

MONTANA

Gardens

Grand Teton Fall by Sarah Smart of the Whitehall Garden Club was an award winner in the National Garden Club Photography Contest. Cover story on page 3.

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Winter 2016–17 | Volume 62 | Issue 3

President's Message



Cooling temperatures, bare trees, morning frost means winter is approaching. Clubs are busy planning projects for bazaars, Christmas Walks, and Christmas teas. The Christmas feeling is beginning to shine in our faces.

You, as a member, have donated many hours in community gardens, judging fairs, and holding flower shows. Belgrade and Glendive decorated pumpkins; Stevensville hosted the Fall Board Meeting; Whitehall is making cute log trains for their Christmas Walk; and, Anaconda had their annual tea. These are just a few of the things I have been told that have happened.

Montana held flower show school Course III in August in Belgrade and will hold Course IV there this spring. A symposium will be in Missoula in July. We presently have nine new student judges.

Riverton, Wyoming was the venue for the Rocky Mountain Region. Nine members attended the function. Activities included a tour of members gardens, a trip to a raspberry farm, and a native American dance group. Darlene Skari, Rocky Mountain Director did a wonderful job presiding. Montana is proud of the work she has been doing. Thank you Darlene.

From the plains of Wyoming to the ocean port of Portland, Maine, Darlene Skari, Phyllis White and I traveled to the NGC Fall Board meeting. My flight had a plane change at LaGuardia Airport. I was thrilled and moved when I looked out the plane window and saw the Statue of Liberty, 1 World Trade and the Empire State Building. NGC Fall Board was business. A photo contest to celebrate the 100th birthday of our national parks was held. Sarah Smart from Whitehall won a second place ribbon. You can see her photos in this issue. Her winning photo was bought and presented to her at the November Whitehall club meeting. Dur-

ing NGC Fall Board, I also attended a Victorian Tea at a mansion where garden club members did flower arrangements in each room.

The MFGC Fall Board meeting was held in Stevensville. The theme was "Anurama." Members learned about the habitat of frogs and toads. Members made toad gardens for the "Toad Hollow" contest. Pat Biggs led her third workshop on leadership. By the end of my term, as a member, you should have leadership skills to help you when accepting a club office. Pat Biggs was approved as President of the Life Members until election in June. Judges Council is giving a stipend for four judges to attend a symposium in Atlanta in January. A fun time was had at this meeting.

Pull up a chair, sip a cup of tea, play seasonal music and sit by the glowing fireplace. Enjoy family and friends during this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas!

**LINDA SADLER
MFGC PRESIDENT**

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Betsy Heckel

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Sherry Corneliusen

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Norman DeNeal, Darlene Skari,
Ruth Layton, Mary McLane,
Mary Olsen, Jean Thomas,
and Marie Jones



MONTANA Gardens

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes education, resources and networking opportunities for its members and Montana youth to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

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The Award Winning Photography of Sarah Smart

Last spring National Garden Club initiated a photography competition celebrating the centennial of the National Parks System. Henry David Thoreau's quote, "In wildness is the preservation of the world," was the theme. The top 30 entries were displayed and judged in Portland, Maine at the NGC Fall Board. Sarah Smart, a member of the Whitehall Garden Club, had two entries among the final selections. Her photograph, **Grand Teton Fall**, was awarded second place; a second photo, **Sunflowers in the Grand Tetons**, won honorable mention.

Sarah was an active member of the Accokeek, Maryland Garden Club for 15 years. She moved to Whitehall 15 years ago, and when she retired, she joined the Whitehall Garden Club. She is on the Historical Committee and takes photos for the club. More than 20 of her photos of club events have been published.

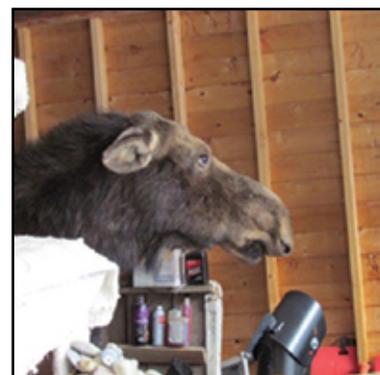
According to Sarah's husband, Bill, she was snapping photos way before they were married in 1988. He said it is only in the past few years that she has gotten serious about taking excellent photos. Several years ago she entered two and a half dozen photos in the

Madison County Fair and won MANY ribbons...blue, red and white. Since that time, she has entered fewer photos, but won more blue ribbons. "She takes "remarkable" photos," Bill quips, "that is, photos worth remarking on. She likes photographing landscapes, birds and animals, and, to a lesser extent, people, though she is great about recording people at gatherings, be they at social gatherings, church or public events." Bill says Sarah is a giver and it shows in her photographic work. She is a bright light, a sweet, kind-hearted person, and that is what comes out in her photos: a kind love for places, animals and birds, and people. Her photos ALWAYS accentuate the positive. Bill concludes, "She even makes her Old Dog (that would be me) look pretty good, and that's doing something!"

The 30 finalist's images from the National Garden Clubs Photo Contest are now posted on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org, along with the comments ribbons and awards. The photos are absolutely stunning! You will find the photos posted on the left side of the home page - under **ABOUT US**.



Top Left: "Sunflowers in the Grand Tetons"—NGC Honorable Mention Award; **Center:** "Moose Mother Love"; **Top Right:** Big Horn Ram photographed in Glacier National Park; **Bottom Right:** MFGC President Linda Sadler (right) presents Sarah with her NGC 2nd place certificate; **Bottom Left:** A young moose in Sarah's storage room trying to ignore her. He stayed for 3 days. He would come out to eat snow, then would return inside.



Pollinator Power



AN EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Pollinator Power is available for downloading on the NGC website at no cost! Twenty-three pages of facts about bees, butterflies, bats, birds, beetles, flies, moths, and wasps—and their mission as pollinators. Information is provided on pollinator habitats, perils, plants and websites.

Located at www.gardenclub.org > Youth Programs page > Bees and Butterflies > Resources

This is a POWERful environmental resource for classrooms and garden clubs.

Pollinator Did You Know Questions

DID YOU KNOW....

- 80% to 90% of all flowering plants on Planet Earth depend on insects and animals for pollination?
- the cacao tree, the source of chocolate, is pollinated entirely by a tiny fly relative called a midge?
- fig trees are pollinated by wasps?
- one species of nectar-feeding bats has the longest tongue in relation to its size of any mammal in the world? This bat is only the size of a mouse, but its tongue is almost 3 ½ inches long!
- butterflies taste with their feet?
- bumble bees are the only bees that use “buzz pollination” to dislodge the pollen?
- beetles play a major part in pollination?
- hover flies are the workhorses of the orchard - pollinating a variety of fruit crops?
- hummingbirds are found only in the Western Hemisphere?
- a variety of night-blooming flowers are highly dependent on moths for pollination?
- wetlands are an excellent source of conservation and protection for pollinators?
- over 300 species of fruits depend on bats for pollination?
- at least 185 species of pollinators are considered threatened or extinct?



For a comprehensive collection of these and other Pollinator facts, Pollinator Power is available at no cost on the NGC website: www.gardenclub.org

SAGE & ROSES

**Send A Greeting Electronically and Remember Our Servicemen's Every Sacrifice
(A Blue Star Marker Program)**

Make a donation to the SAGE & ROSES Blue Star Marker Fund and send it to NGC Headquarters electronically. Your donation gives Montana a chance to win a Blue Star Marker. A donation of \$10-\$25 gives one chance; \$25 to \$50, two chances; Each additional \$25 is another chance. Go to www.gardenclub.org for information.

The Birds of Summer

Nelone Nilsen—MFGC State Bird Chairman

I recall back in July 2011 I had a cardinal visit for a few days. We have pictures and I was told it was the sixth reported sighting in Montana. I have Eurasian Doves year round and also Blacked Capped Chickadees, House Finches, Downey's, Harries Magpies, and Flickers.

Here is my list of summer birds that were spotted: Red Winged Black Birds, Sand Hill Cranes, Rosy Finch, Robins, Osprey, Grackles, Turkey Buzzard (Vulture), Yellow Headed Black Birds, Killdeers, Meadow Larks, Pine Siskin, Brewers Black Birds, Pelicans, House Wrens, Black headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Western Tanager, Barn Swallows, 1 Humming Bird, Eastern King Birds, Finch, Gold Finch and Mourning Doves. I was unable to identify some very small birds that loved the thistle seed. There also was a larger bird with them that I could not identify. This bird had yellow around the head and the eye was very purple.

I hope you enjoy pictures of some of the birds I spotted this summer.



Sand Hill Crane



Lazuli Bunting



Rosy Finch



Western Tanager



Turkey Buzzard



Barn Swallow



House Wren



Pine Siskin



Eastern King Bird



Osprey

Remember that food and water are very important for the birds that stay for winter. I put out sunflower seeds and suet for them because they need this nourishment for warmth in our cold winters. Don't forget to provide some water in a shallow container for birds in winter. You can make "unsuet" bird food by mixing a cup of bird seed and some crushed peanuts with a half cup of peanut butter to bind. Place in your suet holder.

MEMBERSHIP BEGINS WITH ME

As MEMbers of a garden club we should each be inviting friends, neighbors, and others to join our garden clubs. As a MEMber we should be willing to mentor new members. Otherwise, they may become discouraged and drop out or become a non-productive MEMber. Without an active MEMber to inspire new MEMbers they will not grow or be willing to *Leap Into Action* and leadership.

We're losing MEMbers and clubs for lack of recruiting and mentoring. Be willing to help new MEMbers become knowledgeable and productive MEMbers. Be excited and productive and be willing to mentor and pitch in to do your part, and you will inspire others to do likewise (*from Jo Krallman, NGC Committee Member in KIT*).

A MFGC membership contest was opened at the Fall Board in 2015 and will conclude in April 2017. Winners will be announced at the 2017 convention. Winners will be selected by largest percentage of increased membership. Cash Prizes will be awarded.

VANETTE NAGAMORI—MFGC MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Stevensville, Montana October 15, 2016

Leadership Workshops: Patricia Biggs, The 4 C's & Decision Making Process, Phyllis White, Communication & Leadership

Call to Order: President Linda Sadler called the meeting of the 2016 Fall Board to order at 10:25 a.m. on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Stevensville, MT. Recording Secretary, Diane Ward, was present.

Opening Exercises: Cheryl Carroll, Chaplain gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Linda Clark. President Linda Sadler welcomed those in attendance and made introductions. Joanne Gibbons welcomed all to the 2016 MFGC Fall Board.

Preliminary Credentials Report: Sandy Lenhart, Credentials Chairman, gave the following Preliminary Credentials Report with a voting strength of 27 and moved its adoption. National Board Members-3, Regional Board Members-3, State Officers-7, Club Presidents-9, District Directors-5, State Chairmen-7, Advisory Council-1, Garden Club Members-44.

Total Voting Strength 27

Quorum: Phyllis White, Parliamentarian, declared a quorum present.



Standing Rules of the 2016 MTGC Fall Board Meeting: Phyllis White read the Standing Rules of the 2016 Fall Board Meeting for adoption.

ADOPTED

Appointment of Committee to Approve the 2016 Fall Board Minutes: The President appointed the following committee to approve the minutes of the MFGC 2016 Fall Board Meeting: Sherry Corneliusen (Chairman), Donna Dowell, Jim Sadler.

Timekeeper: The President appointed Glenna Waltee to serve as timekeeper.

Report of the Committee to Approve the MFGC 2015 MFGC Fall Board Minutes: Joyce Hendricks, 1st Vice President, Chairman of the committee to approve the minutes of the MFGC 2015 Fall Board Meeting in Fort Benton, MT reported that the minutes had been approved and will be filed.

Reports of Officers: Linda Sadler, President, report on file. Joyce Hendricks, 1st Vice President, report on file. Sherry Corneliusen, 2nd Vice President, report of file. Jane Ereaux, Treasurer, report of file.

MFGC Committee Reports: Nominating Committee: Darlene Skari, RMR Director, Chairman, reported the positions of 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary will be open and voted on at the 2017 MFGC State Convention. Darlene Skari nominated Joyce Hendricks as MFGC President-Elec.

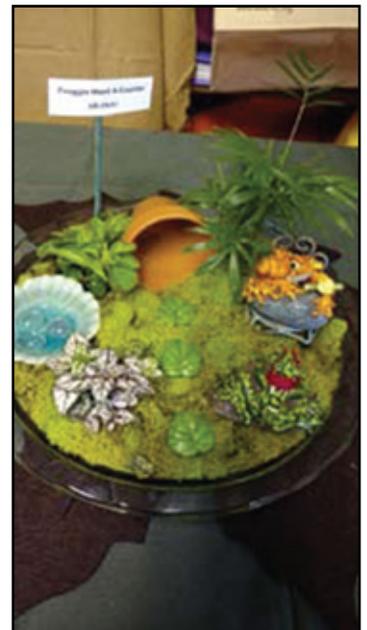
Voted. PASSED

Toad Hollow

At **ANURARAMA**, the MFGC Fall Board Meeting, the Stevensville Garden Club "lept into action." Attending members were invited to bring a dish garden, plaque or whatever their imagination envisioned about frogs, that would fit on a 12 x 12 table space. The items would be judged. Club members responded to the invitation—they brought plants in pottery and vases shaped like frogs and made dish gardens filled with things about frogs and their habitat. The Stevensville members constructed Toad Hollow, a room with two tables to display all the wonderful entries.

Everyone enjoyed their visit to Toad Hollow to vote for their favorites. When the results were tallied, the winners were: first place, Sue Leferink; second place, Pat Biggs; and third place, Christie Mock. The luncheon program featured Matthew Schertz, Professional Herpetologist at MPG Ranch, who talked about ongoing research, a frog's habitat and how they take care of themselves.

What did you learn about frogs?



Meeting Minutes

Recommendations of Executive Committee: Joyce Hendricks, 1st Vice President, moved that Flower Show School IV be held in Belgrade, MT from March 17 & 18, 2017 with testing on March 19, 2017. Sherry Corneliusen, 2nd Vice President, seconded the motion.

APPROVED

Joyce Hendricks, 1st Vice President, motioned a Symposium be held in Missoula on July 20-21, 2017 with testing on July 23, 2017. Phyllis White, Parliamentarian, seconded the motion. **APPROVED**

Linda Sadler, President, appointed Jim Sadler as Symposium Chairman. **RATIFIED**

Finance Committee: Jane Ereaux, Treasurer, report on file.

Judges Council: Glenna Waltee, Chairman, report on file.

Flower Show Schools: Susan Billmeyer, report on file.

Membership: Vanette Nagamori

Blue Star: President reported in Kathy Austin's absence.

President's Projects: Backyard Habitat, Jim Sadler. Bees, Xeriscape, Sue Leferink, no report.

RMR and NGC Chairman Reports: Darlene Skari, RMR Director, Phyllis White, NGC Keeping in Touch Editor, Facebook Co-Administrator, Pinterest Administrator

Meeting Recess for Lunch: Cheryl Carroll, Chaplain gave a blessing.

Luncheon Program: Matthew Schertz, Professional Herpetologist at MPG Ranch

Business Meeting Resumed: MFGC Fall Board Meeting resumed at 2:10 p.m.

National Life Members: Carol Works, Chairman New Business: Linda Sadler appointed Pat Biggs to fulfill the duties assigned to the Life Members Chairman until election at 2017 MFGC State Convention. Joyce Hendricks, 1st Vice President, moved to ratify appointment. Liz Smith, Miles City Garden Club, seconded the motion. **PASSED**

Linda Sadler, President, appointed a committee, Gail Zarr, Glenna Waltee and Jane Ereaux, to streamline and simplify the financial reports. Carol Brady, Dearborn Garden Club moved to ratify appointment, Joann Gibbons, Stevensville Garden Club, seconded the motion. **PASSED**

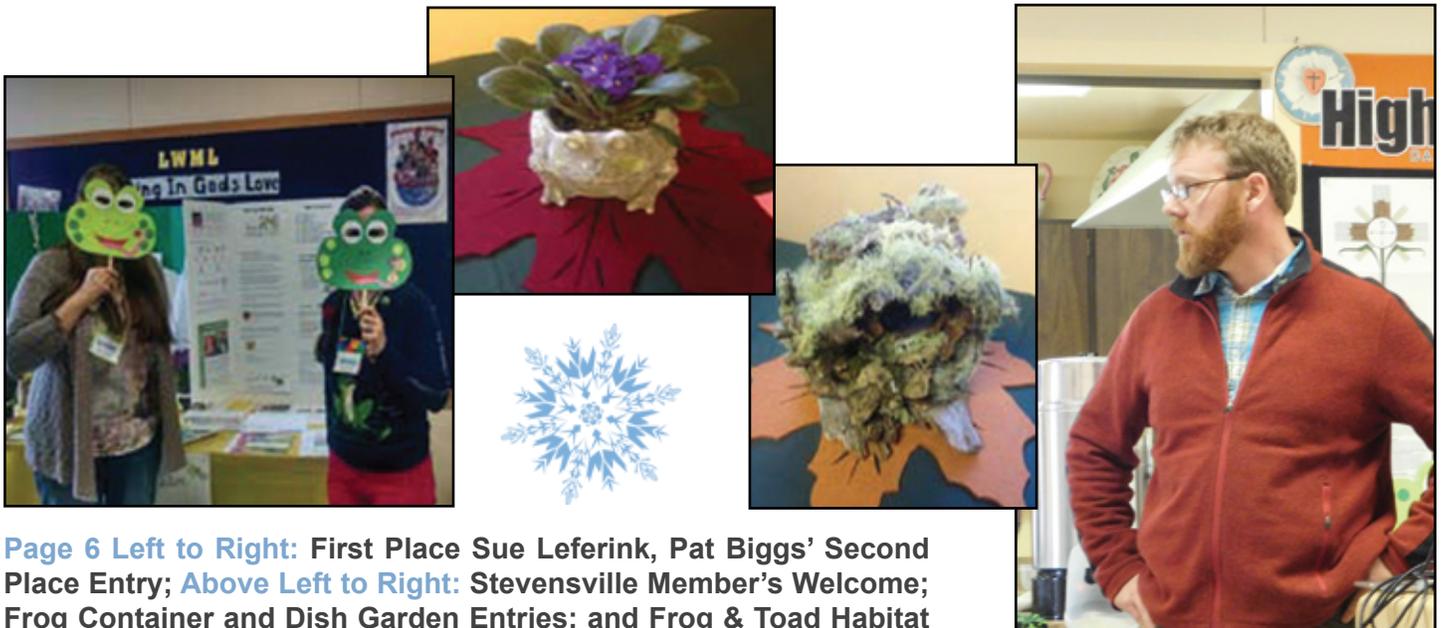
Benediction: Dian Norby gave the benediction.

Adjournment: The President adjourned the MFGC 2016 Fall Board Meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 15, 2016.

**DIANE R. WARD
RECORDING SECRETARY**

Date: October 15, 2016

Revisited



Page 6 Left to Right: First Place Sue Leferink, Pat Biggs' Second Place Entry; Above Left to Right: Stevensville Member's Welcome; Frog Container and Dish Garden Entries; and Frog & Toad Habitat Speaker, Matthew Schertz

What a wonderful fall we are having with lots of sunny days, trees and bushes all ablaze and fall flowers blooming. Keeps me thinking Montana is a great place to live.



It was so nice to see many of you at Fall Board meeting in Stevensville. Learning about the role of frogs, toads and snakes in the garden was very interesting. Living high and dry I rarely see frogs and toads, but two days after we got home Ron called to show me a small snake moving along the lawn. Usually I would “freak out” but now I know they are good, so I just left it to move on.

As our gardens are put to bed and we prepare for winter I hope you will be remembering the things you did to encourage pollinators, especially Monarch Butterflies, to visit your gardens. I would like you to share with me your projects and any pictures you might have before you get caught up in the holidays. The things I have heard during meetings have been wonderful and I will be delighted to brag about your accomplishments as I fill out the paperwork for the National Presidents Award.

With thoughts of spring, those who are hosting District Meetings in 2017 are reminded that they can apply for \$50.00 to pay for a special speaker at their meeting. If you would like this kind of help please contact Jane Ereaux our state treasurer for the particulars of how to apply for this money. This is a great way to enhance your programs.

I have enjoyed this past year meeting so many of you and I look forward to the year ahead. Remember to put the 2017 convention on your calendar: June 22-24 in Butte. Our National President will be here! A fun time to meet, network with one another and learn what is happening in the rest of the country. Registration and agenda will be available in the April 2017 *Montana Gardens*.

**JOYCE HENDRICKS
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Below is a list of the 36 living Montana National Life Members on file:



- Andrews, Susan
- Backa, Joyce
- Barbieri, Vicky
- Billmayer, Susan
- Burman, JoLee
- Davis, Mary
- DeNeal, Norman
- Eaton, Adela
- Ereaux, Jane
- Fink, Denise
- Flesjer, Lilla
- Grimsrud, Linda
- Habets, Mrs. Gerald (May)
- Hagener, A.R. (Toni)
- Haugen, Linda
- Jones, Mrs. Elden (Marie)
- Kehmeier, Elizabeth
- Kemph, Mary
- Kopp, Mrs. Kenneth (Rose)
- Layton, Ruth A.
- Lindgren, Linda Lee
- Maxwell, Luana J
- McIlhattan, Carmen
- Nagamori, Vanette
- Niederegger, Vicki
- Olsen, Mary J.
- Sadler, Linda
- Shewman, Helen
- Skari, Darlene
- Waltee, Glenna
- Weber, Fay
- Works, Carol
- White, Phyllis C.
- Yurman, Susan
- Ziegler, Toni
- Zing, Mrs. Elizabeth

If anyone knows of any needed corrections, please notify me. Refer to the MFGC Directory for my address. *Thank-you!*

Also contact me if you want to become a National Life Member. The cost is \$200 and you receive the *National Gardener* for life as long as you remain an NGC member.

**CAROL WORKS
MFGC NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS CHAIRMAN**

The Four C's of Being a Good Leader



Pat Biggs' Leadership training program at the Fall Board Meeting (pictured left) focused on the 4 C's of being a good leader.

1 CHALLENGES "Challenges are what make life interesting. How you handle them makes life meaningful." Our greatest challenge is staying focused in the fast paced technology driven world we live in. Garden Clubs face aging populations of members, attitudes about the "way we've always done it," changes in society and the world, apathy in taking leadership roles, not embracing the "team concept" of National, Regional, State and Local, and wondering why our communities still do not know us.

2 CHOICES Now that we know our challenges, we must make a choice to take a chance or things will never change. Everything in life is a matter of choice. We either say yes or no. Choice is your point of "power." This is what moves you, as a leader, toward change. Choice involves decision making. You must decide what choices to make and how to make them.

3 CHANGES Tony Proctor says, "By changing nothing, nothing changes." This is the most difficult as there is usually chaos that precedes the change. You have to adopt the idea that even if you stumble along the way, you are still moving forward. Take a look at the mission statements of your clubs. Does yours show passion? Simon Sinek, the CEO of Apple, uses a Golden Circle. The largest outside circle is the "What." We all know what we do in garden club. The inside circle is the "How." We are also pretty good at knowing how we do what we do in garden club. The small inside circle is the "Why." This is where inspired leaders start instead of starting with "What." "Why" is your purpose, your cause, your belief, your passion. It is the reason your garden club exists. We have to begin thinking differently. We have to challenge the status quo.

4 COMMUNICATION Phyllis White reminded the members that all change involves communication. It starts with being a good listener, listening with intent to others. Then we must include everyone in the meetings with an agenda, we need to learn how to conduct a meeting so it runs smoothly. It must have purpose. We need to inspire our members through face to face visits, telephone, emails, Facebook, club yearbooks, news letters, etc. Help members feel part of the group, encourage participation in district and state meetings, forward electronic copies of **Montana Gardens** and **NGC Keeping in Touch**. And finally, with the public we need to keep our projects and work in the public eye through newspapers, cards at public venues such as libraries, fitness clubs, church bulletins, hair salons, nurseries and greenhouses.

MONTANA ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL AWARD WINNERS

First Place—3D MONTANA AWARD WRITING—**MONTANA GARDENS**, Patricia Schlaeger, Editor

1st Place—Rainbow Garden Club—6B SD Award—Birds

1st Place—Rainbow GC—5 North Dakota Slide Show

1st Place—Patricia Schlaeger—26A Photography
Flora/Fauna

Award of Merit—Rainbow GC—17 Fundraising

1st Place—P. Schlaeger—2D Kansas Individual
Conservation

1st Place—Rainbow GC—1A Colorado Garden Therapy

1st Place—Rainbow GC—Amy Grisak 3E Writing Article

2nd Place—Rainbow GC—4B Nebraska Horticulture Ed.

Award of Merit—Rainbow GC—23 Club Programs

1st Place—Rainbow GC—7B Wyoming Trees—Education

1st Place—Rainbow GC—10E Civic Development

1st Place—Susan Andrews—26B Photography
Wildflowers

Under Montana's Big Sky

A YEAR WITH MILES CITY GARDEN CLUB

Ushering in 2016 found Anna Brandt, Carol Graves, Beverly Geary and Liz Smith as the new officers for the Miles City Garden Club, leading the membership's activities and community services.

February started off with a few members volunteering each day at the Soup Kitchen for a week. There was a get-together to make bird feeder table favors for the District meeting held in Glendive in April that 6 members attended. April also found preparation for the Membership tea held on May 1st with 38 people attending. They were treated to a plant swap, floral design presentation and a tour of the convent. May was busy: two \$500 dollar scholarships were awarded to two seniors at the Custer County High School; there was a planting day for an additional community service project with the Community Garden, underpass planter, Fire Hall, Chamber of Commerce, Library, Eagle Manor, Baptist Church, Post Office and Pine Hills all receiving attention. The day's labor of love was followed by a potluck.

June 8th was a red letter day, the cook books that the club had worked so diligently on finally arrived. The Blue Star garden planting was started as were the local garden tours, with a new twist. Each of the yards had an artist in residence, working on a project which sparked a lot of interest and enthusiasm.

August found everyone busy with cleaning and preparing the fair booth for the the flower display. When the fair opened, the booth was amass with the sunflower and scarecrow theme (which did double duty with our Relay 4 Life Walk at the college). Yard of the week stretched through September after a wonderful season displaying local gardeners showing their talent and artistry.

In October four delegates went to the Fall Board meeting in Stevensville and November celebrates Thanksgiving by donating dinners through our Council of Aging. December will be celebrated with our annual Christmas party. What a wonderful, productive year!

BELGRADE BLOOMERS

Belgrade Bloomers are hosting a Flower Show School Course IV on March 17 and 18, 2017. We'll study succulents and African violets on the 17th, and learn how to create table designs on the 18th. If you're interested in in-depth knowledge about growing succeeds, **come on down!**

TOWNSEND GARDEN CLUB AND STUDY

The Townsend club has a new name. The name of our Club is now the Townsend Garden Club & Study.

RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB

CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Club president Ivy Jackson announced that Rainbow Garden Club will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on December 8, 2016 with a special luncheon and program at the Rainbow Retirement Center (formerly the Rainbow Hotel) where the club held most of their meetings and programs until the hotel closed. The members will dine and recall memories of past events in the hotel's beautiful banquet rooms. The luncheon will be held in the building's lovely Atrium and students from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind "Expressions of Silence" will perform. Past presidents will be honored with a floral tribute.

"Putting on the Ritz with Style," the club's annual style show, was chaired by Sharon Winchell. She reported the show netted \$3,000 for scholarships. A wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all.

HELENA GARDEN CLUB

The Helena Garden Club is excited to announce that the Montana Wild Certified Wildlife Demonstration Garden has just become a Monarch Waystation. As Monarch Butterfly populations continue to decline waystations are being added across the United States in hopes of increasing butterfly populations by providing food along the corridors Monarch Butterflies travel.



Montana has seven species of native milkweed. Two of these are currently in the garden (Swamp and Showy Milkweed). Despite its name and the irritation to local farmers and ranchers when it gets into hayfields and pastures, milkweed has many wonderful characteristics. During World War II, American schoolchildren collected milkweed floss to fill life preservers for the armed forces. It has an insulating effect surpassing that of goose down and today is used to stuff items such as jackets and pillows. Native Americans used the stalk fibers to make string and rope. Even though it is poisonous, parts of common milkweed can be edible. There are also several medicinal uses. **So plant some milkweed this fall and next spring you might just save a butterfly.**



MEMORIALS, GIFTS, AND REQUESTS

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

- \$50 Stevensville Garden Club
- \$25 Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club
- \$10 Rainbow Garden Club in memory of Sharon Paul
- \$50 Stevensville Garden Club in memory of Jean Thomas
- \$25 Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club in memory of Jean Thomas

MEMORIALS

- \$85 Endowment, Townsend Garden Club in memory of Doreen Sautter

PENNY PINES

- \$68 Stevensville Garden Club
- \$68 Glendive Garden Club

MFGC LIFE MEMBERS

- Judy Olson Bullhook Blossoms
- Raela Hulett Bullhook Blossoms
- Helen Manaras Bullhook Blossoms
- Their Vasina L'Hirondelle Whitehall Garden Club
- Mary Zelimer Great Falls Flower Growers



LIFE MEMBERS ROSE PINS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| \$200 Susan Billmayer | \$50 Sherry Corneliusen |
| \$50 JoLee Burman | \$100 Jane Ereaux |
| \$50 Luana Maxwell | \$50 Christi Mock |
| \$50 Vanette Nagemori | \$50 Patty Schlaeger |
| \$50 Gail Williamson | \$50 Carol Works |

BIG SKY STARS

- "Thank you Stevensville Garden Club for a great Fall Board meeting"* –Glendive Garden Club
- "Thank you to my Missoula Garden Club for a great job!"*
–Linda Sadler, MFGC President
- "Thank you to Stevensville for a wonderful and fun Fall Board"* –Linda Sadler, MFGC President
- "Thank you to MFGC for a very informative and fun 2016 State Convention"* –Dearborn Garden Club
- "The Gumbo Gals give a Big Sky Star to Dave Pippin (former Valley Co. Commissioner) founder of the Valley Co. Free-Tree-Day."* –Gumbo Gals Garden Club

GREETINGS

- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Glendive Garden Club. You are invited to Glendive next October 20-21, 2017 for the Fall Board Meeting. Hope to see you there.**
- Merry Christmas to all Members from Linda Sadler, MFGC President!**
- Warm Wishes and a very Merry Christmas to all from the Dearborn Garden Club!**
- The Gumbo Gals of Nashua wish you tulips under your mistletoe—Merry Christmas!**

Wrapping It Up

There are many critics of global warming, but this year's extended "Indian Summer" in Montana is proof that change is in the air. I am a late planter each year since I am away from Montana most of June and July. Anything planted in May doesn't get my loving touch and usually succumbs to lack of enough water or becomes dinner for sheep, goats or cows that get through the fence and into the yard. Add to this mix nibbling by deer, rabbits and birds and you see why this is an expensive "treat" to provide when my guard is down.

I head to the farm stores and big box stores with a pickup truck in mid July where I become the "Queen" of "buy one get four or five free." Unfortunately my flats are usually filled with scraggly tomatoes of unusual variety and color, broccoli, cabbage, lesser used herbs, zucchini and petunias. I do not have a designated garden area so my rescued plants are placed here and there between perennials wherever there is vacant space. This year my haul included several "free" packs of celery. Can you grow celery in Montana? Yes! Only you should plant it in May, not July 20th.

This year's extended growing season and a little help from an old blanket has marked success for yet another year of garden produce in late November. I covered the celery during the first freeze in September, but with travel taking me away all October, I forgot and left it covered until November 5. When I went out into the yard I noticed the blanket was elevated and had the appearance of many animals hiding beneath. When removed, I was delighted to see every celery plant had survived with vengeance. Before I left in October I picked all the green tomatoes and placed them in a box, covered it with newspaper and set it in a dark closet. Now into December we will enjoy delicious yellow, purple, orange and even some pretty red tomatoes.



It's late in November and around my buildings other plants are not ready to "call it quits." Petunias, little Violas, Yarrow, and Allysum are blooming as though it is late August. Massive clumps of Chrysanthemum in some yards around town have looked out of place with early Christmas decorations, but they will soon be covered with frost, snow and ice cycles. It finally 'tis the season! May you all have a joyous holiday, and, whenever it shows up, enjoy the beauty of winter. Seed catalogues and spring can wait.

PATRICIA SCHLAEGER
EDITOR, MONTANA GARDENS

CORRECTIONS

A new Name for Townsend club: The name of our Club now is the Townsend Garden Club & Study.

Email for Mary Davis: oboe3555@gmail.com. The mclane email address still works, but it should be used less and less and gradually fade away.

Home Phone Number for Pat Biggs: 406-315-2610.

Email for Norm DeNeal: denealnorman@gmail.com

WARMEST HOLIDAY WISHES

**YOUR MFGC OFFICERS,
DISTRICT DIRECTORS,
& ADVISORY COUNCIL**



RMR DIRECTOR

**“ADVANCING OUR
HORIZONS—NEW
THOUGHTS, WAYS
AND IDEAS”**

DARLENE SKARI
skari@3riversdbs.net



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NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB PRESIDENT

**“LEAP INTO ACTION”
Administration Theme**

SERVICE IN ACTION
*President's special
two-year project*

SANDRA ROBINSON
[headquarters@
gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)



AN INVITATION TO JOIN US IN BUTTE AMERICA

**MFGC ANNUAL CONVENTION
SAVE THE DATE JUNE 22ND–24TH, 2017**



**Norm DeNeal,
Chairman &
Diane Ward,
MFGC Director**



CLARIFICATION FROM NGC:

“Service in Action” Awards are only offered for Crown Bees BeeGAP, Monarch Watch/Waystations and The Frightened Frog (not Youth Clubs) projects and programs.

This year, many award applications were received for Butterfly Garden and Pollinator Garden projects and programs. For clarification: an award application submitted for a Monarch Watch/Waystation project or program would be given priority over a generic Butterfly Garden project or program award application. A Crown Bees BeeGAP project or program would be given priority over a generic Pollinator Garden project or program award application.

For more information refer to the President's Special Projects and/or Awards section on NGC's website.

MFGC DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 1** – All youth awards are due to Gregg Cooper, 500 Trista Dr, Dillon, MT 59725
- December 1** – Club yearbooks are due to Annie Mollack, 818 Quail Run, Unit B, Bozeman, MT 59718
- December 1** – Flower Show Awards are due to Susan Andrews, 2429 Bridger Hills Dr, Bozeman, MT 59715-7654
- December 1** – All other national awards due to Sherry Corneliusen, 1014 Road 248, Glendive, MT 59330
- January 1** – Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl posters send to Jennifer Strelczyk, Box 1254, Malta, MT 59538

DISTRICT MEETINGS SPRING 2017

- April 26** – District 12, Miles City
- April 27** – District 5, Great Falls
- April 28** – District 2, Stevensville
- April 29** – District 3, Dillon
- May 3** – District 7, Chinook
- May 4** – District 6, Conrad
- May 5** – District 10, Big Timber
- May 6** – District 4, Townsend



VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDARS FOR SALE

They are \$8.00 each, plus postage. Contact
Sherry Corneliusen - sher@midrivers.com.