



Nebraska Garden News

Cultivating the Good Life

Volume 67– 3 Fall 2026 Issue

Member: Rocky Mountain Region, Inc.



As the heat refuses to let up, let's get ready for several fall activities. Check the calendar for Apple Fest at Nebraska City and consider that trip to Arbor Lodge you've wanted to take. September is great tree-planting time. Many nurseries still have good selections available, and you can snap up a healthy shade tree for 20-30% off!

Try the Sidney dedication of our latest Blue Star Memorial October 14th. Check the plans; a full ceremony is set for west-bound I-80 rest stop that morning.

If a symposium on how trees effect our health grabs your curiosity, join me at McCook for a stimulating 2 day Bur Oak Canyon exploration. An impressive list of tree gurus is on tap October 28-30. "Plant Nebraska" and Mid-Plains Community College, McCook campus, host this remarkable event!

Finally, I encourage each club to provide a member to join the steering committee we've set up to plan next year's Rocky Mountain Region conference.

You may reach me at (308) 289-3891, for details. Fall's promise of cooler weather really is coming!

Rod

If you love to write or have topic ideas, we would love to include the article and explore your topic suggestions in the newsletter. If you have articles from other sources, we need the sources' approval to reprint the article. We welcome your input. The Editors

NEBRASKA GARDEN NEWS Official publication of The Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc. Published at Omaha, Nebraska, on a quarterly basis. <u>Deadline for Copy</u> <u>15th Feb, May, Aug and Nov</u> NGC Headquarters 401Magnolia Ave, St.Louis MO 63110 National Garden Clubs, Inc. 2025-2027 President Donna Donnelly Rocky Mountain Region, Inc. 2025—2027 Director Shirley Pursel Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc. 2025-2027 President Rod Ruzanic 827 West A St. 308-289-3891 Ogallala, NE 69153 ruzanicrod@gmail.com Editors Jim Rouch : jim@rouchpartners.com, 402-651-5569 Donna Rouch: donna@rouchpartners.com, 402-696-0906 E-mail Circulation Robbie Kupper 315 East 6th Street Ogallala, NE 69153 fgcninc@gmail.com	Dates to Remember DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER ISSUE NOVEMBER 15, 2026 Any Chair, member or Club President may send a report, article or announcement that seems timely! <u>Up Coming Events:</u> October 14, 2026 Blue Star Memorial Dedication, Sidney, NE....see page 15 January 1, 2027 Scholarship Applications are due to Lorraine Patrick...see website April 30, 2027 FGCN Award Applications to Chris Martin May 13-17, 2027 National Garden Clubs Spring Annual Meeting, Madison, WI June, 2027 FGCN Annual Meeting, Eastern District, site to be determined August 2027, Rocky Mountain Region Annual Meeting, Nebraska Host, site and date to be determined
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Mission Statement

The mission of the Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska is: to plant seeds of interest in gardening, landscaping, flower shows, environmental issues, community beautification, charitable activities and to cultivate those seeds through sponsored schools, correspondence and sharing of knowledge for the good life of Nebraska



Remembrance of Our Garden Club Members

Today and always, may loving memories of our gardening friends bring you peace, comfort, and strength.

Gerry Fenwick

August 28, 2026

He was a charter member of the Ogallala Garden Club.

He was Jeanette Fenwick's husband.

Marcia Crofutt's brother was killed in a car on accident

August 30, 2026. Marcia Crofutt is from Ogallala Garden Club.





FGCN Statement Of Activities

June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026

Receipts

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>GF Combined</u>
Club dues:	\$1,835.50		\$1,835.00
Other income			
Transfer from BS Memorial Fund	\$2,935.00		\$2,935.00
Transfer from BS Memorial Fund	\$32.09		\$32.09
Transfer from Scholarship Funds	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Ways and Means	\$222.60		\$222.60
Interest earned on GF savings		\$313.35	\$313.35
Receipts	<u>\$6,025.19</u>	<u>\$313.35</u>	<u>\$6,338.54</u>
Disbursements			
National Dues \$(1.00 per member)	\$189.00		\$189.00
Rocky Mountain Region annual dues	\$100.00		\$100.00
Annual State meeting Expense Kearney	\$87.50		\$87.50
Awards - Youth Poetry and Smokey Bear	\$292.00		\$292.00
IRS 990N	\$50.00		\$50.00
**President Expense/Travel	\$-		\$-
Vice President Expense	\$497.42		\$497.42
NE Statewide Arboretum (Plant NE)	\$55.00		\$55.00
Sewell Industries BS Memorial Sidney Rest Area	\$2,935.00		\$2,935.00
Mary Carlson Wreath Blue Star	\$32.09		\$32.09
State Sales Tax	\$15.27		\$15.27
Postage Treasurer (Membership Cards)	\$13.66		\$13.66
Postage Lorraine Patrick	\$9.22		\$9.22
Purchase of Glove to sale	\$189.60		\$189.60
Zoom Account (Annual)	\$171.09		\$171.09
Scholarships	<u>\$1,000.00</u>		<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Disbursements	<u>\$5,636.85</u>		<u>\$5,636.85</u>
Increase in Net Assets	\$388.34	\$313.35	\$701.69
GF Net Assets- June 1, 2025	<u>\$10,620.98</u>	<u>\$8,910.66</u>	<u>\$19,531.64</u>
GF Net Assets-May 31, 2026	<u>\$11,009.32</u>	<u>\$9,224.01</u>	<u>\$20,233.33</u>

Please continue on next page.

Donor Restricted and Board Designated Funds

	<u>1-Jun-25 Change</u>			<u>5/31/2026</u>
Blue Star Memorial Funds	\$	4,946.06	\$ (2,959.58)	\$ 1,986.48
Scholarship Bank Account	\$	1,665.53	\$ (720.78)	\$ 944.75
Scholarship Certificate of Deposit	\$	10,227.54	\$ 77.00	\$ 10,304.54
Scholarship Ameriprise Account	<u>\$</u>	<u>25,118.79</u>	<u>\$ 1,079.35</u>	<u>\$ 26,198.14</u>
Total Donor Restricted Funds	\$	41,957.92	\$ (2,524.01)	\$ 39,433.91
Unrestricted General Funds (above)	<u>\$</u>	<u>19,531.64</u>	<u>\$ 701.69</u>	<u>\$ 20,233.33</u>
Total-All Funds	<u>\$</u>	<u>61,489.56</u>	<u>\$ (1,822.32)</u>	<u>\$ 59,667.24</u>

**

The former President's expenses were not turned in until July 20, 2026 in the amount of \$761.08. Because FGCN Financial Statements are prepared on the "cash basis," these expenses will be reported in the Fiscal year May 31, 2027 financial statements.-

-Robbie Kupper, FGCN Treasurer

The foregoing financial statements have been reviewed by Jim Rouch. The review consisted of procedures to examine USbank Statements, Pinnacle Bank Statements and Ameriprise Financial Statements; agreeing beginning and ending financial statement fund balances to the balances in the independent bank and Ameriprise statements; agreeing all individual transactions in the Treasurer's Quicken records to the appropriate financial statement captions and other procedures as considered necessary in the circumstances. There were no exceptions.

-Jim Rouch, August 13, 2026

Plattsmouth Garden Club new banner.



On Friday September 11, 2026 and Saturday September 12, 2026, the Plattsmouth Garden Club held its annual Flower Show and Plant Sale at the First United Methodist Church, 702 Main St. Plattsmouth, NE 68048.

The Fall Flower Show and Plant Sale was held in conjunction with The Plattsmouth Harvest Festival. We raised the bar this year by walking in the Harvest Festival parade and passing out coupons and flowers. Ultimately, the Plattsmouth Garden Club raised approximately \$700! And we have three new members!



Jar of honey donated by Yolanda Jasso for the raffle.



Volunteers from left to right:

Heather DePuy, Merri Breitreutz, Lorraine Bera, Karin Forrest, Jaye-Lynne Meyer, Tim Renkema, Beccy Thompson, Michele Renkema, and Randi VanDyne.

Plattsmouth Garden Club

Solar Lights

The pictures below display the solar lighting purchased from grants in honor of Plant America's 250 years. The grants were obtained by a collaboration between Plattsmouth Garden Club and Keep Cass County Beautiful (KCCB).





NGC Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) 2026 Annual Meeting

The eight state RMR annual meetings are conducted on a rotating basis and for 2026 the host state was the North Dakota State Garden Clubs. The meeting was held On August 21st-22nd in Fargo, North Dakota. RMR Director Shirly Pursell, Wyoming Federated Garden Clubs, Inc, presided over the proceedings. The activities included a business meeting, a presentation by Don Kinzler, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Horticulturist, tours of the NDSU Demonstration Garden and the Edible Forest at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society. Of course, there was the usual silent auction and ways and means event as well. The evening activities included an address by NGC President Donna Donnelly as well as entertainment by a folk singer and humorist. FGCN had five attendees; Mary & Bob Carlson, Jim & Donna Rouch, Lorraine Patrick Bera, plus Lorraine's husband Tony as a guest. Lorraine is the RMR secretary, and her minutes of the meeting are included later on in this newsletter. Several photos are included from the RMR event.



Rocky Mountain Region Meeting



NGC President Donna and Harold Donnelly



Lorraine and Tony Bera



RMR Officers: Shirley Pursell President, Mary Lerssen Parliamentarian, Lynnette Jeffers Treasurer, and Lorraine Brara Secretary



Sue McJames (UT), Mary and Bob Carlson, Jim Rouch, Connie McKay (UT), and Donna Rouch.

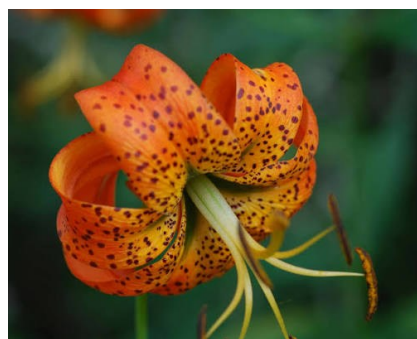
DOWN THE GARDEN PATH

BY Gwen DeWitt Garden Consultant

One of our friends is Gwen DeWitt, past Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. president. Gwen is also a columnist for a local newspaper, with a recurring feature entitled “Down the Garden Path.” Gwen has given us permission to republish excerpts from her columns that we believe may be of interest to FGCN Members. The remarks below are from her August 17, 2026, column.

My trip to San Antonio for Garden School was fun – the oldest grandchild came to the hotel to spend time with me and my garden buddies. Harley spent a lot of time with us attending garden club events when she was a child, even had a table in one of our table shows. Hard to believe she is working on her Master’s and mother of my two adorable great-grandsons!

Our Garden School instructor, the amazing Dr. Novak, of Rice University covered native trees and shrubs, factors that influence plant growth, new plant development and much more for our classes. Of course, the best part was the walking tour of the San Antonio Botanical Gardens to identify plant families. I served as his teaching assistant for the walking tour. He called on me to give the history of Turks Cap and the early settlers in Texas along with identifying plants. No pressure!

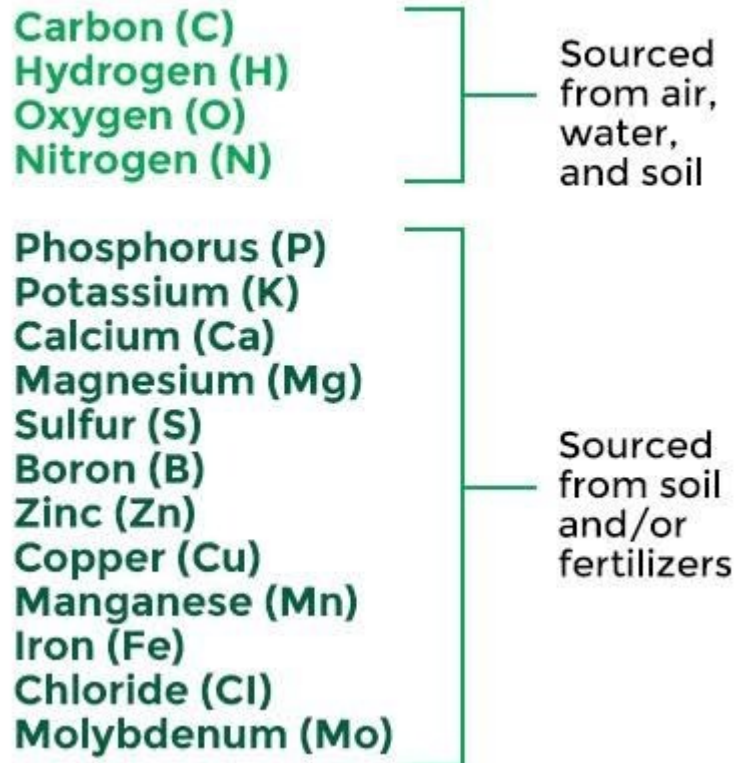


After the tour, it was back to class and a fascinating lecture on factors that influence plant growth. It was a good reminder on how climate, weather and light impact the garden. Water affects weather and climate. Water dictates what type of plant grown in a particular area. Water is the universal growth regulator. An example - the rains in May increased growth in the garden after many months of no precipitation. The distribution of precipitation is a significant determinant in climate. The eastern part of the country has forests thank to higher levels of rainfall while arid western portions have cacti, succulents and grasslands.

We covered temperature, humidity, soil water, chilling requirements, chilling injury, frost damage along with freeze damage. The lecture covered microclimates and how you can take advantage of knowing about these pockets in your garden to grow plants that might not normally work in your area. When we lived in our old house, we were in a low area and had frost when no one else did. Now we live at the top of a hill – cold air flows downhill, so less frost. The trees and position of the house determine whether we have a light or hard freeze. Have you ever noticed how after a freeze there will still be green grass under the trees. That little bit of protection will prevent freeze damage.

We covered the 16 nutrients necessary for plant growth. Carbon dioxide in the air, oxygen from the air or indirectly from carbon dioxide and hydrogen obtained from water along with thirteen other nutrients obtained from the soil. The other nutrients include nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, calcium, and magnesium are required in larger amounts – macronutrients. Micronutrients, needed in smaller amounts, include iron, zinc, copper, manganese, boron, molybdenum and chlorine. All sixteen are essential to plant growth - take away any one of these nutrients and the plant won't grow. Six additional elements, sodium, nickel, vanadium, selenium, cobalt and silicon may be essential for certain types of plants.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS



A good fertilizer will supply these essential nutrients. Plants aren't picky, they take up nutrients in simple, ionic forms and don't care if fertilizer is organic or inorganic. Applying inorganic is precise where as organic material must decompose to make nutrients available. Decomposition of organic matter release the nutrients slowly and is more efficient since less is lost to leaching.

We covered how plants are damaged from a deficiency of any of the 16 nutrients. It was highly suggested to take soil samples to your local Agrilife Extension Office to have a soil test. For a small fee, they will provide you bags and instructions on how to take soil samples and send them in for testing. You will receive a complete list of what your soil contains and they will be able to help you understand the report suggesting what is needed to improve your garden soil.

We covered many more subjects and after each section covered in our lectures, we were tested. Happy to report I made 100 on all six sections. Of course, it would be really bad if I didn't get a 100.

It's a great school and I always learn something new and reinforce what I already know. Dr. Novak makes it fun while teaching us all about plants. He informed us that he will teach the next class in February after which he will retire. I truly enjoy discussing theory and plants with him and will be sad when he retires.

Happy Gardening!



Fall Gardening

By Nicole Stoner at (402) 223-1384, nstoner2@unl.edu, visit the Gage County Extension website at www.gage.unl.edu, or like my facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NicoleStonerHorticulture>

We are now getting into fall and the weather will become more comfortable soon. Here are a few things to do in our lawns and gardens in fall to prepare plants for winter or to get for next spring.

Plant Spring Blooming Bulbs – Spring blooming bulbs are best planted in early October to bloom next spring, this includes crocus, tulips, daffodils, hyacinth, grape hyacinth, ornamental onion, squill and snowdrops. Plant bulbs two to three times as deep as the bulb is tall with the pointy end of the bulb upward in the soil.

Plant Garlic - Garlic should be planted in the garden in the fall. It is best planted 6 weeks before the ground freezes to provide a cold period which will initiate bulb formation. Divide the garlic bulb into cloves just before planting and plant with the point upward in the soil. Plant the cloves 2-4 inches deep and 4 inches apart in double rows 12 inches apart and 36 inches between rows. Keep garlic mulched through the winter months to prevent frost heaving. Leave the space for your normal spring and summer crops because garlic isn't harvested until late June to mid-July, after 30-50 percent of the leaves have died back.

Fall Garden Cleanup – Clean your garden in the fall to reduce disease and insect problems for next year. After harvest is complete, remove and discard vegetable plants. In the fall, you can till the garden and add compost or manure to help add nutrients back into the soil for next season. Tilling in the fall makes it easier to prepare the garden next spring and exposes insect eggs to winter conditions thereby reducing the population for next year. After tilling the garden, add a layer of mulch to prevent erosion, this is a good use of fallen leaves from your lawn.

Fall Lawncare – Many lawncare activities are best in the fall.

Fall weed control - Perennial broadleaf weeds including dandelions, creeping Charlie or ground ivy, and clover are best controlled in the fall. Spray weeds with a product containing triclopyr, 2,4-D, or dicamba at least twice from late September through the end of October. Wait 10-20 days between applications and spray after temperatures consistently drop below 80 degrees so the herbicide doesn't cause harm to other plants. Always follow the herbicide label for where, when, and how to apply pesticides.

Fall Fertilizers – Fall fertilization is the most important fertilizer application for a lawn. Fertilize around Labor Day to mid-September with a granular fertilizer with 50% slow-release nitrogen or less. If lawns maintain a medium-green hue by mid-October a second application is not necessary. If a second application is required later in the fall, use a product containing 100% quick release nitrogen in mid-October.

Mowing – Continue mowing lawns until they stop growing in later fall. Do not leave lawns long over the winter to avoid problems with snow mold.

Rake leaves – Remove fallen leaves from the lawn, this can also lead to snow mold over the winter. Fallen leaves can be used as mulch in the garden or simply mowed and mulched into the lawn if raking is difficult.

Overseeding – Overseeding lawns in the fall is best from mid-August through mid-September. Seeding too late will not develop a good turf stand due to being injured by frost or freezing events before the new turf seedlings were developed enough to survive. If seeding is necessary in your lawn but you missed the window, prepare the soil now to dormant seed your lawn in the winter months.

○
**Anyone can count seeds in
 an apple...but only God can
 count the apples in a seed.**



Quote of the Day

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

Audrey Hepburn

Who Am I?

- 1. I have no teeth but I have a gizzard use to grind my food.**
- 2. I eat up to half my body weight every single day.**
- 3. I make great fertilizer rich in minerals and vital nutrients.**
- 4. I breath through my skin.**
- 5. Charles Darwin stated "it may be doubted if there are any other animals which have played such an important part in the history of the world as these lowly organized creatures."**

see page 29 for the answer.

SOIL SISTERS AND MISTERS GARDEN CLUB

We were busy in June and July visiting lovely and interesting gardens in Lincoln and Columbus. Our July meeting was held at one of our member's home, Lori Koeppe. Lori has lovely lilies! We enjoyed our tour of all her lilies!

Our August meeting will be traveling north of Kearney to Apple Acres. It will be interesting seeing all the different apples they grow.

Also in August we will help the Hemsath family plant an oak tree in memory of their father and grandfather and our past President Del Hemsath on Aug. 22nd, 2:30 pm at the First United Methodist Church in Kearney. Our club bought the oak tree and the memorial marker.

In September we will have lunch on the porch at the University of Kearney Frank Museum. Our club takes care of the landscape around the Museum.

We will also have our semiannual Plant Giveaway Sept. 19th at Harmon Park in Kearney. We will have all kinds of plants, seeds and this year Christmas decorations!

We will have a program on herbs in October with Sarah Steinbrink, herbalist. In November we will be decorating a Christmas tree at Trails and Rails Museum as part of their Christmas decorations.



Alice Hemsath, President

Sidney Garden Club Activities

Heather Rohm, President

Here is our short article on what we have been up to so far this year.

--Back in March we made marigolds for mom for mother's day, with the South Ward Pre-K class that we have been doing for a few years now, I also read a book to the kids.

--In April we did a seed swap at the Sidney Public Library that did well.

--In May we co-hosted a plant swap with the Sidney Memorial Gardens that went over really well.

--We had a speaker from the UNL Extension office that gave us some really good information.

--On August 22nd, we did Kids Day in the Garden with the Sidney Memorial Gardens.



Here are all the pictures from each event

Sidney Garden Club Blue Star Memorial Dedication & Quilt of Honor Presentation.

A new Blue Star Memorial will be dedicated on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at the newly constructed west-bound rest area on I-80. The Rest Area is located near mile marker 61 on I-80. It is accessible from I-80 with west-bound access, located about two miles of the East Sidney interchange. The ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m. MDT. The Federated Garden Club of Nebraska, Inc., Sidney Garden Club, and the Nebraska Department of Transportation will present the memorial. During the ceremony, a Quilt of Honor will be presented to a veteran with the hope that it will provide comfort, love, and healing to someone who has given so much.

Members of the Ogallala Garden Club are traveling together to support the Sidney Garden Club as it adds another Blue Star Memorial in Nebraska. We hope many of you can join us for the dedication.

Robbie Kupper

FGCN, Inc State Treasurer & Ogallala Garden Club member



Honor quilts
are made
with love in
many designs

Sidney Garden Club
Sidney Garden Club Activities
Heather Rohm, President
Here are all the pictures from each event



Above and to the left is "The Kids in the Garden."

Below is the "Plant Swap."



Gardening Gloves for Sale

Help Support the Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.



The Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc. is selling Atlas 370 Gardening Gloves. All proceeds help support Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc. projects.

Glove sizes are medium and large only. The cost is \$8.00 per pair or 2 pairs for \$15.00. The color choices are green, pink, purple and orange.

If you are interested, please send a check with your size and color preference to the following address:

Lorraine Patrick
3716 Schuemann Dr.
Bellevue, NE 68123

If you would like to call and place your order, the phone number is: (402) 502-2548.

Thank you for your support.

Eastern District Meeting

The 2026 FGCN Eastern District Meeting was held in Nebraska City on June 27, 2026. The Meeting site was the Morton James Public Library, which was a very lovely location. Cheryl Wirth and her Tree City Garden Club members hosted the event and did a great job organizing the event. There were nice breakfast items available for attendees when they arrived, and lunch was catered by Valentinos. There were 26 Individuals in attendance. After the business meeting, Steve Rothe, Nebraska Extension-Douglas -Sarpy Counties, had an interesting program on Native Bees. There was a plentiful array of ways and means items available for perusal and purchase during the meeting. To cap the day off, Patty Coleman, Plattsmouth Garden Club, led the attendees in a fun game event. Minutes of the meeting have not been circulated at this point in time. Several photos of the day's proceeding are included with this summary.



Awards Update

Jim Rouch

Many of you know that Donna and I are members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri (FGCM). In fact, I have served as Awards Chair of the Shepherd of the Hills Garden Club in Branson for several years. One of the aspects of the FGCM that I have admires is that that most of the FGCM awards are sponsored by individuals, are in memoriam or in honor of individuals sponsored by clubs or individuals or otherwise named and sponsored. There are monetary amounts associated with all of the awards ranging from \$25 to \$100. A few of the awards have a monetary award for 1st and 2nd place. The awards are funded by checks from the award sponsors.

I think the FGCM should consider a similar approach to administering our awards program. I think there are benefits to this approach, including the following:

- 1) Increased interest and attention to the awards program.
- 2) A means of honoring deceased or current long-time members for their service.
- 3) A means of financing much if not all of our awards program from other sources rather than FGCM operating budget.

As an example, a particular award, say something dealing with birds, might be sponsored by a club or an individual in memory of Patty Hancock. Or a “tree related” award in memory of Del Hemsath. In Del’s case, Soil Sisters & Misters might want to sponsor an award in his honor or individuals such as Alice Hemsath or Jim and Donna Rouch might want to sponsor his award.

In Missouri, an awards committee selects the award winner from the submitted applications. The committee chair then notifies the award sponsor who writes the award check for the winner and sends the check to the awards committee chair. Then at the FGCM annual meeting awards ceremony, a certificate and the sponsor’s checks are presented to the individual award winners. If a particular award category has no applicants in given year, then no award or related check will be submitted.

The award sponsorships are not funded but instead are “pay as you go.” Sponsorships are not indefinite commitments and can be terminated by the sponsor with appropriate notice to the state award committee. In my time as award chair for our local club in Branson, I have seen two or three award sponsorship changes, although so far, the actual named award has continued but with a new club or individual sponsor.

This proposal was discussed at the recent FGCN annual meeting held at Rowe Sanctuary on June 6th. There appeared to be interest in pursuing this type of award sponsorship and there were no objections stated. It was decided that there was no need for a formal motion and approval process necessary to proceed with this concept; and that members and other individuals are free to choose to sponsor and fund an existing award or a new FGCM mission consistent award without formal approval by FGCN members. The suggestion was made that the FGCN Awards Chair could work with potential award sponsors to work out the details of an existing or proposed new award, with final approval by the FGCN Executive Committee. It was agreed that an article would be included in the Nebraska Garden News and by other means to notify members about this update to the FGCN Awards Program.

Please let FGCN Awards Chair Chris Martin, P.O. Box 86, Friend, NE 68359 (dzrcc8@yahoo.com) know if you have any questions about this message. Submitted by Jim Rouch and Chris Martin?



There may be a pot of gold if you apply for FGCN Awards!

Federated Garden Clubs Finance Zoom Meeting

August 13, 2026

Meeting began at 8:00 PM

Attendees:

Rod Ruzanic, President

Robbie Kupper, Treasurer

Donna Rouch, Secretary

Chris Martin, Awards Chairman

Bob Carlson

Marcia Crofutt

Julie Lester

Alice Hemsath

Jim Rouch

Debbie Suess

Rod Ruzanic appointed Chris Martin to form a committee to formulate new awards similar to the Purple and Blue Club Award Program in Missouri that Jim Rouch circulated at the FGCN Annual meeting on June 6, 2026. It was agreed that the Missouri program draft would be published in the Nebraska Garden News fall issue. Members will be encouraged to submit any suggestions for changes and additions to the program criteria to Chris and the new ad hoc committee for their consideration.

FGCN Award program updates will also be published in the Nebraska Garden News which will include changes in existing club awards and potential new awards with monetary compensation. Member garden clubs, individuals and other interested parties will be encouraged to sponsor one or more of the existing programs or to propose sponsorship for a new program.

There was discussion of various aspects of the Awards programs, including the following actions.

Motion by Donna, Second by Bob Carlson. Monetary Compensation for Adult Club Awards (plus certificate):

1st place \$50

2nd place \$25

3rd place \$15

Honorable Mention \$0

Motion adopted.

Motion by Marcia Crofutt, second by Robbie Kupper

Monetary Compensation for Youth Awards (plus certificate) remains the same:

1st place \$10.00

2nd place \$ 7.50

3rd place \$ 5.00

Motion Adopted

Motion by Robbie Kupper, Second by Chis Martin.

Monetary Compensation for Civic Development (Plus certificate) \$150.

Motion adopted.

Bob Carlson initiated discussion on Photography awards monetary compensation by suggesting that compensation be given for only 1st, 2nd 3rd place submissions and Judge's Choice selection. He also suggested that the number of categories be limited to three and that individuals be limited to one entry per category. He further suggested that all entries should be awarded a certificate and all entries could be displayed at meetings and in the Nebraska Garden News. Further discussion was tabled until the next Finance Meeting.

Blue and Purple Ribbon Award Program

As noted in the foregoing copy of the Minutes from The August 13, 2026 Finance Zoom meeting, President Ruzanic appointed Chris Martin to formulate a new club awards program similar to the program in Missouri that was discussed At The FGCN Annual Meeting on June 6, 2026. Chris and her committee will develop criteria for the FGCN program by creating a checklist setting forth program criteria like the Missouri “Club President Report” which follows this page.

The Missouri checklist will be used as an example of criteria to be considered but, of course, the checklist will be edited to eliminate criteria “non-applicable” to FGCN circumstances. Chris and her committee are also soliciting input from members suggesting other criteria that may be added to the checklist that is oriented to our Nebraska environment. For example, monetary or other support for the Nebraska Arboretum, Lauritzen Gardens, community parks, and so forth.

I have taken the liberty of highlighting in blue aspects of the Missouri President’s Report that I don’t think are relevant for FGCN’s purposes. My goal is to illustrate how different criteria can be added or deleted from the Missouri document to meet FGCN needs. Please review the attached and let Chris and her committee know of other items that should be added, or additional deletions.

Award Sponsorships

As also noted in the Minutes of the August 13, 2026 Finance Committee meeting, member garden clubs, individuals and other interested parties are encouraged to consider sponsoring one or more of existing or potential new awards with monetary compensation. A list of existing FGCN project awards is attached following the Missouri Club President’s Report. (Photography awards will be discussed in a later issue). Please contact Awards Chair Chris Martin or other FGCN officers if you have any questions or interest in thus awards program.

CLUB PRESIDENT'S REPORT

YEAR:

Due February 1 to The State Club Ratings Chairman

Garden Club

District No. of Members Club President

Telephone Email

Please fill out this Club President's Report Form as completely as possible; use a separate page/s for requested information, then send via email or U.S. Mail to the State Ratings Chair whose address is listed at the end of this form, and to your District Director.

*See Garden Club Manual, 2016 Edition or the Website
(fgcmo.org) for more information.*

I REQUIREMENTS FOR A BLUE-RIBBON CLUB (Please check all that apply.)

Study, in some aspect, the Fine Art of Gardening (See Garden Club Manual, Chap. I / Web-site) Mail ALL the following to the State Treasurer by October 31:

1. State Membership dues paid for the next calendar year.
2. Complete roster with each member's name, mailing address and email addresses.
3. Indicate new members with a check mark on Club Membership roster.
4. Indicate next year's Club President and Treasurer with complete addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

5. Send Club Contributions funds and State Membership dues in separate checks.

District Membership dues and complete Membership Roster sent to District Treasurer by October 31.

Own club copy of the Garden Club Manual, 2016 Edition.

Own club copy of NGC Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 Edition.

Hold at least ten (10) meetings per year.

Sent a Delegate to the State Annual Convention OR your District's Annual Meeting.

Majority of members (more than half) participate in one (1) of the following:
Please check at least one (1) and list the date where it took place.

Garden Tour:

Garden tour of five (5) members' gardens

Garden Tour:

- i. Garden tour of five (5) members' gardens
- ii. Garden Tour with another club (minimum of seven (7) members' gardens)

2. Flower Show:

- i. Sponsored a flower show
- ii. Sponsored a standard flower show jointly with other clubs
- iii. Participated in a flower show associated with the State Fair, Plant Society, etc.

3. Ongoing Community Service Project Name:

Date:

- iv. A project within the scope of the Federation's objectives (Please Describe on Separate Sheet/s)

- . Club President completed this "Annual Club President's Report" and sent one copy to the District Director; one copy to the State Club Ratings Chair and one electronic copy to the District Web Manager by Feb. 1

Donated to a minimum of one (1) Contribution Fund (Please note on page 3)

II REQUIREMENTS FOR A PURPLE RIBBON CLUB

- 1. Fulfill all the requirements for a Blue-Ribbon Club (Listed above)
- 2. Sent Delegate/s to **both** the Annual District Meeting and the Annual State Convention
- 3. Check two (2) of the following three (3) projects where a majority (more than half) of membership participated and indicate dates completed. **(See Garden Club Manual, Chapter XI or the Website):**

Garden Tour Date Completed:

- 1. Garden tour of five (5) members

gardens OR

- 2. Garden tour with another club (minimum of seven (7) members' gardens)

b. Flower Show: Date Completed:



1. Sponsored a flower show OR
2. Sponsored a standard flower show jointly with other clubs OR
3. Participate in a flower show associated with the State Fair/Plant Society/etc.

c. Ongoing Community Service Project Name: _____ Date _____
(please describe on separate page) OR

5. Club activities or projects to include **ten (10)** of the following:

Purple Ribbon Club may count each of their Club Contribution Funds towards their ten. (Please describe activities/projects where requested on separate sheet/s)

- a. Maintain Club Bird Sanctuary (Describe with Location)
- b. Ciic Project: Horticulture Landscape or Roadside Project
(Describe w/ Location) g.
- c. Conducted a Conservation Project (Describe w/ Location)
- d. Maintained a Garden Center Available to the Public (Describe w/ Location)
- e. Have a Garden Therapy Project (Describe with Location)
- f. Be Involved in a Pollution or Litter Control Project/Campaign (Please describe)
- g. Write a Reg. Educ. Article for local Newspaper, Radio/TV Program/Website.
(How often?)
- h. Maintain a Butterfly Garden (Please Describe)
- i. Sponsored Youth Gardening Activities on a regular basis. (Group Name, How often?)
- j. Held a Flower Design Workshop Date:
- k. Held a Horticulture Workshop Date:
- l. Conducted an Educational Tour Date and Where:
- m. Have at least one member enrolled in:

Flower Show School, Gardening School, Landscape Design School, Environmental School, Symposium

- n. Hosted: Annual State Convention OR Fall District Meeting

q. Organization a Federated Garden Club or brought existing garden club into Federation.

r. Majority of members purchase the current Visions of Beauty (NGC Calendar):

s. Presented a State Life Membership

t. Secured a Recognition Ad/Memorial in The Garden Forum Issue:

u. Dedicated or maintained a Blue Star Memorial Marker

v. Donated to Honor/Memorial Book

x. Member serving as District, State, Central Region or National Officer

y. Member serving as District, State, Central Region or National Chairman

CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS

These Club Contributions will be the same as you checked on the State Treasurer's Club Contributions Report Form. Minimum Contribution is \$5.00.

1. Blue Star Memorial Fund

2. **Central Region** Scholarship Fund

3. Gold Star Memorial Fund

4. Habitat for Humanity FULLY FUNDED

5. **Missouri** Botanical Gardens

6. Botanical/Woodlands Gardens – University of MO – Columbia

7. Powell Gardens/President's Row Fund

8. Springfield Botanical Garden Fund

9. Missouri Prairie Foundation

10. National Garden Club Permanent Home and Endowment Fund

11. National President's Project

12. Nature Conservancy

13. Roadside /Wildflower Fund

14. Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Prize Fund

15. State Fair Gazebo Maintenance/Landscape Fund

16. State Presidents Project/Award Fund

17. State Scholarship Fund

18. Teaching Missouri's Children to Plant America Grant

19. World Gardening

20. USA Disaster Fund

21. Youth Essay Fund

22. Youth Poetry Contest Fund

You may save, complete, resave and attach to an email to State Ratings Chairman at email address:_____AND to your District Director by email. OR

Print and send by U.S. Mail to State Ratings Chairman_____

AND to your District Director. Please Send All Copies Before February 1st.

Please refer to the Garden Club Manual, 2026 Edition, for any questions. You may use additional pages scribing with complete information your garden club's activities.

Any questions concerning Club Ratings must be made in writing within thirty (30) days after announcement of Club Ratings at the Annual State Convention to: State Club Ratings Chairman:_____



FGCN Rules and Guidelines

for State Awards

August 2026



Deadline Dates for Awards Submission:

Applications are due to chairpersons by (date to be determined) who then submits to the awards chair, Chris Martin (date to be determined). All club or club member applications are due to the individual FGCN state chairman named below. Entries received later may not be judged. Individual state chairmen must report their awards to State Awards Chairman Christine Martin by (date to be determined). Please note: awards may be sent earlier than the due date but NOT later than the due date.

AWARDS YEAR:

Generally, projects, programs, and activities are from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 of the prior year, with some exceptions noted in scrapbooks, yearbooks, and youth. Certificates and other awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet of the State Annual Meeting. Your submitted materials will then be displayed, and you will be responsible for them afterward.

APPLICATIONS: Open to all FGCN garden clubs and, in some cases, to individual club members. An FGCN Application Form and an NGC publication release must be attached for all entries (including youth awards). Give the State Award number & name of the award you are applying for and the name & town of your club. If a sheet or sheet of paper is/are the application, put the State Award number and name, and the name & town of your club at the top of the first sheet. Pictures should be well-identified and described. A project or activity may be eligible for more than one award; in this case, similar (but not identical) applications may be submitted to each, with the text tailored to each. Lastly, be sure to send it to the right individual state Chairman. **Please do not exceed three pages (fronts only). PLEASE submit all applications electronically.**

AWARDS: Awards are given at the State Annual Meeting each year. Monetary awards are given for first, second, and third place. Generally, this would be \$50 for first, \$25 for second, and \$15 for third. Monetary awards for Civic Development are capped at \$150, as set by the FGCN Budget. This amount may be divided into first, second, and third monetary awards at the discretion of the Civic Development chair.

Youth awards for poetry, sculpture, essay, and posters are also divided into first place \$10.00, second place \$7.50, and third \$5.00. At the discretion of the state awards chair, youth award chairs, and FGCN Treasurer, a monetary award of \$1 can be given to each youth award submission.

SCALE OF POINTS FOR AWARDS

Presentation 5 points – neat, concise, and include all required information on the application form (3 sheets allowed).

Achievement 65 points – project scope; need and fulfillment; benefit, accomplishment; comprehensiveness of the work; activities; to attain goals; evaluation of goals reached; educational; prior planning; a brief history of the continuing project; financial report; other.

Participation 15 points – the size of the club; involvement of members, community, government agencies, professionals, youth, residents in facilities, and others. Not all of these have to be involved.

Record or Documentation 15 points – supporting data (as applicable), clear, well-labeled, and neatly attached before and after photographs; if appropriate, landscape plan (does not have to be professionally drawn, t), financial report, letters of appreciation, community awards, newspapers/magazine articles (if possible, radio or TV script (if possible), etc. Photocopies are permitted. Total 100 points

The answer to "Who AM I? " is an earthworm.

FCGN Awards Application

FCGN Awards Application

Submit to the appropriate chairperson.

Award #: ____ Award Name: _____

Submitted by: _____

Name of Club: _____

Name to be on Award: _____

[Enter name exactly as it should appear on any award received]

Number of members in club: _____

Please complete each topic, if applicable. Use the numbering below when completing the form.

1. New project: Yes__ No____

Beginning date: _____ Completion date: _____

2. Brief summary and objectives of the project:

3. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:

4. Project expenses and means of funding:

5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, and maintenance:

6. Attach or insert digital photos and landscape plans (they do not need to be professionally drawn).

Awards listed by State Chair Titles – (numbers identify awards)

Arboriculture –(#1)

FGCN certificate and the monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be given for the best tree-planting programs by a Garden Club completed from September 1 to August 31 of the preceding year. The award may be given to a club member, garden club, group of garden clubs, or other deserving groups for activities of a) planting the greatest number of trees, b) educational program regarding the importance of trees, c) design, installation of a public arboretum or, d) volunteering in a public arboretum. Scoring: description of project – 65%, participation by other groups –10%, educational value for youth – 9%, supporting data on expenses, pictures – 8%, neatness and presentation effectiveness – 8%, total 100%. **Chairman: Alice Hemsath, 110 East 39th Street, Kearney, NE 68847, 308-224-3771, dhemsath@charter.net**

Birds – (#2)

FGCN certificate and the monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be given for a book of evidence for conducting the most comprehensive and effective project for bird protection and welfare, e.g., sanctuaries, providing food and houses, and promoting law enforcement relative to bird welfare. Indicate the scope and participation of community groups, school children, club members, etc. Scoring based upon National Guidelines. **Chairman: Marlene Mahoney, 919 S. 106 PLZ #702H Omaha, NE 68114, marlenemhn801@gmail.com East District Member at Large**

Blue Star Memorial –(#3)

FGCN certificate and the monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be awarded for the most outstanding Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker landscaping projects. The marker and landscaping may be part of a highway department rest area maintained by the State. The project may have been continuous, but major landscaping must be completed within two years. The project may be a replacement for a destroyed or long-neglected landscape. Awards are available to the club doing the most for the project or the district contributing the most. **Chairman: Mary Carlson, 658 North 57th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68 402-659-3029 marylcarlson5@gmail.com Sunset Hills Garden Club**

Bees, Bugs and Butterflies—(#4)

FGCN certificate and the monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be awarded to a member of a Garden Club for conducting the most comprehensive and effective project on butterflies, e.g., habitat protection, protection of migratory routes, public education, and the establishment of a butterfly garden at a school or community site. **Chairman: Ted Slagle 306 Parkhill Dr, Ogallala, NE 69153 308 284-2130 Ogallala Garden Club**

Civic Development—(#5)

Awards of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be given for distinguished or conservation work making permanent improvements for public benefit, e.g., established sanctuaries, experimental forests, municipal gardens, landscaping public buildings, or roadways. Any project that improves or beautifies the community will qualify. Projects that are a new phase or addition to a continuing project will be accepted if documentation, maintenance, repair, and replanting of already existing sites are not eligible. **Chairman:: TBA send to State Awards Chair: Chris Martin, PO Box 86, Friend, NE 68359, 402-540-2241 dzrcc8@yahoo.com**

Backyard Wildlife Habitat—(#6)

FGCN certificate and monetary award may be awarded to a member of a Garden Club for conducting the most comprehensive and effective project on butterflies, e.g., habitat protection, protection of migratory routes, public education, establishment of a butterfly garden at school or community site

This chair will share ideas and information on creating habitats that invite all kinds of nature to your backyard. It can be a home for butterflies, songbirds, and more. Plus, it reduces rainfall runoff to improve water quality and lower energy costs. **Chairman: Dr. David Lott 2211 Birchwood Rd, North Platte, NE 69010, 785-632-1888 Spade and Hope Garden Club**

Environmental Awareness, Energy and Endangered Species—(#7)

FGCN certificate and monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be given for the best program or project on endangered species, legislative activity, outstanding work by an individual member of a garden club, most recycling efforts, conservation projects, environmental projects, or other emerging issues. **Chairman: Dr. David Lott**

send to State Awards Chair: Chris Martin, PO Box 86, Friend, NE 68359, 402-540-2241 dzrc8@yahoo.com

therapy whereby gardens are established to benefit the physically or learning-challenged residents in rest homes or care centers, schools, prisons, and lower-income housing. This could include barrier-free gardening, community gardens, hospital meditation gardens, etc. **Chairman: TBA send to State Awards Chair: Chris Martin, PO Box 86, Friend, NE 68359, 402-540-2241 dzrc8@yahoo.com**

Garden Tours—(#10)

FGCN certificate and a monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be given to the club or a club member for a project open to the public, open to garden club members only, or a tour of garden club members' gardens, including publicity, photos, etc. **Chairman: Starr Platt, 1030 7th Ave, Sidney, NE 69162 starplatt@hotmail.com Sydney Garden Club**

Horticulture—(#11)

FGCN certificate and a monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be awarded to an individual submitting a Book of Evidence of 3 or 4 pages with a brief summary and pictures of their garden, vegetables, fruits, and flowers. Include successive and companion plantings and any new cultivar names. There are two categories:

#11-A: A SMALLER GARDEN: A garden approximately 12' by 15'. **#11-B: LARGER GARDENS:** A garden approximately 40' by 50'.
Chairman: Heather Rohm, 1605 Linden St, Sidney, NE 69162 308- 250-2326 Heather.rohm2001@gmail.com Sydney Garden Club

Landscape Design--(#13A & # 13B)

#13A: COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARD: A certificate and a monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be given to a club for a landscape design project to improve their community. Examples include a landscaped community garden, a community feature such as a statue, fountain, or park area, or a community building such as a firehouse, police station, library, etc.

#13B: HOME LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARD: A certificate and a monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be given to a member or multiple members working together to landscape a feature and area within a home property in good design. The Book of Evidence will include a description of the project: before-and-after pictures, expenses, the number of people involved, the number of hours to complete the project, and any publicity with the date and name of a publication.

Chairman: Alice Hemsath, 110 East 39th Street, E-1, Kearney, NE 68847, 308-224-3771, dhemsath@charter.net

Membership--(#14A & # 14B)

All are noncompetitive awards. No applications are necessary.

#14A: CLUB MEMBERSHIP: FGCN certificate and a monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be given to the clubs with the greatest percentage of -increase in membership.

#14B: DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP: FGCN certificate and a monetary award of \$50 to the district with the most significant percentage of increased membership. No application is necessary as it will be based on FGCN membership figures. **Chairman: Robbie Kupper 315 E 6th St, Ogallala, NE 69153 (308) 289-6051 kupperro@gmail.com**

State Chairman—(#23)

This is an award for State Chairmen who give awards. FGCN certificate and a monetary prize of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be presented to the FGCN Chairman, who have the largest increase in award applications from the prior year. Individual State Chairmen are to provide the number of applications received when reporting their award to State Awards **Chairman: Chris Martin** PO Box 86, Friend, NE 68359 402-540-2241, dzrcc8@yahoo.com.

Yearbooks—(#24)

Send out yearbooks as soon as they are ready. Awards will be for clubs in the current year, whether January through December or the prior June through May, etc. The standard ribbons system by the National Council will be used on the FGCN Certificates: 1st place-90% and above; 2nd place-85% and above; 3rd place-80% and above; Honorable Mention-75% or above. Note: Clubs should send a yearbook to State Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary/Historian, Awards Chairman, Award of Excellence Chairman, and your District Director. If you wish, you do not need to include covers except for the Yearbook and Awards Chairman; your title pages should be adequate for identification for the other chairperson. A monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be presented for the top Yearbooks. **Chairman: Alice Hemsath 110 East 39th Street E1 Kearney, NE 68847 308-224-3771 dhemsath@charter.net**

Soil Sisters and Mistery Garden Club

Guidelines for Club Yearbooks

Format:

BOOK STRUCTURE: Practical, convenient size for membership, durable, neat. 2 pts. Yearbooks may be stapled, spiral, or 3-ring binders. The material should be well placed with ample margins and be of font size suitable for members to read.

COVER: Include the club's name, town, state organization, year, and an appealing design. 2 pts. If a 3-ring binder cover is used, substitute it with a paper cover and include the required information listed above, and so note.

TITLE PAGE: Include the club's name, town, state organization, year, number of members (dues-paying), and affiliated organizations (district, region, NGC, other) 2 pts.

TABLE OF CONTENTS: Number the yearbook pages and list titles on the Contents page. 1 pt.

SUBSEQUENT PAGES: In any order most useful to members and best fit for page placement. Information in a club yearbook should be in logical order. National and state info does not have to be in front.

Club Officers & Committee Chairmen. 1 pt.

Membership Roster with complete mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Fax numbers may be included. Don't crowd list. Note: "All area codes 219 and postal zip codes 79943 unless otherwise noted". 2 pts.

The name of the NGC President with state of residence, theme, and projects (Locate this information at www.gardenclub.org) 1 pt.

Name, address, phone number, and e-mail of NGC Regional Director, State President, State District Director, and Council President (if applicable). List themes for Regional Director and State President. Others are optional. 2 pts.

Calendar of Events: List dates and locations for district/state/regional/national meetings and events to encourage members to attend and to eliminate the setting of conflicting dates. 2 pts.

Programs: Topics should cover a variety of NGC goals and objectives such as Birds, Blue Star Memorials, Butterflies, Conservation, Environment, Floral Design, Horticulture, Therapy, Recycling, NGC and State President projects, etc. ▪ At least seven (7) meetings a year, 3 pts. ▪ List the date and time of the meeting and location with the address. 3 pts. ▪ List the name of the speaker/s, qualifications (brief), and program title. 4 pts. ▪ Variety of program topics (theme not required). 14 pts. ▪ Variety of styles of programs (lectures, slides, PowerPoint, tours, etc.) 12 pts. ▪ Variety of speakers (specialists, members, panel, etc.). 14 pts.

Projects: Projects involve membership participation that benefit the community and further NGC

Goals and Objectives. Some fundraisers (sales of bulbs, bedding plants, herbs, cookbooks, etc.) may help to beautify the community, as well as produce revenue for clubs. Some fundraisers may help promote NGC Member Services and publicize our organization and goals. ▪ List Continuing and New Projects (a club is not required to have new projects). 15 pts. ▪ Give a brief description of projects: Include location, name of chairman, how members participate, list of donations if applicable, in-kind donations if relevant, plans for maintenance if applicable, etc. 20 pts. Example: Establish a Teaching Garden at Adkins Elementary School - an after-school program with a planned curriculum, four days a week from 3:30-5:45 p.m. Laurie Benson, Chairman.

OPTIONS: (no points given) ▪ Some clubs include bylaws, budget, fundraising, roll call, and former club presidents. ▪ Club theme. If a theme is used, it should be evident throughout the book. Themes may be interpreted with monthly program topics and titles, graphics, and quotes. Projects do not need to be limited to the theme. ▪ NGC Mission Statement ▪ NGC Conservation Pledge ▪ NGC Environmental Mission Statement ▪

National Garden Week—(#15)

National Garden Week is the first full week in June. Participation by every club is requested. Each garden club is asked to set up a garden with a poster board of pictures from your club activities, gardening pamphlets on different subjects, and the FGCN Information pamphlet at your library, County Extension office, schools, or any civic event. Take pictures setting up, during, and at the event. Have someone at the event at designated times to answer questions and invite people to attend an event at your garden club. Invite people to your club meetings. Send a report with pictures to FGCN Newsletter Editor Jim Rouch and a book of evidence to **Chairman Lorraine Patrick 3716 Schuemann Drive Bellevue, NE 68123 402-502-2548** lorraine_patrick0809@yahoo.com **Is This an Award???**

Native Plants & Wildflowers—(#17)

FGCN certificate and a monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be given to the club having the most comprehensive wildflower program for the club, such as studies, wildflower tours, planning projects along roadsides and rest areas, entrances to towns, establishing wildflower gardens, establishing outdoor classrooms, nature trails, wildflower walks, or educating the public on the importance of preserving native material. **Chairman : Charlotte Swanson, P.O. Box 97, Dalton, NE 69131-0097, 308-249-2168, swannson@daltonel.net**

Nebraska Garden News Article—(#18)

No application necessary for State award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place for writing articles for publication in Nebraska Garden News. **Chairman Donna and Jim Rouch 152 Norwood Dr, Branson, MO 65616, Jim: 402-651-5569, jim@rouchpartners.com. Donna: 402-676-0906, donna@rouchpartners.com**

Photography—(#19)

This award is open to garden club member, garden club, group of garden clubs, or others. The subject matter should reflect garden club work and State and National objectives. Examples are:

- a. Photos
- b. Video
- c. PowerPoint presentation or other digital presentation.

Chairman: Julie Lester, 6108 Surrey Drive, Omaha, NE 68122-5059, 402-571-1274, jlester1274@hotmail.com

FGCN Photography requirements are included in a separate document.

Scholarships—(#21)

An FGCN certificate and a monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be awarded to clubs that give scholarships. Provide information on the amount shown, when it was given, to whom, the school, and how many years this has been done. **Chairman Lorraine Patrick, 3716 Schuemann Drive Bellevue, NE 68123 402-502-2548** lorraine_patrick0809@yahoo.com

Scrapbook—(#22)

FGCN certificates and a monetary award of \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for second place and \$15 for 3rd place may be given. All scrapbooks should include information from Jan. 1 to Dec. 1 annually unless your club year differs, in which case the scrapbook should cover the last completed club year. The person preparing the scrapbook must sign inside the back cover.

RULES AND POINTS FOR JUDGING SCRAPBOOKS:

Neatness, attractiveness, and originality, 15%: Scrapbooks shall measure no less than 9" x 12". The loose-leaf cover shall display the club's name. Use both sides of the paper with a quarter-inch margin with a larger inner margin. Be consistent in whatever you do. Highlight important information. Group projects together according to topics, i.e., all club meetings, yard of the week, etc. Evidence of interesting and worthwhile programs, 50%: Membership participation and speakers. Exhibits at conferences, such as horticulture specimens, arrangements, and others related to programs, indicate a study of the topic from the yearbook. Include one complete yearbook at the back of the scrapbook. Publicity, etc. club projects and activities, 35%: Stressing state and national objectives, community projects, tours, etc. Publicity, if any. On pictures, include the names of those in the picture, the date taken, the occasion, and the place. **Chairman: Jean Tobaison, 539 W Nelson Rd, Wellfleet, NE 69179, 308-539-2006** colnCo.chickenlady@gmail.com **Country Gardens**

RMR 90th Business Meeting August 22, 2026
Atonement Lutheran Church, 4601 S University Drive
Fargo, North Dakota



Theme for the Meeting: “Cultivating Flora and Friends in Fargo”

Theme for Regional Director: “Many Hands Make All Work Light”

Theme for National Club President: “Plant America for the Next 100 Years”

Rocky Mountain Regional President Shirley Pursel called the RMR 90th Business meeting to order at 9:08am (Central Time) at The Atonement Lutheran Church, 4601 S University Drive in Fargo, North Dakota.

The invocation was read by Chaplain Linda Anderson followed by a Presentation of Colors by Boy Scout Troop 276. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited following the Presentation of Colors.

The Conservation Pledge was read and was included in the meeting agenda. It reads as follows:

“I pledge to protect and conserve the nature resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water forests, land, and wildlife.”

North Dakota’s State President Joyce Hanna welcomed everyone to Fargo and thanked everyone for traveling to the meeting. Additionally, the Mayor of Fargo, Josh Boschee, welcomed everyone to Fargo.

Preliminary Credentials Report:

Total in Attendance: 62 (3 less than last year’s meeting in Cheyenne, WY)

NGC Officers: 2	NGC Chairman: 1
NGC Committee Members: 1	NGC Life Members: 13
RMR Directors: 1	RMR Previous Directors: 3
RMR Officers: 5	RMR Chairmans: 5
RMR Life Members: 13	State Presidents: 7
Club Presidents: 5	State Life Members: 12
Environmental Studies: 6	Garden Studies Consultant: 5
Flower Show Judge: 8	Landscape Design: 4
Garden Club Members: 58	Guests: 6

The agenda and program were adopted.

Parliamentarian Mary Lersson read the standing rules for the convention. Two timekeepers were established.

Shirley P. asked that everyone introduce themselves with their name, the name of their garden club and the state they live in. Guests in attendance included NGC President Donna Donnelly and her husband.

Shirley P. announced that Diane Ward from Montana will be the next RMR President and is currently the alternate director.

Lorraine Bera read the RMR meeting minutes from the meeting in Cheyenne, Wyoming in August 2025. The meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: (Lynette J.) RMR Treasurer Lynette Jeffres distributed paper copies of the proposed budget, as well account information for the following funds: General Funds, Life Membership Funds, and Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Funds. Lynette J. also provided a list of bank transactions, as well as the 2025-2026 budget (beginning on June 1, 2025 and ending on May 31, 2026, which was approved in Cheyenne, Wyoming in August 2026. The bank balance is a little higher right now. \$700 was earned in interest. Lynette J. mentioned that if you had a disaster in your community, you can apply and receive a grant.

The general funds available in the General Funds checking account as of 6/1/26 was \$14,496.89. The ending balance in the life member funds is \$3,404.62 and the ending balance in the Disaster Funds account is \$1,890.68.

The RMR Budget and Treasurer's Report were approved.

As an aside, Lynette J. also mentioned that if you do not receive the RMR Rambler electronic newsletter to please let Lynette know.

Presentation of Bills: (Shirley P.)

Shirley P. presented a bill for \$644.00 for trips to Anaconda and National Garden Clubs, Inc. The bills were approved for Shirley P. to receive reimbursement.

Smokey Bear/Woodsey Owl- (Connie) Utah

The Forest Service is generous with certificates and items for children. 3/5 states won \$50.00 for the Smokey Bear Contest. Any poster that you enter should be copied.

Blue Star/Gold Star Chair Report (Mary Carlson) (Nebraska)

Mary C. has been writing an article every quarter. 7 memorials have been established in Nebraska. Mary shared that Lola Lu was the first Blue Star/Gold Star Chair. Mary C. encouraged everyone to keep looking for Blue Star/Gold Star Memorials.

Margaret (Butterfly Chairman) Report (South Dakota)

Margaret encouraged everyone to groom milkweed. The monarch migration is around August 20th. Swallowtail are prominent in South Dakota this year. 12 plants are helpful pollinators in native gardens.

There is a great deal of concern about the habitat for Monarchs. I wish to educate you about the grooming process so you can get double the production of milkweed without decreasing the population of milkweeds in your yard and garden. Monarchs lay eggs on this host plant in early spring and sometimes when the leaves have hardly emerged from the ground. When the midsummer days get hot and rainfall is less, milkweed will continue to grow. It may become dry and leather-like so monarchs may be 'choosy' as to where the eggs are laid. Here's the good news. You can 'groom' the milkweed plants by removing the top of the plant, leaving about 2 sets of leaves (from the ground up). In a day or two you will notice the new leaves sprouting-double what grew on the plant originally. In the scheme of things, milkweed can be removed after the second generation (sometimes a third generation) have completed laying eggs, about late August. Migration starts about August 20 at the 49 parallel. This date is not set in stone as early migration can be affected by the jet stream, fires and smoke, as well as drought. Don't forget about other butterflies and pollinators. Swallowtail butterflies seemed more abundant this year in South Dakota. Their host plants are dill, fennel and carrot tops. If you see late caterpillar development, you will have to wait until spring for the chrysalis to hatch.

Several websites are available that list host plants for butterflies. [Monarch Watch](#), Lawrence, KS, is dedicated to Monarch research.

RMR Rambler Report, Joanne Jeffres, Editor. Once again, a big "Thank you" to the RMR Officers, Chairman, and State Presidents who have been sending in their articles and pictures of the past Rambler issues published. Your articles made the Rambler educational, informative, and interesting.

The Rambler is published quarterly; August/September, November, February, and May. Articles should be sent to rmrrambler@yahoo.com by the 15th of the month prior to publication. (e.g. October 15th, January 15th and April 15th). Any ideas, suggestions, and/or pictures of your gardening activities are always welcome. Please feel free to provide constructive criticism.

State Presidents should send e-mail to everyone. Looking forward to your next reports. Thank you!

Remember, we all love to see pictures of your activities!

Audrey Cole (Wildflowers and Native Plants Report) (Colorado) Audrey has supplied articles for the newsletter this year and will continue the Lewis & Clark "corp of discovery" saga on their wildflower specimens. I hope you have enjoyed them. This next one will be the last before the subject will change. Please take a look at the Wildflower Education Exhibit on the back table.

Lynette J. (Life Membership Chair Report) Life membership forms and pins are available. There are 73 life members currently.

President's Reports:

Colorado: There are 317 Members (15 garden clubs currently)

Kansas: There are 6 garden clubs. One of the outreach activities they did was a paint-a-pot with children.

Montana (Jeannie Bennett) Montana has had a very busy year, and we are happy to see the new year begin. This Sept. 1st, will find us enjoying approximately 600 members! We are 8 districts with our Billings area, Yellowstone District losing a club that dwindled for many years resulting in 22 active State Garden Clubs.

Spring travels included 3 members attending the National Garden Club convention at St. Louis. The hotel was a short bus ride from the Headquarters building and what a great tour it proved to be. Inside we saw extravagant carpeting with state squares and outside lovely gardens showed past National Presidents' areas from Montana. We took pictures of areas to feature in our upcoming District meetings to let today's members see how our former National presidents contribute even today to the National Garden Club. We enjoyed the 250th red, white, and blue petit flower show, business sessions, classes, program meetings, and elegant meals filled our time at the hotel. The walk through the Missouri Botanical Garden was a wonderful tour and at awards time, Montana received two National Awards for outstanding Flower Shows hosted by Billings Thumb R Green Garden Club, and by Stevensville Garden Club in 2025 and a National Scholarship.

We have several clubs involved in Blue and Gold Star Projects and Billings held its Gold Star Dedication in a powerful setting at Veterans Park. It is great to see such success when Garden Clubs work with local Veterans Organizations to keep the sites representative true to the cause and work together to keep costs low.

In June, we headed to Anaconda, MT for our 89th State Convention. 83 members and friends from RMR enjoyed preconvention meetings, business sessions, classes on garden sustenance and manipulating leaves for green flower design. Montana Scholarships and awards for about \$3500.00 were given back to the members. Meals were enjoyed together and the beautiful historic town was toured with special appreciation of the Vintage Restored Theater.

My favorite event was the 75th Anniversary of Montana life members where skits and songs had us rolling in the aisles. From the Great Falls Flowers Growers Church lady act and the old miner poet to the Bullhook Blossom rendition of Old MacDonald's garden, it was a fun night.

We have great talent across our state. Next year, we will gather in Bozeman/Belgrade in June for our 90th State Convention and will feature a State Horticulture Flower Show. We begin touring the 8 districts with meetings from Sept. 12-October 1st, where our ongoing state program for Flower Show Schools hopes to gather 10 students to begin a Flower Show School series in 2027. Fund raising to offset the cost of bringing teachers to Montana is underway. We have some marvelous, certified Flower Show judges, but no one in Montana is certified to teach. We will offer seats to anyone in the RMR, and we are soliciting rooms in members' homes to reduce the huge travel cost.

We have a need for non-profit budget management guidance, and I am searching for a great speaker to give tips and training in Montana via Zoom at our Winter board meeting in February. This and gather Flower Show school students will keep me busy the remainder of my term until the Madison, WI convention.

Nebraska (Eastern, West-Central and West). Next year in 2027, the RMR Meeting is planned to be at [Mahoney State Park](#). Nearby attractions include the [SAC Museum](#) and the Henry Doorly Zoo [Safari](#).

North Dakota (Joyce Hanna) Our new year started in January for the Fargo Garden Society. It was an election year for new Officers and Board Members. We meet the 4th Tuesday for each month thru October. Our total membership is 57, with approximately 20-25 attending each month.

Each month features a guest speaker on an Education Program. The topics were Apple Tree Growth and Maintenance, Tree Health, Making Your Own Compost, Growing Dahlias, Houseplants, Weed Management and Refurbishing of Our Landscape.

Our volunteer community service projects total 6 throughout the year.

Fund raising projects are plant sales, one in spring and another in the fall. This year, the spring plant sale generated \$1900.00. All items were donated by club members.

In May, there were 4 members that attended the National Garden Club Convention in St. Louis. National President, Donna Donnelly, presented North Dakota, a \$4,000 Scholarship Award to be given to North Dakota resident Jessica Neidviecky who is attending the University of Jamestown in Jamestown, ND. In addition, the Fargo Garden Society contributed an additional \$2,000.00 to the recipient for a total of \$6,000.00 in scholarship money.

Jessica Neidviecky, our scholarship recipient was invited to our North Dakota State meeting which was held on May 30th. 13 members were present. Joyce Hanna was elected the new State President.

Summer was busy with an invitation to tour the gardens of a private resident on Lake Ida, in Minnesota. 12 members carpooled, stopped for lunch and much fun.

Another event, several members attended a presentation by Douglas Tallamy in Moorhead, MN. A tour of a Dahlia Garden is also on the schedule.

The Garden of Healing, had a Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new addition to the gardens. Several members attended.

The largest project we had this year was hosting the RMR conference August 21-22. Starting January, committees were formed, led by co-chairman's Linda Anderson and Marilyn Isaacson. Many members volunteered their time and effort to create a successful RMR Conference.

A fall social in October caps off the year.

South Dakota: (Pam Catalano) There are 4 clubs, 3 clubs with 40-45 members each.

Utah (Susan McJames) When I held the first convention after becoming UAGC President in the Fall of 2024, the theme was "Celebrating Our History": It was the UAGC 90th anniversary, started in 1934! The Sugar House Garden Center was 60 years old, completed in 1964! And, of course, Smokey the Bear's 80th birthday! Earlier this year, the UAGC lost the management of the SHGC and so we have had to figure out a new "home" and moving forward. But, the "Beat Goes On" and we still have 11 clubs with around 400 members.

Since we are able to host our conventions in other places now, our 2026 Spring convention was held in a private home and the revised Bylaws were passed. We are hoping to have our 2026 Fall Convention in northern Utah to include 2 of our clubs that meet up there and haven't generally come to the meetings in Salt Lake City due to the distance.

In addition to our website, Utahagc.org, the UAGC recruited a new Social Media Chairman to post our individual club's current information and keep us bonded. Check it out and like on FB and Instagram: Utah Associated Garden Clubs. We have also tried hosting our UAGC Board meetings through Zoom in the hopes that more of our club Presidents can attend.

The good news is that we will be able to fund our scholarship this year after taking a break last year due to the uncertainty of our situation. We did have one applicant that applied and received the NGC Scholarship.

The UAGC continues to take advantage of the NGC Plant-a-Tree program to honor those deceased members who had contributed to the state club.

My 1st VP, Laurie Hofmann, attended the NGC meeting in St. Louis and there were 3 of us at the RMR meeting in North Dakota.

The UAGC held an Arbor Day activity which included putting tree rings around 2 memorial trees in the back of our Sugar House Garden Center:

Wyoming (Susan Pixley) We have had a successful year in Wyoming. We had a great state convention in Chugwater, Wyoming. A small new club in Wyoming hosted and did a fantastic job. There are 6 members here for RMR in Fargo, ND. 2 members are RMR officers. We have welcomed a new club this year and have not lost any clubs. I believe that a project that the state members may take on will be to look and make plans to update BSM's (Blue Star Memorials) around the state. Several memorials are in towns that no longer have garden clubs to maintain them. Our next state convention will be held in Cheyenne hosted by our newest club. They will do a great job! We will look forward to seeing you all next year for RMR in Nebraska.

Old Business (None)

New Business:

Rotation Schedule: Shirley P. will provide the rotation schedule for state meetings.

Wyoming will be the state to provide a RMR Secretary in 2027.

Montana will have the RMR meeting in 2028.

Shirley encouraged leaders to learn to delegate and to trust others to do their thing.

Following the business meeting, the silent auction winners were announced. Proceeds were around \$1600.00.

NGC President Donna Donnely was a guest speaker in the evening and she discussed the NGC History and emphasized the Plant America theme. She encouraged gardeners to apply for grants. Following her presentation, there was a social time with a nice buffet-style meal.

Mary Lerssen gave the courtesy resolution. Individual North Dakota members were recognized for putting the 90th Annual RMR Meeting together for all to enjoy.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

The evening entertainment was Merrill Piepkorn, a singer, harmonic player, guitar player and story teller. On Friday August 21, 2026, there were two (2) field trips. One was the Healing Garden Walking Tour at the Urban Plains Park and the other was a tour of Sandra Vigen's garden in Horace, North Dakota.