soups, pies, stir fries, main dishes, salads and desserts. In the past, flowers were grown for flavor and aroma, not for the beauty as of today.

Proceed with caution. Use flowers you grow yourself without pesticides. Do not buy from a florist or nursery as you cannot be guaranteed they are organic. Do not pick from roadsides as these are not safe either. Identify the flowers to make sure you know which ones you are eating. Use sparingly as some may cause stomach upset. If you suffer allergies, eating flowers may not be for you. Some cause skin irritations and blotches, some contain cyanide, some can act as laxatives, and some contain safonis, which is poisonous.

Do your research and do not eat the poisonous ones, as there are a few to avoid. **Some of these include azalea, crocus, daffodils, foxglove, rhododendron, jack in the pulpit, lily of the valley, ornamental sweet peas, honey suckle berries and wisteria.**

Pick flowers in the cool of the morning when they are the freshest; rinse and pat dry. Store in the refrigerator on a paper towel in a plastic bag and they may last up to 10 days. Use flowers at their peak, free of insects and disease. Remove the stems, anthers, and pistils as they may be bitter.

Some flowers have a bitter white base on the petals, such as roses, trim this white part off. Dark colored roses have

more flavor. Use rose petals in drinks, desserts and jams. Roses contain vitamin C as do nasturtiums and marigolds. Dandelions also contain vitamin A and C. Young dandelion flowers have a sweet to honey flavor where the older ones are bitter.

The most common edible flower is the nasturtium, which has a watercress, peppery flavor. You can pickle the seed pods and use for capers. Calendula (pot marigold) has a peppery taste, while chrysanthemums (coronarium) may be a bit bitter and tangy. The African marigold has a citrus flavor along with the hybrid tuberous begonia. Pansy or violas have a sweet flavor to a subtle mint. Squash blossoms and daylilies taste like asparagus. Some bachelor buttons are said to have a grassy flavor while others have a sweet tospicy taste. Dianthus has a clove-like flavor and clover is sweet with a hint of licorice, however it may be difficult to digest. Hollyhocks and gladiolus have a bland taste but can be stuffed and they taste like lettuce. Honey suckle flowers have a sweet honey flavor, but **DO NOT eat the berries as they are poisonous.**

Keep it simple. Do not add too many flavors that will overpower the dish. Use edible flowers as a garnish to add a touch of elegance to your dishes, but remember these words of wisdom: **consume at your own risk.** Most authors of articles I researched had a disclaimer attached.

I grew nasturtiums a few years ago with the thought of using them in a salad, but they had so many flea beetles on them, I gave up on that idea. However, after doing my research on this article, I may have to try again.



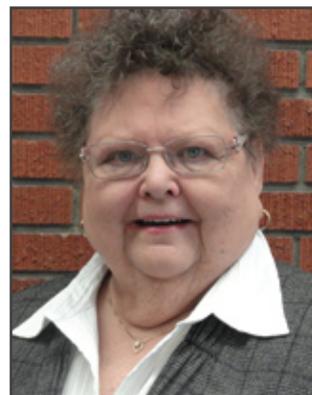
This and That

While sitting by the window, I am wrapped in my bathrobe looking at several seed catalogues. It is storming outside and snow flakes are hitting the window. In my mind, I wishfully spent money on seeds I think should be planted in our garden. Winter is a beautiful time with fresh snow but not my favorite season. I am longing to be outdoors with blooming flowers and warm temperatures. Make winter a creative time by planning to replant areas of your yard or garden. Think about how you can improve an area. Research the possibilities to implement new ideas. Check out garden schemes in magazines and books.

On-line you can take tours of well-designed gardens with interesting features. Jim and I have been talking about changes we can make in our garden especially near the patio.

This is a great time for clubs to work on awards. I urge you to gather photos, get together with club members, and put together your books of evidence. Your club president has the award descriptions. Awards are due to me on April 15th. Everything needed to do an award is on-line. If help is needed, contact me and I will help you. **Think Spring!**

—Linda Sadler
President Elect



Introducing Sandra Robinson

National Garden Club President Elect

The National Garden Club President Elect is Sandra Robinson. “*Leap Into Action*” is her main theme and she will be continuing BeeGap and Monarch Watch. Her other projects include “*The Frightened Frog*” Children’s Project and Leadership Development. Sandra also invites everyone to attend the National Garden Clubs’ 86th Annual Convention “*Endless Possibilities*” from May 12-18, 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky.

“*Our location is the Louisville Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel and our time will be filled with meetings, speaker events, seminars and tours,*” says Sandra. “*This is an installation year, and we’ll be changing the administration during the convention, inducting a new group of State Presidents and making the transition of the President’s office whereby we’ll be honoring President Linda Nelson for her exceptional service to our organization and I will be installed for the new term 2015-2017.*”

—Sandra H. Robinson
NGC President Elect



Leap Into Action



2015 DISTRICT MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

Western District #2 Cheryl Carroll

Mission View Garden Club in Charlo
Wednesday, April 15th

Central District #5 Pat Biggs

Dearborn Garden Club in Cascade
Thursday, April 16th

Northern District #6 Vanette Nagamori

Chester - *Friday, April 17th*

Southwestern District #3 Nancy Johnson

Anaconda - *Saturday, April 18th*

Yellowstone #10 Joyce Hendricks

Billings - *Wednesday, April 29th*

Eastern Gateway #12 Anna Brandt

Miles City - *Thursday, April 30th*

Hi Line District #7

Jane Ereaux and Sharon Miller
Saco - Friday, May 1

Lewis and Clark District #4 Judy Rente

Belgrade - *Saturday, May 2nd*

Don't forget to bring your purses and jewelry to the District Meetings for convention fundraising!



Greetings from Great Falls

The Dearborn Garden Club, the Great Falls Flower Growers and the Rainbow Garden Club send greetings for you to attend the 78th Annual MFGC Conference in Great Falls, Montana. The two day session will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn and our theme is “*We are Caretakers.*”

Please mark these dates on your calendar, **June 12-13th, 2015**, and start planning to attend the annual session. Our three clubs have been working to plan an interesting and informative session as we work with your state officers. Enjoy two days of fun-filled business sessions, award luncheons, workshops, banquets, interesting sites and shopping.

Great Falls is the home of western artist Charlie Russell and the Russell Studio and Museum, the best Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in the nation and awesome Giant Springs! We encourage you to visit our many garden centers and view a special hydroponic program at our college of technology.

There will be a number of interesting vendors with items such as unique jewelry, wooden planters and metal sculptures. The committee is also working on special conference totes that will be decorated with our theme by grade school children. The Ways and Means room will have many gently used items for you, your home or garden.

The Life Members Program on Friday, June 12 will be an “*East Meets West*” theme. You can dress in your favorite western duds, come as a Mid-Eastern Dancer, or just come as your are! We'll give you a bandana to show our hospitality and hope you enjoy our special entertainment and beautiful Arabian horses.

President Denise is doing something different this year in place of having each club bring a special basket for our convention silent auction fund raising. She is asking us to gather our gently used purses and items of costume jewelry and bring them to the District Meetings. The items will be individually priced and put on sale at the Convention. We all have extra jewelry and purses taking up space in our closets, so let's clean house and help raise money for MFGC!

Don't forget the dates June 12-13th and send in your registration form ASAP. We look forward to meeting you!

—Myrna McCollum & Patty Schlaeger
Convention Co-Chairman



**78th ANNUAL STATE MEMBERSHIP CONVENTION June 12 & 13, 2015
MONTANA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS**

Great Falls Hilton Garden Inn – 2520 14TH Street Southwest, Great Falls, MT (406) 452-1000

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Club: _____ District: _____

Please check ALL applicable titles (*indicates Voting Member) (^ Name must appear on Delegate Registration Form)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Club President*	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member	<input type="checkbox"/> National President
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Delegate*^	<input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Director
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Delegate*^	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower Show Judge	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> District Director*	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Flower School Judge	<input type="checkbox"/> National Board Member
<input type="checkbox"/> State President*	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> National Life Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Elected State Officer*	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Landscape Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointed State Officer*	<input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee	
<input type="checkbox"/> State Chairman*	<input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Council Member*	

**Hotel registration deadline is Monday, May 11, 2015 to get the convention rates. (\$104 + tax)
Registration and Meals: Convention Registration Postmarked Deadline is Tuesday, May 12, 2015.
All MFGC Members must register to attend any function.**

Full time Registration: June 12-13, 2015, postmarked on or before May 12	\$25.00 _____
Full time Registration: postmarked after May 12	\$35.00 _____
One Day Registration: Friday _____ Saturday _____	\$20.00 _____
One Day Registration Postmarked after May 12: Friday _____ Saturday _____	\$25.00 _____
On-Site Full Registration (no meals)	\$35.00 _____
On-Site One Day Registration (no meals)	\$20.00 _____
Meals: Check all that apply	
*Friday Lunch	\$20.00 _____
*Friday Life Members Banquet (off premises) <i>(open to all Life Members and Potential Members)</i>	\$25.00 _____
*Saturday MFGC Awards Luncheon	\$20.00 _____
*Saturday Banquet, NGC Awards Presentations	\$30.00 _____
Breakfast is on your own each day	Total Enclosed \$ _____

(*Please make list of any food issues (allergies, diabetic, lactose intolerant or gluten free, etc.) and send on separate sheet with registration).

Please make checks payable to 78TH MFGC CONVENTION and send to:
Sherry Meadors, Registrar, 1225 Park Garden Road, Great Falls, MT 59404.

Check # _____

Member Services

Plan events to celebrate
National Garden Week in your community.
JUNE 7-13th, 2015

Encourage pride in your communities and cooperation with interested groups and the general public on the importance of gardening information.

Here are some ideas:

- Beautify a blighted area (possibly with another group).
- Have a Flower Show, a Design and or Horticulture workshop. Share your masterpieces by placing them in a business, a library or other public place. Be sure to identify yourselves as a garden club by wearing a Garden Club T-shirt, apron or other means.
- Prepare window displays of design, horticulture, or tri-folds with NGC Objectives.
- Invite the public to a workshop featuring any of the NGC Objectives.
- Submit newspaper articles proclaiming National Garden Week. (for a color "poster" to print go to www.gardenclub.org)

Let's make ourselves known!

—*Carol Works*
Member Services Chairman

*Like flowers, memberships
can be grown.*

When the weather starts warming up, people are ready to plant flowers and get their gardens started. Why not have your garden club start a contest for the Gardener of the Month during the summer months? Put an announcement in your local paper that your club will honor a beautiful yard or garden and present a gift certificate to the "Gardener of the Month." You may even want to include a one-year membership to your club as a final season prize.

Your membership may increase once those winners attend your meetings for their award presentation and see how much fun it is to belong to your club!

—*Vanette Nagamori*
Membership Chairman



How long do Seeds Last?

Since seeds are too expensive to waste, it makes sense to save any you didn't plant last season. Seeds will last for years as long as they're kept in a setting with low humidity and at a consistent, cool temperature. Generally most seeds will remain viable for about three years, but many gardeners find that quite a few seeds will germinate beyond this time. If you don't think your seeds will make it, go ahead and plant more seeds to make up for those that may not grow.

Keep your seeds after spring planting by sealing the seed packet with a clip or tape and storing them in a plastic zip-lock bag. Be sure to write the year they were purchased on the outside of the seed packet. Storing them in a dark closet with a consistent temperature may be fine for many seeds. To better insure they will germinate, you may want to store labeled seed packets in a glass jar in your refrigerator where the temperature is cool and steady. It also helps to reduce the amount of moisture in the jar by placing a few tablespoons of powdered milk in the bottom of the jar and covering it with a paper towel before placing your seed packets in the jar. Do not store them in the freezer since freezing damages some seeds.

The bottom line - don't toss seeds left over from planting! By taking a few simple measures you can use the same packet for several seasons.

Air – Did you know?

The conservation of air is the protection and cleaning of the earth's air supply. Air pollution can be caused by any number of sources, including transportation, power plants, and factories. This pollution can cause a number of health problems, so it is important to practice air conservation when possible. This can be done by reducing emissions produced by personal, as well as business, activities.

Environmental conservation is the protection of the earth's ecosystems and resources from pollution and destruction and includes the rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems. There are different types of environmental conservation, including water conservation and forest and animal conservation. Forest conservationists work to prevent deforestation while animal conservationists try to protect wildlife from destruction brought about by poaching, pollution, and habitat destruction.

The pollution of air can occur from any number of different sources. The fuel burned by cars and other modes of transportation is a major source of air pollution. Manufacturing plants and power plants can also be large sources of air pollution, but the amount of pollution may vary depending on the type of factory.

Those who participate in air conservation efforts are concerned about different types of air pollution. Too many greenhouse gases in the air, including carbon dioxide and methane, have an effect on global warming. Too much ozone can also be a problem because it can cause respiratory problems for some individuals. Other dangerous chemicals, such as mercury, may escape into the air and cause acid rain.



Large amounts of smog can also be unsightly, and ruin the aesthetics of many city and natural landscapes.

Proponents of the conservation of air encourage a number of actions that can be taken to reduce air pollution. Instead of driving in individual cars, they encourage people to carpool or take public transportation whenever possible. Likewise, efforts to conserve electricity used in the home can also help air conservation as can the use of renewable energy sources, which are pollution free, to provide electricity.

Governments, both local and national, have also participated in the conservation of air. Restrictions have been placed on the amount of pollution that some types of large factories can emit. Inspectors are assigned to measure the level of emissions that are produced by certain factories and big businesses to make sure that they are following emissions laws that are designed to promote the conservation of air.

Houseplant Checkup



CHECK FOR: YELLOWING LEAVES. Often a sign of too much water. Some houseplants are semidormant over winter and don't need as much water as they do in the summer. Clip off affected leaves and hold back on watering until soil feels dry.

CHECK FOR: DUST ON LEAVES. Clogged stomata (pores) prevent plants from transpiring. Wipe the tops and undersides of smooth foliage with a soft dustcloth.

CHECK FOR: DRY, BRITTLE LEAVES. Your skin gets extra dry from indoor heating and your plants may feel it too. Add moisture to the air around your plants by setting pots on pebble-filled trays of water or use a humidifier.

CHECK FOR: SHOOTS OF EXCESS GROWTH. Houseplants need to conserve resources in winter. Too much growth now can weaken a plant over the long term. Prune new top growth to strike a balance between roots, which grow slower in winter, and the shoots.

CHECK FOR: DEAD FOLIAGE. This not only looks bad but can lead to fungal or other diseases if left to rot in the pot. Don't leave rotting leaves untouched. Pinch them off and toss them out.

Under Montana's Big Sky....Club News

DEARBORN GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Dearborn Garden Club does not have meetings January and February, but we do enjoy getting together on the third Wednesday of those two months. On January 21, 2015, 14 members met at the Sportsman's Café for a No-Host Luncheon. We had a good time catching up with everyone's activities.

The Planning Committee for the Central District #5 meeting, which will be held April 16, 2015, met to formulate some plans as the Dearborn Garden Club will host that meeting in Cascade.

The Planning committee members are: Doris Anderson, Lois Rumney, Kitty Wojtala, Peggy Sloan, Carol Brady, JoLee Burman, Jo Pertile, and Colleen Mason are pictured below.



CHESTER GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Chester Garden Club members had a very successful holiday show in 2014 and in January following the business meeting, wreaths brought by Rea Englund were decorated with materials brought by members and then taken to the nursing home and Wheat Country Estates.

Chester Garden Club will host the Northern District Meeting on Friday, April 17 at the United Methodist Church. Dahlia bulbs will be started and used as door prizes. A possible speaker will be Will Anderson who will talk will be about his orchard at Rudyard.

In March Alice Burchek, Toole County Agent, will discuss container gardening and Don Hazen from Riverview Greenhouse at Fort Benton will tell about the new varieties of plants he will have this year. Hazen will again provide plants for the club's plant sale which will be held on Tuesday, May 19 of this year.

MISSOULA GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Missoula Garden Club held it's Christmas Party at the Holt Museum of Western History in Lolo. We also had a Christmas Tea and sold wreaths we made. Our tea was very successful. We will be working at the Rose Garden this spring and will plant new roses at the Blue Star Memorial.

STEVENSVILLE CELEBRATES 75 YEARS!

Stevensville Garden Club was organized June 7th, 1939, under the name of Three Mile Garden Club. We are CELEBRATING this special milestone, by "CELEBRATING 75 Years in the BITTERROOT VALLEY: A Standard Flower Show at St. Mary's Mission, Friday, July 17 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday July 18, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The public is welcome. Anyone wishing to exhibit Horticulture and/or Designs, please call Mary, 406-207-0334. Two special workshops will be held before show time, to help exhibitors with the classes they want to enter in. Watch for the dates in the Bitterroot Star/Ravalli papers or send an email to skyvalley96@charter.net for dates to attend.

In 1948, there were 11 Charter members, with over 60 club members. Dues were \$1.20, then \$1.50, then \$5.00 by 1986. If, dues weren't paid, you were suspended after 3 months. The club objective was: advancement of gardening; beautification of member's homes; encouraging neighbor co-operation; and to stimulate civic improvement. Our goals have changed some to include Town Beautification, Floral Design, exhibiting in Horticulture and Design at Fairs, Environmental, Air/Water Quality, Pollinator studies. In the beginning club officers were called Chairman. By the 1970's the club had a President and a full slate of officers.

In 1955, the Three Mile Garden Club took on the Civic Improvement Project on Main Street in Stevensville. In the 1980's, the club name was changed to "Stevensville Garden Club." In 1996, in collaboration with the National Federation of Garden Clubs, club members planted a White Crab Apple tree at the Stevensville Museum, in memory of children, who died in the 1995 Oklahoma bombing.

Throughout the years the club has participated in many projects in the area. The Spruce tree at Wayside Park came from Gladys Reiman's farm and was planted by club members. It is decorated by the town each Christmas. Other member projects have included: St. Mary's Mission planting; Stevensville Municipal Swimming Pool; Marcus Daly Grape Arbor Columns Project; Native Pollinator Gardens #1, #2, #3 at Stevensville Ranger Station on Main Street; Children's Garden; Public Workshops/Presentations; Yard of the Year; Garden Therapy; Creamery Picnic Garden; Blue Star Memorial at Wayside Park; public Christmas Luncheons/Teas; Missoula and Ravalli County Fairs - Horticulture and Floral Design entries; Historic Stevensville Tree Project/Walking Tree Tour with Brochures; Daffodil Bulb Project; Stevi "Y" shrubs/plants, late 1990's; Penny's For Pines Projects for Missoula Equestrian Park and Hwy 93 Median in Florence, Montana.

Treasurer's Notes

NEW MEMBERS

Clark Walters, Butte Study Group
Jessie March, Butte Study Group
LuWanna Johnson, Butte Study Group
Marie Jones, Glendive Garden Club
Elvia Vazquez, Great Falls Flower Growers Garden Club
Oliver Wood, Great Falls Flower Growers Garden Club
Sheryle Darilek, Sow and Grow Garden Club

BIG SKY STARS *

A Big Sky Star in memory of Duane Sibley, husband of Gumbo Gals President Linda Sibley.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Nona Munroe, Rainbow Garden Club
Pamela McKeever, Great Falls Flower Growers Garden Club

PENNY PINES

Gumbo Gals Garden Club

—Glenna Waltee
MFGC Treasurer



CHANGES & CORRECTIONS

MONTANA GARDENS — Winter Issue

There was an error on the cover photo caption for the last issue of the Montana Gardens. The correct photo caption for the photo should be (left to right) Toni Ziegler, Rosemary S. Veseth and Kathy Austin. Rosemary and Toni were co-chairpersons on the Blue Star Memorial Marker Project in Malta. Kathy is the state Blue Star Memorial Chairman.

Wrapping it up...

by Patty Schlaeger, MT Gardens Editor

Winter in Montana has certainly taken on many faces since the first of the new year. Some of us have had more snow this season than ever, setting many new records across the state. While the mountains have above normal to normal snow pack, some of our prairie areas are lacking in the moisture that is so needed for plants, trees and crops.

The chinook winds have been very kind to us on the eastern slopes of the Rockies, but it is amazing to look at the variance of temperatures from Western Montana to the Eastern part of the state. On the same day some of us are in shirt sleeves while others don heavy parkas, fur-lined caps and gloves to ward off the extreme cold! However, this is Montana. As they say, "If you don't like the weather, just wait a few minutes!"

In Central Montana these few weeks of warmth and sunshine have caused fields and lawns to green up. This is nice for the animals who can enjoy a taste of fresh grass in place of hay. But the Groundhog saw his shadow and we should enjoy this brief "spring" teaser, because winter is far from over. We may be stacking up seed catalogues and putting marks in garden magazines, but Montana always has the upper hand! *Keep your snow shovel on the porch until the Fourth of July in this state!*



ATTENTION GARDEN CLUBS

Needed: Your good, clean, and pre-priced items for the Ways and Means Room at the 2015 state convention. Please bring items you might be willing to buy. Thanks.

—Jo Lee Burman
Ways and Means Chair
Dearborn Garden Club



MONTANA

Federation of Garden Clubs

Montana is part of the Rocky Mountain Region. The 2013-2015 Rocky Mountain theme is “Tread Lightly on Land and Water” asking members to leave nature as undisturbed as possible or even to try to return an area back to its natural environment. The Regional project, “Make Water Choices for a Green World” was selected as water (rain) is the livelihood of the entire RMR area. Members are asked to maintain good quality water for drinking, recreation, fish and wildlife. Everything we do influences our water quality and availability. Following are some ways you can improve the water environment in your own backyard: planting trees and shrubs, making wildlife habitats, adding backyard ponds and wetlands, composting, mulching, terracing, practicing safe pest management, conserving water, and applying only the nutrients needed. As garden club members we need to be good examples of stewardship and educate others on the benefit of a healthy environment for our future generations.

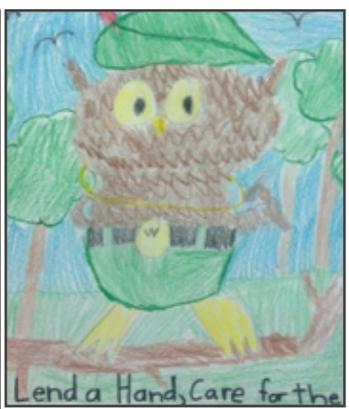
—Beverly Heidelberger
Rocky Mountain Region Director 2013-2015

 find us on facebook!
facebook.com/MontanaGardens

STATE OF MONTANA SMOKEY BEAR – WOODSY OWL POSTER WINNERS



Brooklyn Knowles
1st Grade — Malta



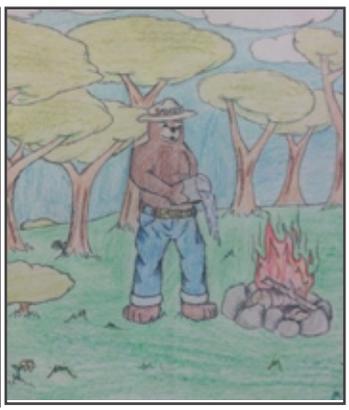
Owen Thompson
1st Grade — Malta



Dylan Wright
3rd Grade — Malta



Lane Thompson
4th Grade — Malta



Colin Stowers
5th Grade — Malta

**Congratulations to
all the winners!
A job well done!**

Jennifer Strzelczyk
Chairman

DATES & DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

- District Meetings:**
- April 15 Charlo
 - April 16 Dearborn
 - April 17 Chester
 - April 18 Anaconda
 - April 29 Billings
 - April 30 Miles City
 - May 1 Saco
 - May 2 Belgrade

NGC President's Special Project

“Making A World Of
Difference – Choices Matter”
By MARCH 31, 2015
www.gardenclub.org

Awards
By APRIL 15
To Linda Sadler,
Awards Chairman