

Finding Aid to the North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs Records

North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs

North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs Records, 1963-1995

1.5 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 271

[History](#)

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

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HISTORY

The origin of the North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs is difficult to determine. They were organized by at least 1963, when they were publishing a newsletter, *The Peace Garden State*; their name was listed then as the North Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs. In 1965 the organization was accepted into the membership of the National Council of State Garden Clubs. They reorganized themselves as The North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs, and many of the records date their origins from 1966 when they became official members of the national organization.

In 1966 the federation organized four districts within the state, the Northeast, the Southeast, the Central, and the Western districts. In this year the federation also created their bylaws and standing rules. Serving as a central unit to connect the various garden clubs across the state was its most important function. Individual, local clubs that chose to become federated were provided, through the state organization, with a network for information sharing and a source that allowed them to accomplish wider scaled projects than what local clubs could do on their own. The state federation gave awards to local clubs as well as granted scholarships to individual students. They participated in statewide environmental improvement projects, and networked with other states to share project information and resources.

Most of the documents in the collection can be dated to 1977 or later, as most of the earlier records were destroyed in a house fire that killed then acting president, Virginia Hogness. Earlier records that were recovered include copies of the newsletters and information from individual clubs that were compiled from various sources to reestablish the federation's records.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs records consist of nine series: Bylaws and Standing Rules, Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Reports, State Reports, Local Garden Clubs, Regional Meetings, Newsletters, Correspondence, and Subject Files.

The [Bylaws and Standing Rules Series](#) contains a booklet of the bylaws of the North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs for 1966. Another booklet is included for bylaws amended in 1981. There are also documents of standing rules for the organization as well as bylaws for district organizations, the Rocky Mountain Regional organization, and the National Council of State Garden Clubs. Not all the material is dated, but most of it ranges from 1966 to 1977.

The [Meeting Minutes Series](#) consists of a mixture of documents from 1968 to 1984. This includes minutes from the annual meetings, reports of annual meetings, and agendas and schedules for annual meetings. A second folder contains programs for the annual meetings from 1967 to 1989.

The [Treasurer's Reports Series](#) includes one ledger covering 1969-1971, and a file of loose documents for 1968-1986. Both the ledger and loose documents contain financial reports and lists of income and expenditures.

The [State Reports Series](#) contain the reports made to the state organization by the state president, local club presidents, and the chairmen of the assorted committees. The earliest reports were presented as oral reports, which were read at the annual meetings. They consist mostly of brief notes made by the person giving the presentation, and the amount of detail varies. Later reports, beginning in 1976, were submitted as correspondence, or in report form to the president for inclusion in a compiled booklet of reports. These reports covered everything and anything the members deemed relevant to their cause. Chairmen were appointed to report on the Blue Star Highway project; annual histories of the various local clubs, and the state organization's activities; birds, flowers, gardens, trees, scenic sites, legislation, environmental

education, and so on. Most of the earlier reports are undated, and have thus been organized by subject, while the later reports were compiled into dated booklets and are organized chronologically.

The [Local Garden Club Series](#) contains files for each garden club in North Dakota that was affiliated with, or corresponded with, the North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs. The clubs are organized alphabetically according to the town they originated in. The files each contain first the name of the town followed by the name of the club (as some are named after the town itself and some were designated separately from the name of the town). These files consist mostly of information that was voluntarily submitted by each club. Some clubs submitted a considerable amount of information, such as annual reports, member lists, newspaper clippings, flower show schedules, and meeting programs, while other clubs have only one or two documents in their files. Correspondence regarding local clubs can be found in the respective clubs' files. Most of the annual reports submitted by the various clubs take the form of correspondence to the state president.

The [Regional Meetings Series](#) includes documents from the district organizations in North Dakota (subdivisions of the state organization), documents from the Rocky Mountain Region (the subdivision of the national organization with which the state was affiliated), and documents from the National Council of State Garden Clubs. The file on district meetings includes meeting minutes and reports, meeting agendas and programs, correspondence, and newspaper clippings about district meetings. The first folder for the Rocky Mountain Region is comprised of information regarding historic preservation, miscellaneous documents about meeting procedure, a regional report for 1983-1985, annual convention programs, and directories of regional information. The second folder for the Rocky Mountain Region contains reports and correspondence about environmental education in schools. The file for the National Council of State Garden Clubs includes organizational information as well as meeting minutes and programs from the annual convention in Los Angeles, California in 1982, which was attended by Marcella Melsted, who was state president at that time.

The [Newsletters Series](#) consists of two separate publications. The first publication was the official newsletter of the state federation, which went through a series of name and format changes over the years. The *Peace Garden State*, the *North Dakota—The Peace Garden State*, and the *Peace Gardener* are all different titles used by the federation for its newsletter. The *Peace Gardener* makes up the bulk of the collection, covering 1973-1995. The previous title, *Peace Garden State*, and *North Dakota—The Peace Garden State*, ran from 1963 to 1969 and 1969 to 1973 respectively. The second publication in the newsletters series is an issue of *The National Gardener* from 1982. This was the newsletter of the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

The [Correspondence Series](#) contains most of the general correspondence for the organization for the years 1974-1977 and 1980-1989. Additional correspondence can be found in other files also, mainly in the State Reports Series and in the Local Garden Clubs Series. Miscellaneous and general correspondence, not having to do with information found in other series, is all included in the correspondence series.

The [Subject Files Series](#) includes a file of directories that list officers and chairmen for the garden clubs, and their corresponding addresses. The Environmental Programs file contains a flyer advertising a poster

contest for kids, papers pertaining to environmental legislation and program funding by state, and documents explaining an environmental improvement program sponsored in part by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation. Other information in this series includes schedules for flower shows and flower schools, newspaper clippings, organizational information, and press releases. Documents on the Runaway Water project (1981-1983) offer suggestions of projects for clubs to do locally and explain how clubs can win regional awards for their projects. The Vita for Marcella Melsted was written for the National Credentials Committee when Mrs. Melsted attended the annual convention of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, held in Los Angeles, California in 1982. Mrs. Melsted represented the North Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs in her position as state president at the convention.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
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1/1	Historical material, and Finding aid
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1/2	Bylaws and standing rules, 1966-1977
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Meeting Minutes Series

1/3	Minutes, reports, and agendas of annual meetings, 1968-1984
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1/4	Annual convention programs, 1967-1989
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Treasurer's Reports Series

1/5	Ledger, 1969-1971
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1/6	Loose documents, 1968-1986
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State Reports Series

Loose documents—

1/7	Presidents' and Vice Presidents' reports, 1967-1993
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1/8	Historians' reports, 1968-1989
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1/9	Birds, flowers, garden therapy, horticulture, gardens, trees
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1/10	Blue star highway
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1/11	Environment, litter control, pollution and reclamation
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1/12	Historic trails, mailbox and yard entrances, Peace Gardens, and scenic sites
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1/13	Junior and high-school gardening
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1/14	Legislation, parliamentary procedure, ways and means
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1/15	Membership and life membership
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1/16	Awards, Bicentennial, judges, photography and slides, and world gardening
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- 1/17 National Gardener, Peace Gardener newsletters
- 1/18 Scholarship information (state and national)
- 1/19 Scrapbooks and yearbooks
- Compiled Reports of state officers, state chairmen, and club Presidents —
- 1/20 June 1976-June 1981
- 1/21 June 1981-Sept. 1985
- 1/22 Sept. 1985-June 1990

Local Garden Clubs Series

- 2/1 Beach Garden and Study Club
- 2/2 Belfield: Good Earth Garden Club
- 2/3 Benson County: Fun and Flowers Garden Club
- 2/4 Bismarck: Rolling Hills Garden Club
- 2/5 Cavalier: Four Seasons Garden Club
- 2/6 Cooperstown: Town and Country Garden Club
- 2/7 Crosby: Green Thumb Garden Club
- 2/7A Edinburg, Four Seasons
- 2/8 Enderlin Garden Club
- 2/9 Fargo Garden Society
- 2/10 Fargo Gardeners
- 2/11 Foster County Horticultural Society
- 2/12 Fullerton Garden Club
- 2/13 Grand Forks: Prairie Rose Garden Club
- 2/14 Guelph Garden Club
- 2/15 Gwinner Glads Garden Club
- 2/16 Hunter: Pod and Petal Garden Club
- 2/17 Jamestown: Prairie Rose Garden Club
- 2/18 Larimore: Valley Garden Club
- 2/19 Mandan Garden Club
- 2/20 Milnor Community Garden Club
- 2/21 Minot: Magic City Garden Club
- 2/22 Mohall Garden Club
- 2/23 New Rockford: Original Garden Club
- 2/23A Oakes Garden Society
- 2/24 Park River: Agassiz Garden Club
- 2/25 Prosper: Green Thumb Garden Club
- 2/26 Ransom County Garden Club
- 2/27 Ray Garden Club
- 2/28 Scranton: Good Neighbor Garden Club
- 2/29 Sheyenne: Town and Country Garden Club
- 2/30 Steele: Green Thumb Garden Club
- 2/31 Valley City: Sheyenne Valley Garden Club
- 2/32 Williston: What's It Garden Club

Regional Meetings Series

- 2/33 District Meetings: Reports and Programs, 1971-1984
- 4/9 Rocky Mountain Regional Information, Reports, and Directories, 1975-1985
- 4/10 Rocky Mountain Region, Environmental Education and P.A.T.E., 1976
- 4/11 National Council of State Garden Clubs: meeting minutes, 1981-1982

Newsletters Series

- 3/1 *Peace Garden State*, Nov. 1963-April, 1969
- 3/2 *North Dakota—The Peace Garden State*, Nov. 1969-Sept. 1973
- The Peace Gardener—*
 - 3/3 Vol. 8, No. 2-Vol. 14, No. 1 (1973-1977)
 - 3/4 Vol. 12, No. 3-Vol. 18, No. 2 (1978-1984)
 - 3/5 Vol. 18, No. 3-Vol.20, No. 4 (1985-1989)
 - 3/6 Vol. 21, No. 1-Vol. 26, Issue 3 (1990-1995)
 - 3/7 *The National Gardener*, Vol. 43, No. 4-Vol. 56, No. 4 (1972, 1977, 1981, 1982, and 1985)

Correspondence Series

- 3/8 1974-1978
- 3/9 1980-1990

Subject Files Series

- 4/1 Directories, 1974-1983
- 4/2 Environmental programs
- 4/3 Flower shows and schools
- 4/4 Newspaper clippings
- 4/5 Organizational Information
- 4/6 Press release
- 4/7 Runaway Water project, 1981-1983
- 4/8 Vita for Marcella Melsted (State President)