

The Dirt

SPRING 2023



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTROSE BOTANICAL SOCIETY



A BEAUTIFUL VIEW of the San Juans from the gardens, after a fresh snow. But surely, spring is coming soon

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Like many of you, we are getting a bit weary of the chilly cloudy winter, but happy for the much needed moisture. We are itching to get into our own gardens, to start feeling the soil under our fingers, and to clean up last fall's foliage. At the Botanic Gardens, crocus bulbs poked up a few weeks ago through the grass test plots, and lots of bulbs are appearing in the east and west promenade. While the snow still seems to be coming down, we can continue to enjoy some winter interest in the rabbitbrush, the manzanitas, and the ornamental grasses in the Waves of Grass garden.

Since the last issue of *The Dirt*, we held the annual member meeting in November, the holiday party at the Ute Museum in mid-December (potluck and silent auction), and Weed Warrior recognition potluck in February. These events were all well attended, so thank you for continuing to show your support and interest in the Gardens.

The Board held its annual retreat in January, and our priorities are to maintain what we have and to finish the Colorado Garden Foundation grant commitments, which include installing three interpretive signs at the Homestead garden, installing the cabin, and planting shrubs, trees and row crops. The plants are identified and ordered thanks to the work of the CGF horticultural committee, and the signs are being fabricated now, thanks to the work of Rob Clapper. Needless to say, we will need lots of help from our volunteers to get

the plants in the ground after Mother's Day. Another big project will be refreshing the gravel in the xeriscape garden.

The Weed Warriors program is vital to maintaining the gardens, given that 99% of the maintenance is done by our volunteers. We hope you will come out to join the Weed Warriors on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 starting April 12. On a related note, the Board has reluctantly decided to do away with the Twilight Warriors program. It has been going for a few years, but the turnout has been very low. People who prefer to help in the evening are still able to do so; watch the weekly emails for the Garden priorities or check the white board by the shed, and bring your own tools.

There have been a few changes to the Board: For personal reasons, Tim Edgar and Kathy See resigned as President and Vice-President, respectively. We very much appreciate their service to the Society. Linda Bentley is the Interim President, Steve Manis is Interim Vice President, Peggy Justis is Interim Treasurer and Liz Mauch continues as Secretary. Our At-Large members are Debby Ingram, joined by our newly appointed At-Large members Brenda Bafus-Williams and Tracy Harrison. We are thrilled to have Brenda and Tracy serving on the Board!

And finally, we are working to update the Society's webpage. We will be posting the year end financials, the Bylaws and our recently adopted Code of Ethics.

MBS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OFFICERS

Interim President

Linda Bentley

Interim Vice President

Steve Manis

Interim Treasurer

Peggy Justis

Secretary

Liz Mauch

At Large

Tracy Harrison

Brenda Bafus-Williams

Board Meetings:

3rd Wed. of each month

4:30pm - 6:30pm

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

P.O. Box 323

Montrose, CO 81402

We are always looking for

additions to newsletter!

Please send your articles,

photos, and tidbits to

thedirt.mbs@gmail.com

The Board appreciates all the support we have received from our members and visitors in 2022. It costs about \$3,000 per month to operate and maintain the gardens, so every donation received is very much appreciated and is a significant part of our revenue.

We will be posting the 2022 year end financials on our website soon, and succeeded in staying under budget this past year. Here is a summary of the major components:

Income: totaled \$42,723, excluding grants. Membership dues were \$13,145; Donations (outside of the Endowment) totaled \$25,756; Fundraising generated \$2,938. These, together with other smaller income sources resulted in total revenue of \$42,723. In addition, we received two grants totaling \$15,000, the largest being the Colorado Garden Foundation grant for the Homestead project (\$14,500), resulted in total revenue of \$57,223.

Expenses: totaled \$37,640, excluding expenditures of the CGF grant which is addressed below. Operations accounted for \$12,100 which includes our contracted bookkeeper and groundskeeper, horticultural expenses, and general maintenance. Business operating expenses such as advertising, postage, website and PO Box, media services contract work, utilities, event supplies and rentals, awards and insurance and tax preparation, accounted for \$25,540.

Of the \$14,500 CGF grant, we have spent \$5,394 for the Homestead site plan, soil amendments, plants and irrigation supplies.

2023 Budget: the Board approved a balanced budget at the March board meeting, and it is quite similar to the 2022 budget, less the grant income. We will spend the remainder of the CGF funds in the first half of the year for plants, soil amendment, irrigation needs and interpretive signs to close out the grant.

Our Endowment managed by the Montrose Community Foundation was established in 2015 with \$2,000 and the balance as of 12/31/22 is \$184,688. The funds are pooled with other local Endowments and invested in a conservative mix of mutual funds and ETF's. 2022 was a difficult year for the financial markets, but the Board feels strongly that investing in the Endowment is an important part of our long term growth and management of the Society, and we encourage gifts of cash or stock to the fund.

Thanks so much for your continued support to the Gardens!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Barbara Van Schaik

Barbara Van Schaik was born and educated in Quebec, Canada. She and her late husband, Peter (who was born and raised in the Netherlands), met at the University of Toronto in Canada and have five children. Peter's Ag research career took them to many far-reaching areas of the world. While living in the California desert, she acquired a humble appreciation for the desert and ways water was conserved and used. This was a milestone for her, and she wanted to continue to live in a desert environment in a less populated part of Colorado. They set roots in Montrose in 1992.

Barbara became involved with the establishment of the Garden in 1995, when she noticed a tiny ad placed by Jim Chaplin. (His picture is by the front gate; he was a local radio broadcaster and the engine that started this Garden). And, as they say, the rest is history; to be covered in a future issue.

Her favorite plants: All Native grasses! Flax, Sego Lily, Apache Plume shrub, Gambel Oak, Rocky Mtn Juniper and all Sages. She would like to see the grass plot demonstrations continue and to scientifically monitor plantings in conjunction with climate change.

Barbara has served on the Board, including as the first VP, and has written many articles for The Dirt. Excerpts from her 2012 article about Goldenrod is in this issue. At 92 years old, she feels her role is to be the watch dog that makes sure that the Garden becomes the crown jewel that Jim and the first board envisioned.

It is hard for Barbara to get around these days, so she plays around with germinating and growing plants in and around her home. She loves the challenge of research and trying new things. She misses walking over to the gardens on a regular basis, so maybe we can give her a Wednesday morning "taxi" service to visit with the Weed Warriors.



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

Alan Morris: Jack of all trades helping the gardens in countless ways for 11 years.
We miss you and Roxanne!

Liane Muller: coordinating Weed Warrior projects, taking extra care of entry
gardens, watering new plants through summer heat

Bryan Cashion: irrigation system maintenance, and tracking volunteer hours

Sara Ungrodt: helping with programs, monitoring gardens for plant care and
Weed Warrior projects

Rob Clapper: coordinating garden maintenance projects, overseeing Homestead
interpretive panel project.

Claire Beutler: In-kind design work on Homestead interpretive signs

The ditch construction team:

Tim Edgar, Alan Morris, Bryan Cashion, Jim Prendergast, Norm Baker,
Rob Clapper, Charlie Winger

Ditch construction in-kind labor:

City of Montrose Public Works Dept

Story board post and sign installation:

Charlie Winger, Alan Morris, Sheri Smyth, Tim Edgar, Norm Baker, Rob Clapper

Lorraine Shide and Liane Muller:

Organizing and running children's programs

'22 Scarecrow Festival planning team:

Sheri Smyth, Liane Muller, Lorraine Shide

Tim Edgar, Kathy See, Rob Clapper and Sheri Smyth: for serving on the Board

Molly Shaver: coordinating the memorial pavers program

Linda Bentley: coordinating Weed Warrior snacks and coordinating events

Our contract help: Caretaker Leah Schumacher and Bookkeeper Rhoda Hannenber

Partners in programs:

Montrose Recreation District, Montrose Public Library, CSU Cooperative Extension

Donations:

Beaver Lakes Nursery- donation of roadbase and gravel for bench path

The Brickyard - contractor discount on bricks for bench path

Tim Edgar - providing mulch for Homestead row crops

Altrusa - supporting childhood literacy and the story board project

Alpine Lumber - supporting childhood literacy story board project

Flowers by Garvey's Gardens, Sydney Garvey - donation of dahlias for entry gardens

In memoriam:

James and Mary Mulholland in memory of Mary and Judy

Jean Granberg in memory of son Daniel

Marcus Wilson in memory of Tristan Wilson

John Turnbull in memory of Pamela Turnbull

Monetary Donations:

Denise and Steven Gaffney

Charlotte and Roger Duckett

Bryan Cashion

Anne Britton

Rob and Kathy Clapper

Carol Ross

David Bradford

Penelope Powell

Patricia Siazik.

Anonymous Donors-

Challenge Donation Matches

Karen Aken

Emily Schneider

Sara Ungrodt

Debby Ingram

Exxon Mobil, c/o Bryan Cashion

Darrell and Catherine Hartigan

Barbara McIlravy

Nora Duckworth

John Crouse

Pamela Baer

Last but not least, thank you to the many volunteers
who keep the gardens looking beautiful.
You are priceless!



Thank You

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE GARDENS

Endowment: One of the most important ways to give for the long term health of the gardens, is through our Endowment managed by the Montrose Community Foundation. The MCF works with local nonprofit organizations to establish endowment funds and invest endowment assets. They provide fund management with a mix of 60% stocks/40% bonds overseen by the Foundation's financial planning committee and its Board of Directors. Distributions from the fund are granted back to the nonprofit organization to be used at the discretion of its governing board. Eventually, when the Endowment is large enough, we will have a stable stream of income. This income could be used as we wish, i.e. a capital improvement project or to hire an Executive Director. On top of monetary donations, the MCF can accept gifts of stock, life insurance policies, and bequests.

You can find the Montrose Botanical Society's Endowment on the MCF's website: montrosecf.org. Navigate to: About, Funds, Community Development. A donation window will appear for online giving. There is also contact information to speak with someone about a gift.

Sponsor a Garden: We are seeking sponsors for our two front entrance gardens. These highly visible, colorful gardens make a big impact as visitors come to the gardens. We are looking for individual or business donors to adopt a garden for the 2023 season at a cost of \$600, which will include your name on a small plaque displayed in that entrance garden for the season. If you are interested in sponsoring a garden, please email us at montrosebotanical@gmail.com, or talk to one of the board members.

Clery Building Naming Contest

The Clery building is a metal garage building along the west property line. We store the lawn mower, maintenance tools and supplies, and the Society records there. It also provides a place to hold meetings to get out of the elements.

The naming contest for the building is underway, and the winner will be announced at the August 16th member picnic. The deadline for submitting a name is August 1st. In the event that the same name is submitted by more than one person, the first person will be awarded the prize.

To submit your idea(s) please send an email to montrosebotanical@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS
SINCE THE FALL 2022 EDITION

WELCOME!!

Kathryn Burke
Rachel Wootton
Steve and Genesis Means
Lisa Boyko
Mark Prezbindowski
Sarah Marino
Robin Beiler

NATIVE PLANT NOTES

Excerpts from Fall 2012 Dirt article by Barbara Van Schaik

I had some dental work done a few weeks ago! My dentist and her assistant were talking about allergies, hay fever and Goldenrod. While my mouth was propped open with some kind of torture device I was somewhat agitated because I was unable to dispel this myth, nor defend one of my favorite native plants.

Goldenrod pollen does NOT cause allergies. Why? It has very heavy and sticky pollen which is not dispersed by the wind. However, Ragweed, which has dry, light weight pollen is wind dispersed. Both bloom at the same time and often occur together, but Goldenrod has a bright, golden yellow flower while Ragweed has a pale, whitest green flower. Ragweed pollen is generally thought to be the greatest allergen of all pollens and the prime cause of hay fever.

The Goldenrod, genus *Solidago* is one of my favorite plants. It is a wonderful, bright, late flowering plant with many variations in size and form. The bright golden yellow flower lasts until a good frost. They are easy to grow, in moist to dry conditions, preferring well drained soils. They like full to part sun, and some will even grow in our heavy clay soils. Variety selection is important, depending on your growing conditions.

Additional Goldenrod tidbits from Sara Ungrodt: We have 15 native Goldenrods in Colorado. Some of the common ones around here are S. multiradiata-Rocky Mtn. Goldenrod and S. velutina-Three-Nerve Goldenrod. These natives are harder to purchase but there are some catalogs for native Colorado plants, and one can collect seed with a permit. One of my non-native favorites is a variety called S. rugosa 'Fireworks' Goldenrod- It has a flatter top and a striking lateral layered form and does not topple over if it gets lawn overspray or strong winds. Fall insects LOVE Goldenrod.



WHERE GOOD THINGS ARE GROWING by Tracy Harrison

"Where good things are growing" is the theme for the 2023 Montrose County Fair & Rodeo.

Something many of us don't think about doing, is entering the fruits of our labor in the county fair. Examples of entries accepted in the "Open Show" are: cut flowers, houseplants, perennials, roses, vegetables, fruit, herbs, and more. This is a fun benefit of gardening in our community and is something you can encourage your children or grandkids to get involved in too. It's time to start thinking about what you might like to enter and maybe you'll even earn a ribbon this year!

The Fair takes place July 21-29, 2023. Information can be found at montrosecountyfairandrodeo.com. In the upper right, click to open the icon, scroll through the list to "Open Show". There are links to the Entry Form and the Open Fair Book is where all of the information is located to see what can be entered, with dates and how to get an exhibitor number.

There is an entry fee of a whopping \$1.00 per entry (cash only). Cash prizes are given out to the top 3 winners in each category. There are also special class entries that have Community Sponsored Prizes.

The Open Show will be held at the Montrose Event Center, 1036 North 7th Street. Entries are accepted along with all paperwork on Sunday, July 23, 9am-2pm & Monday July 24, 9am-6pm. Fresh picked floriculture can be brought in for display 8am-9:30am on day of judging: Tuesday July 25. Events & entries are subject to change.



Kids creating succulent pots at Kathy See's program (30+ kids) at Montrose library.

PHOTO PATCH



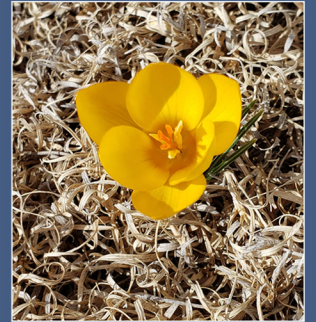
Sponsor a front entrance garden! Find out how under "Ways to Support the Gardens."



Montrose County Fair - 2022 plant entries



Waterwise talk by Sara Ungrodt and Bryan Cashion at the Montrose library. Over 50 people attended.



Crocus popping up in blue grama test plot.



Weed Warrior awards potluck, Rob Clapper reviewing '22 garden accomplishments.



Holiday party at the Ute Museum.

MBS PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The calendar is subject to change, so stay tuned for updates. Programs are held at the Botanic Gardens unless otherwise noted.

Starting Wednesday, April 12 • **Weed Warriors** at 9:00 am

Wednesday, May 3, 9:30am - Noon • **Launching of The Roses**

Pruning orientation & review followed by hands on pruning of the roses after winter. *Presented by Paige Payne.*

Saturday, May 6, 10:00 am • **Montrose Botanic Gardens Walking Tour**

Join longtime member Sara Ungrodt for a stroll around the gardens and learn about the plants that do well here in Montrose, the Plant Select program, lessons learned, and irrigation practices.

Saturday, May 20, 10:00 am • **Agoge Garden CSA Tour**

475 Water Ave. Montrose, CO 81401 (across the RR tracks from the High School, just north of the 2 red silos)

Take a tour of this farm with a freshwater aquaponic system. Aquaponics is the combination of aquaculture, the growing of fish in a closed environment, and hydroponics, the growing of plants in a soil-less medium.

Wed, June 14, 6:30-7:30pm • **Roses: The Good, the Bad & the Bugly**

Presented by CSU Extension Entomologist Melissa Schreiner.

Saturday, June 17, 10:30am - 11:30am • **Photographing Wildflowers**

Montrose Public Library Community meeting room. Jim Pisarowicz, Montrose photographer and member of the Colorado Native Plant Society, will give a slide presentation on summer wildflowers and tips for photographing wildflowers.

Wednesday, August 16 • **Member Picnic**

November 8 • **Annual Meeting**

October 14 and 15 • **Scarecrow Festival**

December 13 • **Holiday Party**

Montrose Botanical Society is a non-profit organization, 501(c)(3), since 1996, that provides horticultural education and leadership for residents of the Uncompaghre Valley through the development of botanic gardens for demonstrations, education, and leisure.