

The Dirt

SUMMER 2022



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTROSE BOTANICAL SOCIETY



MANY THANKS to the volunteers who worked last year on the West Promenade renovation project. An accessible path was added along the west side, with a stone retaining wall and a shady spot with a bench to enjoy the gardens. The tulips were spectacular in the spring, and now we are enjoying the colors and textures of the low water shrubs and perennials.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Tim Edgar

Greetings Botanical Society members. We hope to see you at our usual summer member picnic August 17 at 5:30 PM. Take a look around our beautiful garden, connect with members, the MBS Board, volunteers, and Weed Warriors.

My message to you this summer is a resounding "Thank You" to all. Thank you to all the members whose support enables us to enhance and maintain our garden. A special thank you to the MBS Board whose hard work and dedication keep the day to day business and planning on track. And thank you from my heart to all the Weed Warriors and other volunteers who donate their time and expertise to maintaining the garden, putting on events, and enabling new projects. All of you are where the rubber meets the road in the work to keep and beautify our gardens. Thank you to all for keeping our gardens thriving and spectacular. I am so proud to be part of this effort and the participation of all members.

This has been a new year with a mostly new board and many challenges. The MBS Board has endeavored to operate on a lean and balanced budget which you can see in this newsletter. We continue to sponsor educational presentations, put on events, and maintain the beauty of the gardens. As always we rely on membership and donations to operate and we appreciate your contributions in all ways.

We do limited fundraising and encourage all to give what they can. Our largest fundraiser has been the Garden of Lights and the board is still indecisive about putting it on this year. The event requires a huge input of volunteer time and work. Please reach out to the board with your thoughts on this event and alternatives to making up the deficit if we decide not to put it on.

Our major new project this year is to satisfy the \$14,500.00 grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation for the horticultural component of the larger proposed Homestead project. We have prepared the ground for new plantings and crops. Fruit trees, strawberries, and other plantings are in place or planned. The City of Montrose graciously helped with trenching for this new area and volunteers are working to complete the piping and ditches required to utilize the City supplied irrigation water. Much work remains to be done to satisfy this grant by the spring of next year. Other aspects of the proposed Homestead project have been put on hold so we can concentrate our efforts on completing the grant requirements.

Please come to the picnic, view and appreciate the gardens, see the work in progress and the renovated west promenade, and just enjoy this beautiful space we and all our predecessors have dedicated to the plants we all love.

OFFICERS

President

Tim Edgar

Vice President

Steve Field

Treasurer

Steve Manis

Secretary

Liz Mauch

At Large

Rob Clapper

Debby Ingram

Kathy See

Sheri Smyth

Board Meetings:

3rd Wed. of each month

4:00pm - 6:00pm

First Presbyterian Church

1840 E Niagara Rd

Montrose, CO

*Please check online calendar for
changes in time and location.*

Website and Newsletter

LaBree Shide

Email Address:

montrosebotanical
@gmail.com

Website:

MontroseGardens.org

Montrose Botanical Society

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Montrose, CO 81402

We are always looking for
additions to newsletter!

Please send your articles,
photos, and tidbits to
thedirt.mbs@gmail.com

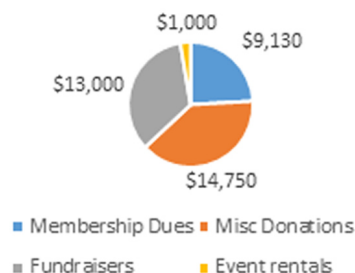
SOCIETY FINANCIALS

The board approved a balanced budget for 2022; please see the pie diagrams.

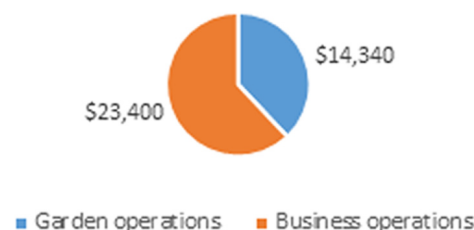
On the income side, a few things to note: the numbers do not include the \$14,500 Colorado Gardener Foundation grant money received for the horticultural portion of the Historic Homestead, which is being tracked separately. Fundraisers: At the time we developed the budget, it was uncertain whether we would hold the Garden of Lights event this year, which over the past few years has been our major fundraiser. The current board desires to put more emphasis on encouraging our members to give above and beyond the basic membership, and to encourage giving at the Patron level (more information on pg 5).

On the expense side, garden operations are those things needed to maintain the plants and other site maintenance needs. Business operations are everything else: advertising, media specialist contract, equipment rental for our events, supplies for our events, and utilities. It costs about \$3,000 per month to operate the gardens.

2022 budget-revenue = \$37,880



2022 budget-expenses = \$37,740



Reminder, please support the stores that offer our members a discount.
Remember to show your member card when you shop at these stores:

Abel's Ace Hardware: 10% on gardening items
Camelot Gardens: 10% on nursery trees and shrubs
Chelsea Nursery: 10% on plants, shrubs and trees
Cooper Soils: 10% on soils and mulch
San Juan Gardens: 10% on plants

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT by Ann Krsiean



Cindy Youngstrom has made many contributions to our botanic garden over the years and deserves to be recognized by our membership.

Cindy and husband Ken were vacationing in Ouray in the mid 80's and learned their home in Massachusetts had been robbed and nearly emptied. They decided it was a good time to move and shortly after that found a home to rent in Montrose. She has been involved with the Gardens since their inception in 1994, when she responded to a notice in the newspaper about a meeting at the Pavilion to plan a botanic garden. John Eloie, the first president of MBS, asked Cindy to be a Board member and she later served as President from 2001 to 2006.

Her brother, Marty Jones, was also involved in the early days, having been awarded the bid to develop the area west of the Promenade to the fence. He owned a garden center in Avon and would stay with Cindy and Ken while working in the Gardens.

Cindy helped organize the first Weed Warriors and remembers bringing the lemon pound cake from City Market to many work sessions. She also remembers the morning that everyone was huddled in her car watching it snow.

Cindy says she had a large vegetable garden back East but didn't know that much about gardening here. Over the years, Cindy has learned a lot about our various plantings and is always glad to answer questions from a newcomer. She now spends most of her time caring for the tiny plants in our succulent dish and helping in the rose and sensory gardens. When asked what her favorite part of the Garden is she says, "I like it all".

Cindy - you should be very proud of the role you have played in the Garden's success, and we thank you for your years of service and commitment.

LOW -WATER NATIVE PLANTS FOR COLORADO GARDENS: WESTERN SLOPE BELOW 7,000' by Liz Mauch

This publication is one in a series of regional native planting guides in collaboration with the Colorado Native Plant Society, CSU Extension, Front Range Wild Ones, the High Plants Environmental Center, Butterfly Pavilion and the Denver Botanic Gardens. It includes tips for removing turf grass, soil amendments, watering and maintaining native plants, and a plant list. The following paragraphs are excerpts from the publication; go to the Colorado Native Plant Society's webpage at <https://conps.org/> to find the brochure.

Many are interested in landscaping with native plants, and the purpose of the booklet is to help people make the most successful choices. Why go native? Your garden will have reduced needs for maintenance, fertilizer, watering, and pesticide use. And perhaps even more importantly, your garden will be attracting the native birds and butterflies everyone loves to watch, and it will also be supporting the larger natural ecosystem you live in. And one more thing – native plants are beautiful!

Native plants are naturally adapted to Colorado's climates, soils and environmental conditions. This means that by choosing native plants gardeners can work with nature, rather than trying to grow plants that are not suited to our local conditions and may prove to be difficult to work with. Using native plants in landscapes celebrates Colorado's uniqueness and beauty, and feels more harmonious with the surroundings than a landscape transplanted from another locale.

Growing native plants does not exclude using adapted non-native plants. There are many non-native plants that are adapted to Colorado's climate and can be used in a native landscape as long as moisture, light and soil requirements are similar.

Native Plant Gardening on the Western Slope Gardening on Colorado's Western Slope below 7,000 feet can present many unique challenges. The area from Grand Junction to Durango is classified as semi-desert shrubland and can be characterized as having extremely low humidity and alkaline soils with poor water infiltration. Summer temperatures can be blazing during the day with cooler nights and precipitation is low.

For this region, it is very important to choose plants that are native to the area and are already adapted to the soils and climactic conditions in order to save water and keep your garden looking healthy. Choosing plants that are native, and can thrive on little to no supplemental water will lead to the greatest successes when gardening on Colorado's Western Slope below 7000 feet.

Looking for a list of plants suitable for our environment on the western slope? Check out the CNP brochure; spend time in the botanic gardens, especially the native and xeric garden areas. Other great sources of information are Plant Select; publications by the CSU Extension Service at <https://extension.colostate.edu/>, and Utah State University Extension at <https://extension.usu.edu/cwel/>.

PLENTIFUL POLLINATOR PLANTS! by Sara Ungrodt

National Pollinator Week was June 20-26, 2022, but we can celebrate NPW EVERY week of the year through planning, growing, managing and learning more about pollinators!

Plan for 2023: NPW is June 19 - 25.

Pollinator Week was first observed in 2017 in the U.S. after the Senates' unanimous approval acknowledging the week as a necessary step in recognizing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. This annual celebration is managed by the Pollinator Partnership. It is a time to raise awareness for pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them!

Pollinators include: bees, birds, butterflies, moths, bats, flies, beetles, small mammals etc.

Pollination: The act of transferring pollen grains from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma. A plant's goal is to produce offspring for the next generation and one way is by producing fertilized ovaries- or seeds.

Many native plants (plants that have developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a region or ecosystem) and their pollinators have evolved together. Research on moths and butterflies shows that caterpillars need native plants to feed on. An example of this is the Monarch butterfly which lays her eggs only on milkweed plants. These relationships are crucial for survival of both the plant and pollinator.

Here's a cool example of how native plants and bees have evolved together: Many flowers pollinated by bees have a region of low ultraviolet reflectance near the center of each petal. This region appears invisible to humans because our visual spectrum does not extend into the ultraviolet. The contrasting ultraviolet pattern is

called a nectar guide. These guides help the bee quickly locate the flower's center. The bee can then more rapidly collect the pollen! What a unique relationship this is!



What a bee sees



What a human sees

Find more information about things you can do to attract, layer and diversify your garden to attract more pollinators at [Extension.colostate.edu](https://extension.colostate.edu) creating pollinator Habitat 5.616.



See the nectar guides along the lower petal or "tongue"?

Fragrant Palmer's Penstemon with bumblebee gathering nectar and pollen sticking to it's body to carry to another plant! We have many Palmer's Penstemon's in the Gardens.



Kids planting day in June.



Farewell to Ann Krsiean.



*Our snack coordinator, Linda.
Thank You!*

PHOTO PATCH



Gardening on the Western Slope event. Tracy Harrison's presentation on the many uses for lavender.



Weed Warrior Women: Debby, Sheri, Liane, and Leslie.



*Roses Do Grow in Montrose by Matt Douglass.
31 attendees learned about own root grafted roses.*



Weed Warriors, Mary and Janice.



MBS booth at Friendship Hall craft fair.



Alan and Jim survey the ditch grade, as part of the new Historic Homestead garden project.



*Newly installed sign in the rose garden.
Another new sign was installed for the Waves of Grass garden.*

There are many ways you can support the gardens financially:

- Make an additional **DONATION**, above and beyond your membership to support our operating expenses.
- **CITY MARKET COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM**
<https://www.citymarket.com/i/community/community-rewards>

Set up an account and go to “My Account”, go to Community Rewards and enter “Montrose Botanical Society”, or search by our organization number: XF529.

When you swipe your City Market Value Card, a percentage is donated to the Botanic Gardens.

- Shop on Amazon. **AMAZON SMILE** donates .5% of every purchase to your charitable organization. Make sure to use this link when you shop on Amazon:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1331789>

You can also login to your current Amazon account via smile.amazon.com and search “Montrose Botanical Society”.

- Become a **PATRON**: Consider giving annually at an elevated level: Pinon: \$250+; Juniper: \$500+; Bristlecone \$1,000+; Blue Spruce \$2,500+; Ponderosa \$5,000+.

In addition to our member discounts at local garden and hardware vendors, patrons are recognized in The Dirt newsletter.

- Commemorate important people in your life with a customized **MEMORIAL GIVING BRICK** to be placed in the Shavano Plaza area. For more information, go to MontroseGardens.org and click “Donate”. The Giving Brick and Memorial information is toward the bottom of the page.

- Contribute to our current project, the Montrose Botanical Society **HISTORIC HOMESTEAD FUND**.

To donate, go to MontroseGardens.org and click “Donate”. The Historic Homestead page is the second option and donations made through that page will go directly to the Historic Homestead Fund.

- Make a contribution to our **ENDOWMENT FUND** with the Montrose Community Foundation. We encourage giving to the Endowment so that we can use the investment income to pay for future needs as our garden grows. To donate, go to <https://montrosecf.org/community-development/> and select Montrose Botanical Society Endowment.

The Montrose Botanical Society is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization (tax identification number is 84-1331789) under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Memorial donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Thank you for all your support!

Thank You

WE CAN'T SAY THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR SUPPORTING THE MONTROSE BOTANIC GARDENS

Educational programs

Partner Organizations: Tri-River Area Cooperative Extension Service, Montrose Regional Library District; Montrose Recreation District.

Presenters: Susan Carter, Katie Alexander, and John Valentine (Tri-River Extension service); Sara Ungrodt, Matt Douglas

Gardening on the Western Slope Event

Organizers: Linda Bentley and Kathy See

Presenters: Betty Hall; Sally Johnson (Montrose County Historical Museum); Kathy See; Tracy Harrison; Bob & Pat Brown (Montrose Center for the Arts)

Donations: Cimarron Coffee Roasters; Susan Woody

Children's Programs

Lorraine Shide and Liane Muller

Friendship Hall booth committee

Ann Britton, Carol Pyle, Debby Ingram, Sheri Smyth, Liz Mauch

In gratitude for generous donations of time, talent and resources

Altrusa: supporting childhood literacy and the story board project

Molly Shaver: past interim treasurer

Ann Krsiean: past interim secretary, Weed Warrior and Education coordinator

Lee and Ann Krsiean: shelving donation.

Camelot Gardens: Providing potted plants for booth at Friendship Hall
Patricia and Jim Chaplin: funds for yellow and white roses.

Historic Homestead Project

City of Montrose Public Works Department: irrigation ditch excavation

West Promenade Project:

John McCollum, Valley Enterprises, Ridgway

Alan Morris

Rainmaker Inc.

The Brickyard, Montrose

Alpine Lumber

CLIMB! Tree Services

R&S Landscaping Company - Ramon Silva & Sons

Landscape Design by Sara, LLC

CAM Electric, Montrose

Bryan Cashion, Sara Ungrodt, Rob Clapper, Sheri Smyth,

Charlie Winger, Lee Krsiean

Shide Properties

Vince Urbina - Colorado State Forest Service (retired)

Linda Corwine McIntosh

Camelot Gardens

San Juan Gardens

Chelsea Nursery

Curt Book-Manzanitas Plus Wholesaler

Last but not least, loads of thanks to the planning team and to our many volunteers who made the project a blooming success.

Upcoming Society Events

Check website - www.montrosegardens.org - for additional information on these events.

August 17th • **MEMBER POTLUCK PICNIC** • 5:30 pm: Bring a dish to share and your lawn chair.

August 20th • **YOUTH APPRECIATION DAY** • 1:00pm - 3:00pm

September 10th • **PIZZA GARDEN HARVEST** • 10:00am: Pizza making at Happy Hollow. Bookmobile!

October 1st • **Deadline for nominations** for Vice President and two At-Large members.
Please ask a person before nominating them!

October 15th & 16th • **SCARECROW FESTIVAL** • Create a unique scarecrow or other fall/Halloween decoration to display in the garden.

Donated scarecrows will be part of a Silent Auction to benefit the gardens.

October 15th & 16th • **Scarecrow Festival Youth & Family Program** • 10:00am: Scarecrows on display plus nature and craft activities. Bookmobile!

October 15th • **SCARECROW FESTIVAL COSTUME PARADE** • 1:00pm

November 9th • **ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING** • 7:00pm: Centennial Room

December 14th • **HOLIDAY PARTY** • 5:00pm: Location TBA

Please welcome our newest
2022 Society members!

*We added 10 new memberships
during the Gardening on the
Western Slope event.*

Robyn Burns

Kathy Dahl

Shedaria Ellis/Andrea Knight

Fortuna Tierra Club

Marie Heroux

Peggy Justis

Susan Leeming

Norma Marcinek

Jacque Mercer

Ginger Mills

Nick Radovich

Patricia Riddell

Lindy Van Burik

Peggy Wardlaw

Patricia Whitticom

Jamie Vavra

MANY THANKS TO OUR 2022 PATRON MEMBERS

\$2,500+ Blue Spruce

Sue Frank (TEI Rock Drills)

\$1,000+ Bristlecone

Matt and Janine Fredell

Jim and Becky Waugh

\$500+ Juniper

Gayle and John Brooks

Jennifer Douglas

Don and Jenny Horn

Michiko Hitchcox

Trenton Kimminau

Ellery and Sally McLintock

Chris McNatt

\$250+ Pinon

Bryan Cashion and Sara Ungrodt

John and Nancy Eloë

Steve and Eileen Field

Cheri MacDonald

Lisa McKee

Constance Roth

Molly and Chuck Shaver

Al and Alicia Tuck

Cathy Williams