

**MONTROSE BOTANICAL SOCIETY
CANDIDATE INFO FOR 11/8/23 VOTE**

Name and Board position you are running for:

Liz Mauch, Candidate for President, two-year term



In one paragraph, what are your qualifications/strengths that make you a good fit for this position:

I have been the Board Secretary for the past two years and have learned much about administration of the gardens and the Society. I am retired from the US Forest Service, where I learned time management and how to juggle multiple projects. During my career, I worked well with a variety of people holding differing views on issues. I have carried those abilities into retirement and find they are quite valuable in my position on the Board. I am level headed, enjoy collaboration, value a diversity of ideas and feel the best decisions are made when we discuss and think through those ideas. I like to follow a logical, strategic approach to getting things done.

PS: I enjoy gardening! I am most interested in native plants and water-wise practices. At my home, we are in the process of tearing out some of our bluegrass lawn and putting in low water, pollinator friendly plants.

What are your priorities for the Board position and/or your vision for the garden:

- Maintaining the gardens that we already have, so that they are a beautiful and enjoyable place to spend time, and also provide education to our visitors.
- Developing a strategic plan for future development as well as maintenance of our existing gardens, to cover the next 10 years or so.
- Our mission statement includes demonstration and education as part of our purpose. I'd like to see more emphasis on both of those aspects.
- Strengthening partnerships with other organizations, such as the Montrose Public Library, Valley Food Partnership, and CSU.
- The gardens are under a 50 year lease from the city. Work on strengthening our relationship with the city, recognizing that the gardens are a true asset to our community.
- Staying on budget and being good stewards of the monies under the Board's care.
- Perhaps most importantly, the gardens wouldn't be the gem they are without the many years of service by our volunteers and Board of Directors. It is important to acknowledge and thank those who present programs, pull weeds, fix broken things, and keep the irrigation system running. All those things keep our gardens healthy and looking good.

Name and Board position you are running for:

Sara Ungrodt

Candidate for Vice President - 1 year term



In one paragraph, what are your qualifications/strengths that make you a good fit for this position:

I think that I have much to share and contribute to the Gardens in this VP board position after taking a break from the board for 7 plus years. I also hope to provide an historical perspective when looking at future projects and challenges seeing as I have been hanging around this wonderful place for 16 years, yikes!

I am a Colorado resident of 33 years, a Colo. Reg. Landscape Architect, owner of my own design business, CSU Colorado Native Plant Master, an overall plant geek (especially natives), and lover of the MB Gardens and ALL botanic gardens. I've held previous positions on the Board; past president 2014-2015, Horticulturist, Weedwarrior coordinator, and designer for various areas in the Gardens starting in 2007, when I was honored to design the Valley Garden and in 2018, the Waves of Grass.

What are your priorities for the Board position and/or your vision for the garden:

To assist the president when needed and to contribute where needed to fulfill the Garden mission statement and to encourage the Board to continue doing a wonderful job being transparent with budget planning and spending.

To see the Board continue to move forward with a strategy for implementing the Master Plan that was prepared in 2019. I can assist in working with the city and other government entities to gather information to design the remaining infrastructure so that future Garden development can be managed in a sustainable way.

To continue with a multitude of educational programs. Explore and network with other Gardens to expand with seminars available via Zoom, recruit CMU, CSU, CU and/or other University students for summer intern projects and investigate AmeriCorps for assistance with Garden maintenance such as the Homestead Garden.

Lastly, I support "re-booting" the well-known Garden of Lights that began in 2014. We have the decorations, and we have the folks with creativity in their souls to assist with design. I believe that we can mobilize community members and organizations to become involved and committed. And of course, we need younger bodies to help us bring it all together with or without horse wagon rides!

Montrose Botanical Society

Candidate Information for 11/8/23 Vote

Peggy Justis

Candidate for Treasurer, one-year term



Qualifications/Strengths

- ♣ BS Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 1986. I have worked as an accountant for several non-profits, most recently for a million-dollar budget church, 2013-2016.
- ♣ I am detailed-oriented. I strive to communicate well and work well with others.

Priorities and Visions

- ♣ Maintain accurate and timely bookkeeping and financial reports.
- ♣ Lead the transition of the Garden's finances to an online non-profit accounting and CRM software system. This will enable accurate non-profit accounting and reports and will help to communicate with and track membership.
- ♣ Help the community become more aware of the Gardens and to participate in fundraising and education events.
- ♣ Evaluate and pursue the Master Plan in an effective and strategic manner without overtaxing our volunteers.
- ♣ Help the Garden continue to thrive and grow as a special institution in Montrose.

Candidate's Name and 2024 Board position:

Brenda Bafus-Williams, Candidate for MBS Secretary, 2 year term



In one paragraph, what are your qualifications and/or strengths that make you a good fit for this position?

I've been retired for five years, but previously worked for 32 years for another non-profit organization (Western Colorado Alliance). With various job titles over the years – from Office Coordinator to Administrative Assistant to Communications Coordinator – I developed a strong understanding of the non-profit world, and what it means to work with and support a board of directors. As an organized, creative and an enthusiastic team-player, I've managed databases and membership renewal systems, bulk mailings, and communications – including editing newsletters and websites, and posting on social media. I've also been a key member on teams that developed strategic plans and planned fundraising events. Oh, and once upon a time I earned a Bachelor's in Botany – a love that has never waned. I xeriscaped the large yard around a house we built and lived in for 25 years, and keep threatening to remake the space we occupy now.

What are your priorities for the Board position and/or your vision for the garden?

Since joining the Board in March, I have initiated and/or helped with several efforts which I would like to continue to pursue as Secretary, including:

- Building a system of shared folders on Google Drive so the board can easily locate important documents and photos, as well as use it as a shared editing space.
- Increasing public awareness of the Gardens through a strong, consistent presence on Facebook.
- Compiling a more complete history of the Gardens to share on our website, along with updating other materials.
- Finalizing the Document Retention Policy that was reviewed and partially adopted by the Board this spring, using it as a guide in sifting through the boxes of old files taking up space in storage.

I would also like to focus on some new efforts, especially building our membership. When I've talked with members about building out the rest of the Gardens' Master Plan, a concern that comes up is how to care for it with our existing volunteer pool. Attracting new members seems to be a crucial part of any development plan.

We will have a new tool for outreach and building connections with potential members in 2024 as the board has identified a new web-based database and bookkeeping software. I would love to help MBS set up a membership building system in which we collect contact information for people who've attended our events and programs or who've given contributions other than memberships. If we stay in touch with them and build their appreciation of the Gardens, ultimately we might be successful in asking them to become active and engaged members.