AFFIDAVIT

State of	<u>Montana</u>)
)	
)	
City of	Billings)

I, <u>Corry Mordeau x</u>, hereby solemnly affirm.

In regards to obtaining tax-exempt status for the *Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association* (YCMGA), Yellowstone County Extension Office, Court House, Room 106, 217 N

27th St., POB 35021, Billings, MT 59107, the following information is provided:

1) History of Organization. The YCMGA was organized to compliment Montana State and Yellowstone County Extension Service, which have an established Master Gardener educational and volunteer program. The Master Gardener program was started in the state of Washington in 1972. It has now spread to all 50 states. The Master Gardeners are a vital part of the Extension Service ability to provide the community with up-to-date reliable knowledge of horticulture and cause the value of horticulture to be enjoyed and protected. Master Gardening has become an enjoyable and useful volunteer activity, which has given its participants a wonderful sense of community spirit and accomplishment. To be certified as a Master Gardener individuals must attend 12 weeks of education provided by the Extension Service and generally give 20 hours of volunteer service per year. YCMGA was organized to provide a closer association among Certified Master Gardeners in order to provide a coordinated volunteer effort in line with the Extension Service. A core group of interested Master Gardeners began formal organization in January 2012 resulting in filing Articles of Incorporation with the State of Montana on January 23, 2012 as a Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation. Final organization will be upon the completion of Exemption by the IRS. This effort is currently underway.

2) **Character of YCMGA.** The activities of the YCMGA is supported by donations and various voluntary giving from organizations and individuals who have the goal of promoting horticulture, gardening education, and community improvement. As indicated in the Bylaws and by practice, no monies or benefits are inured to the benefit of any individual, or group of individuals, affiliated with the YCMGA.

As presented in the Bylaws, the objectives of the YCMGA are as follows:

- **a.** To develop and sustain a viable and energetic group of educated volunteers to raise funds to support, enhance, and supplement Montana State University (MSU) Master Gardener programs in Yellowstone County;
- **b.** To support, enhance and supplement the community educational efforts of the MSU Master Gardener Program and thereby provide education and information about horticulture, environmental stewardship, and community service to the residents of Yellowstone County;
- **c.** To facilitate the exchange of information and ideas between and among associates and the community through all forms of media, public meetings, educational programs, and other activities;
- **d.** To inform and educate the residents and decision-makers of Yellowstone County about the value of the MSU Master Gardener Program

I have read the above statement consisting of _____pages. I declare under the penalty of perjury that my statement is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that the information I have given is not to be considered confidential and that it may be shown to the interested parties.

Corry Mordeaux

Registered Agent, Yellowstone County Master Gardener Association

Signed before me at Huntley, MT	_ ,
On the 12th Day of M	Tarch 2012
Witness	