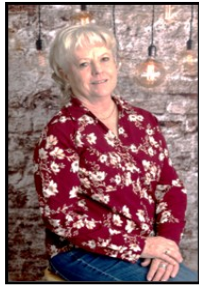




# Rocky Mountain Rambler

Rocky Mountain Region  
Newsletter

## Greetings From Your Director



Hello Rocky Mountain Region,

I'm glad that spring is here and I'm pretty close to being tempted to planting too early.. Walmart has lots of herbs at the entry and I think that's a trap because they'll probably freeze. So I'm going to have to wait till early May to plant. Let me know how the rest of you are handling this temptation.

I hope to see many of you in Fargo North Dakota, in August for our regional meeting. Come on, it'll be a fun time. For news for the region, Denise Fink is not going to be able to fulfill the alternate director duties as Region Director, so **Montana members, I would like someone to step up and be the Regional Director.** Please email me, and I will give you what the qualifications are. I plan on sending that information to your state President, Jeannie Bennett.

Also, I trust that each of you are enjoying the springtime buds on the trees. Remember that National Garden Club would like us to **plant red, white, and blue flowers** in honor of our **Nation's birthday.** That would be wonderful to look across our towns and neighborhoods and see that together, people support our nation and our independence. Come up with some flowers that you think would be a good thing. Maybe a grouping of shasta daisies that you may already have, put some flax next to that or maybe in the same bed some midnight blue salvia and maybe even have some red moss rose in the mix. That would be a very pretty planting that would bloom most of summer. I'm sure your clubs can come up with ideas to get together to share seeds. Thank you for your time and I feel it's an honor being the Region Director. Thank you.

**Shirley Pursel**  
**Rocky Mountain Region Director**



### May 2026

#### Inside this issue:

Director's Message	1
Dates to Remember	2
Current Officer Team	2
Website links	3
St President Reports	4-10
Chairman Reports	11-29
RMR Officers-St Pres.	30
RMR Chairman	31
RMR Convention	32-34
Awards Forms	35
Photo Contest	36-37

*Gratitude turns what  
we have into enough,  
and more.*

#### Special points of interest:

- Photo contest
- Friend or Foe
- Heritage Tree
- Pruning Tomatoes

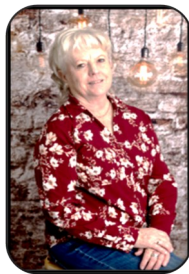
Upcoming State Convention Dates

Colorado, June 6, 2026  
 North Dakota, May 30, Fargo, ND  
 Utah  
 Kansas  
 Montana  
 Wyoming, June 12-14, 2026, Chugwater, WY  
 Nebraska  
 South Dakota

Dates to Remember

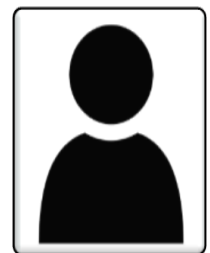
<i>DATE</i>	<i>WHAT</i>	<i>WHERE</i>
May 4 -6, 2026	NGC Convention	St. Louis, MO
July 30, 2026	Photo Contest Pictures	Chris Martin <a href="mailto:dzrcc8@yahoo.com">dzrcc8@yahoo.com</a>
July 30, 2026	RMR Award Applications	<a href="mailto:RMRAWARDS1@gmail.com">RMRAWARDS1@gmail.com</a>
August 21-22, 2026	RMR Convention	Fargo, ND
September 1, 2026	Deadline for RMR Articles	<a href="mailto:rmrrambler@yahoo.com">rmrrambler@yahoo.com</a>

Meet Your 2025-2027 RMR Officer Team



**Director**  
 Shirley Pursel  
 Wyoming

**Alt. Director**  
 This could be you  
 Montana



**Secretary**  
 Lorraine Patrick  
 Nebraska



**Treasurer**  
 Lynette Jeffres  
 Wyoming



**Mary Lerssen**  
 Parliamentarian  
 South Dakota



## Why Rotate Your Garden

Crop rotation is an important and beneficial factor when planning a vegetable garden. Problems with diseases, insect pests, and soil fertility can increase when the same crop is planted in the same area in successive years. With careful planning and consideration, crop rotation can reduce issues with diseases and pests and balance the soil's nutrients. Check out the sites below.\*



[How to Rotate Crops](#) | [Benefits](#) | [Rotating in a Small Garden](#) | [List of Vegetables by Family](#) | [Potential Crop Rotation Systems](#) | [More Information](#)

\*taken from Iowa State University

## How to find our Garden Club Websites

Let's stay connected! It's fun to see what other garden clubs are doing—their officers, activities, projects and gardens they have created. To connect easily, open the RMR Region Website. When open, view the new banner at the very top and select one of the categories e.g. Home, Awards, More. . It is simple as a few clicks of the keyboard. Ctrl + click Go for it!!

Site	Website
RMR Website	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/home?authuser=0">Rocky Mountain Region website</a> (includes our newsletters) <a href="https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/home?authuser=0">https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/home?authuser=0</a>
National Garden Club	<a href="https://gardenclub.org/">https://gardenclub.org/</a>
The National Gardener	<a href="https://gardenclub.org/national-gardener">https://gardenclub.org/national-gardener</a> <span style="float: right;">It's free to members!</span>

RMR Website:

Each of our eight states is listed and all you have to do is click on the state or topic you want to look at.



[Rocky Mountain Region Garden Clubs Facebook Page](#)

### NGC Conservation Pledge

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



Our beautiful Rocky Mountain Region includes the following States:  
**Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming**

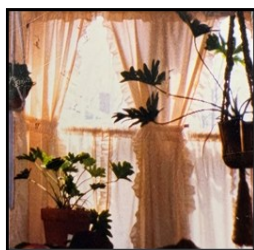
The Rocky Mountain Region Garden Clubs is an affiliate of **National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

## Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Greetings from Colorado, Spring flowers are blooming and trees are leafing out. Baseball is in full swing and basketball and hockey playoffs are starting. All are sure signs that Spring is here. I enjoy seeing new life in the gardens.

This past month, my daughter asked me to help her divide and repot her giant Split-Leaf Philodendron. I had two of these plants growing before my children were born 40 years ago. I gave one of them to my daughter. This plant was extremely large, and it took two people to wrestle it out of the pot, saw it in half and repot the plants. Now we both have a giant Split-Leaf Philodendron. I have an early photo showing the original two plants as well as photos taken the day we divided the plant.



This year, the NGC Awards Chairman solicited help from the regions to help judge award applications. I was honored to head up the RMR committee who judged 56 -57 different award applications. The RMR group judged the following awards: CE 7 Blue Star/Gold Star Marker Landscaping, EC 5 Native Plants & Wildflowers Venue, G 2 Edible Gardens, MAE 3 Digital Media Presentations and MAE 4G: Other publications promoting any NGC objective. It was very interesting to see what the various clubs submitted for awards and amazing to read about their various projects.

Our districts have started holding their annual meetings. Northern Front Range District met this last weekend. Their theme was “Preserving the Past – Forging the Future.” Southern District will hold their meeting in two weeks. Their guest speaker will talk about dahlias.

As Historian for RMR this term, I want to remind everyone to help me document Shirley’s journey as RMR Director. Take photos of events attended by Shirley and upload them into the shared Google folder or send them to me at pat.smit@live.com.

**Patricia Smit**

**“PLANT AMERICA, *plant native,*  
*plant for pollinators.*”**

**President, CFGC**



## Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



What an interesting year so far. I was thrilled to watch the moon voyage. I remember the original one well. I watched it on the NASA streaming channel. I have two sisters that live within viewing area of Cape Canaveral and they guide me, so I don't miss the exciting launches.

In most of our state we are enjoying our Big Sky sunshine, views of the stars, planets, Northern Lights, even the Milky Way – a great year so far for sky watching barring those days with unseasonable snowstorms.

So how do get the air we need -the petrichor of rain, the geosmin from the soil –while it is still freezing every night? Many start seeds in the house. It takes a patient person to start seeds indoors. I tried and failed at this time-honored spring job for several years in the early 2000s. I am perfectly good at broadcasting seeds outside though and I will often disperse Marigolds, Snapdragons, and Zinnias from the carefully gathered spent flowers, while doing spring cleanup. It's a slow process, usually late in the afternoon after morning frost is lifted. It is also a good time to pay attention to our house plants.

Like most gardeners in late winter and early spring, I was inspecting the lilacs, the crabapple, the apple, the Viburnum and I discovered something new, When I moved into my 55+ community in Missoula 3+ years ago, there were many out of control shrubs and trees. Several old large trees were nothing but flat stumps, but one of these produced a few stems last summer. Not knowing what it was I was thrilled to see it sprouted and flowered this spring. Looking like a typical spring shrub, it was just gorgeous, white with pinkish flowers. My neighbor said it was the old Apricot tree that had come back to life. *Hundreds* of bees, from big petable bumbles to many other early workers and countless fantastic butterflies created a buzzing halo around the plant. The large spectacular Montana State Butterfly, the Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*), was everywhere, every branch had a dedicated pollinator. We called neighbors to come see the lively spectacle. I'll be pruning her shape; I plan to keep it a small tree-like shrub. Please wish me luck at getting the little apricots this summer.

**Five clubs in Montana earned Plant America, Blue Star Planting grants.** Nearly \$5000.00 will be dispersed across the state, from Miles City, Whitehall, Great Falls, and Stevensville to Missoula. We will post pictures once they show their colors.

And can I get your attention about computers. No, I didn't think you would be interested but we had an interesting National Awards period this year. Extensive material to support flower show awards was scanned in to add to digital files and all were submitted for judging. A cumbersome process for the clubs and chair people. We also submitted an award for a class taught by an accomplished flower show judge. We shall see if these worked when we get to St Louis. I helped judge national awards with a great committee of RMR volunteers. I learned a lot, and here we go launching off into the digital age with NGC.

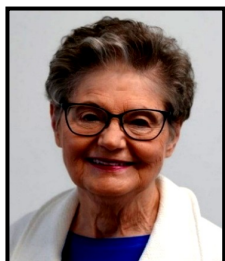
Our state annual meeting is in June in Anaconda, MT. We are very excited about it. A convention registration form and a breakout schedule is on our State Website, [www.mtfgc.org](http://www.mtfgc.org). We welcome visitors and guarantee a good meeting. Thank you,

**Jeannie Bennet**  
**MFGC President**

mfgc.jeanniebennett@gmail.com

## Rocky Mountain Rambler — May 2026

### North Dakota the Peace Garden State



You are invited to attend the **Rocky Mountain Regional Convention in Fargo, North Dakota on August 21 and 22, 2026**. Our convention committee is working tirelessly to give you a wonderful time in Fargo with special tours to the Northern Plains Botanical Garden Society edible forest located next to the Japanese gardens, North Dakota State University demonstration gardens, Healing garden, and a private member garden tour. We have arranged for Merrill Piepkorn, a North Dakota troubadour and storyteller for our evening entertainment.

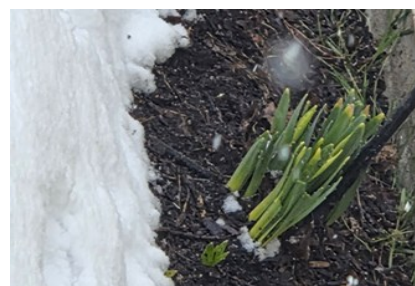
**Attached** to this Rocky Mountain Rambler is a revised **Registration Form and a list of hotels and campgrounds in Fargo**. Please feel free to send in your reservations right away for the RMR convention in Fargo, ND and make your hotel reservations.

When I was trying to decide how to describe all the good things to see in North Dakota, I had Artificial Intelligence (AI) write me the top ten sites and Fargo came up second. But in the second paragraph it was not flattering city history and lately we are known for the movie Fargo, but I assure you your visit to our state will be a memorable one.

I would recommend you travel to the Badlands, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the newly erected Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, and the International Peace Garden. The Medora Musical in Medora, North Dakota held in the evening along with the Medora Gospel Brunch next morning are my favorite things to see. The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library grand opening is July 4 but if you decide to visit you will need tickets by going to this web site: <https://www.trlibrary.com/tickets>

Next if you have an extra day, I encourage you to visit the International Peace Gardens between the border of the United State and Canada. It has the largest succulent collection in the world that was collected by a Minot, ND native along with 2,339 acres of gardens and trees with sculptures.

The day before Easter we had a 12-inch snowfall and I took these lovely pictures of what I hope will be our last snowfall of the winter season. It was nice to get this moisture, but my daffodils cannot wait for spring.



**“Conserve Nature and Grow Friendships in North Dakota”**

**Linda Anderson, President**

**North Dakota State Garden Clubs**



## South Dakota Federated Garden Clubs



Since starting my tenure as state president, I have been trying to understand how to best help our clubs grow and be strong. I want to help them see the benefits of being members of the Federated Garden Clubs. At the last regional meeting in Cheyenne, I heard someone mention a video about this and they were nice enough to forward be the video link. It is called **50 Shades of Green** by **Brenda Moore**. I wrote up a summary of this video and am sharing this I information with the clubs at their meetings.

We have someone in my local club who is really good at finding funding sources and I had her share at a state meeting how she goes about it. I learned things, too. We have three clubs that are thriving but it is a constant struggle to keep people engaged. I have learned many things from interacting with other clubs at state and regional meetings.

In March, I was on a committee that evaluated national awards. Through that, I was exposed to many new ideas. So, my conclusion is that by **networking** and learning about other clubs' activities, I can help my club and others clubs in my state become stronger by sharing information I have learned.

I look forward to seeing my fellow Rocky Mountain Region members at the national conference in early May and learning more about what your clubs are doing.

Sincerely,

**Pamela Catalano**

**President of South Dakota Federated Garden Clubs**

**Beeswax** is a natural, edible wax produced by honeybees, widely used for its moisturizing, eco-friendly, and malleable properties in cosmetics, candles, food wraps, and wood polishes. It offers benefits like long-lasting moisture, non-toxic burning, and natural preservation. Common uses range from making salves, lip balms, and candles to waterproofing, wood finishing, and food storage.

Taken from the Internet



## The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.



The Utah Associated Garden Club is excited for 2026. We are holding strong at 11 clubs with around 300 members. Most clubs have found new venues for their monthly meetings and we have an agreement with the Red Butte Garden for future garden shows. UAGC activities since the first of the year:

The Smokey the Bear/Woodsey Owl Rocky Mountain Region poster judging contest was held on 3.6.26 at the Park City library. It is a fun gathering as two of our Uinta Forest Service rangers attend and Mary Holley served a delicious lunch.



Judges L to R: Karlyn Smith, Geoff Ellis, Elissa LaComb, Diane Harrell, and Brenda Bushell

After 11 years and our new circumstances, the UAGC Board decided it was time to revise our bylaws. The revised bylaws will be voted upon by membership at the UAGC 2026 Spring Convention. The convention will be hosted next month at the home of Wendy Kohn, a member of the Neighborhood GC.

The Utah Orchid Society flower show and sale was held at the Red Butte Garden in Salt Lake City on 4.4.26.

UAGC 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Laurie Hofmann, is looking forward to meeting everyone in St. Louis.

**Sue McJames**  
**UAGC State President**  
*“Stewards of the Earth”*



The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.



Well, it looks like spring has truly sprung in the Rocky Mountain Region! The trees have leaves, birds are chirping, the sun is shining. I was afraid to start planting and putting out seeds at first. I usually wait until May. But I have decided that trees and birds know Mother Nature better than I do. I started watering and seeding my back yard meadow, hoping that the weather holds. It has been a very strange winter for all of us. I am not sure how our gardens are going to look this spring, or how hot and dry this summer will be. We will have almost two extra months of our growing season, so that may be a benefit. Of course, this is what gardening is all about isn't it?  
**Adapting, changing, and hoping.**

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs has been fairly quiet over the winter. We are gearing up now for the National Convention in May, our State Convention in June and the Regional Convention in August. I look forward to seeing everyone again in St. Louis, Chugwater, and Fargo!

There is a possibility in Cheyenne of creating and expanding a community garden. I think participating in this project would be a great way to meet new people and introduce ourselves to fellow gardeners. Sometimes it seems a very large and overwhelming task, but we have great clubs with fantastic ideas in Wyoming. We might also look into creating a food waste compost center in our garden.

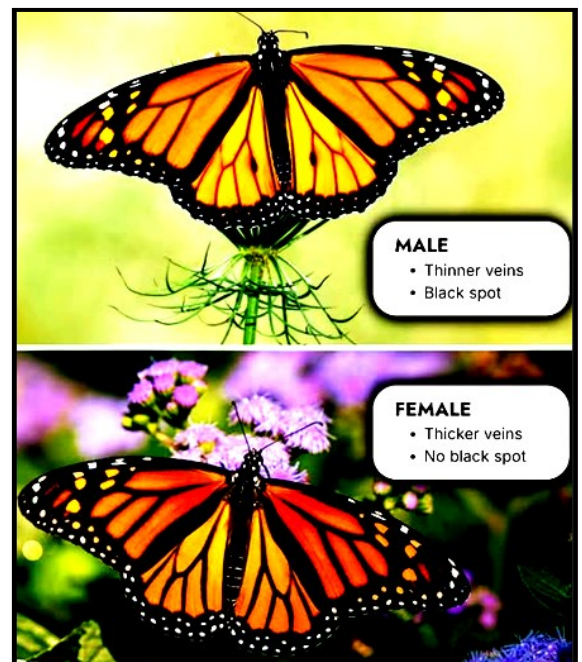
I wish all the Garden Clubs in our region well and a long, beautiful, and fruitful summer for all of our gardens!!

**Susan Pixley**

**President Wyoming Federation of Garden Club**

*The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies....*

*- Gertrude Jekyll*



## Awards



Hello Everyone,

My name is Chris Martin, and I'm the Awards Chair for RMR. I'm excited to work with all of you. This note contains information on NGC Awards as well as RMR Awards.

The photography contest is included in this issue.

### NGC Awards:

Here is the link to the NGC awards, which has all the information you need to apply for those awards. Please note that these awards are from **Jan 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026**  
<https://gardenclub.org/ngc-awards>

### Please note:

#### NGC AWARD Rules:

No individual, single-member club, group of member clubs, Council, or District may make a direct application to National Garden Clubs. Your State Chairman must submit all applications and must include the appropriate NGC Application Cover Sheet. Application Cover Sheets are posted in fillable format on the NGC website under FORMS. Please ensure you are aware of the due dates required by your state chair. If s/he misses those due dates, your application won't be considered.

### THE MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR IS THE EXCEPTION for NGC AWARDS:

#### Member Award of Honor

Awarded to one member in each region whose volunteer efforts during a period of five or more years, has made outstanding contributions to club and community, in one or more of the following areas: civic development, horticulture therapy, youth activities, conservation, landscape design, horticulture, floral design, or all-around excellence. Eligibility: any member of a State Garden Club, who has never been a member of the NGC Board of Directors. Eligibility and Rules listed on NGC Website, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), "Awards" – Member Award of Honor. A book of evidence should be submitted not to exceed 3 pages. Obtain state's deadline date. State Awards Chairman forwards one entry to Regional Awards Chairman by January 1. The eight Regional Winners will receive a NGC Certificate and a pin at the NGC convention. They will be recognized in The National Gardener.

#### NGC YOUTH AWARDS:

Poetry: Your state award winners need to be sent to me by 2/1/2026 (1 from each grade K-12) in each of these Categories: General Education, Special Education, English as a Second Language I will send these to the appropriate NGC chairman. If there is more than one from each grade, I will have someone judge them as a Region, we can only send one entry per grade and category.

~~ cont'd

## Awards~~ cont'd

RMR Awards:

The RMR Awards handbook is attached in this email, along with the form to be completed. Please look carefully at the email address to which you are sending the awards. The Photography contest rules will be sent in the spring Rambler. You can send your awards at any time. I kindly request that clubs refrain from sending duplicates for the same award. If there are sub-categories for an award, clubs can submit for each sub-category.

**All Awards are due to me by July 30, 2026**

**I ask that all awards be sent digitally unless they're scrapbooks or yearbooks. Those can be sent by mail.**

**(If you do these digitally, please send them electronically)**

**A certificate will recognize all submissions if it places first through honorable mention. There's no monetary award.**

**All submissions must fill out the award form as well as the permission form to be considered.**

**All award submissions should be sent to [RMRAWARDS1@gmail.com](mailto:RMRAWARDS1@gmail.com)**

**If submissions are mailed, please mail them to:**

**Chris Martin, PO Box 86, Friend, NE 68359**

**Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.**

**Please tell us your club's story by submitting award applications**

**Thanks so much**

**Chris Martin, Awards Chairman**

**402-540-2241**

**Dzrcc8@yahoo.com**



**NOTE:**

**RMR Awards application can be found on page 31 of this newsletter.**

**RMR Award Handbook was sent as a PDF file along with this newsletter.**

**The [RMR Website](#) will also have all the awards and application forms.**



Poetry Contest Winners



**Flowers\***

vioLets  
Oleander  
Water  
lavEnder  
Roses  
Sunshine  
Garden  
asteR  
sun fLOWer  
Wildflower Last Forever  
W. Kerns, Kindergarten  
Nebraska

The flowers, the trees  
The bushes, the breeze  
Plant them in the ground today  
Tomorrow they'll be on their way.

The flowers, the trees  
The bushes, the breeze  
Land and people's memories.  
We help the plants last centuries.  
J, Powers, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Nebraska



**Plants All Around**

When a sprout shows and grows  
The leaves stretch out with a green glow  
Petals show when they're fully grown  
Sunflowers, tulips, roses and daisies  
When sunlight comes out  
It shines on the petals  
It ought to hit the spot  
With colors in the garden all around  
You see red, purple, blue and green  
showing its glow  
Find a dandelion, blow it out  
Make a wish  
Hope you make it grow your wish  
Smell a flower, make it grow  
A rose petals gleam and shines so bright  
It makes your garden right  
When you grow a garden do it slow  
To enjoy the times with its pretty glow  
E. West, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Utah

**We Are Different,  
Yet the Same**

Johnny Appleseed and Rosa Parks  
Have both planted seeds.  
They may not be physical,  
But they may have been mentally.  
They may not have been real,  
Or they may have made history.  
Some made awareness, some made  
folktales.  
Both on a journey,  
making friends and making enemies.  
Both had opportunities to grow,  
and so do you.  
L. Hamernick, 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Nebraska

Poetry Contest Winners ~~ cont'd



**Gardeners Don't Give Up**

I planted a seed with hopes it's a tree  
My hope is that it grows tall and free.  
My days were spent watering this tree.  
In hope that it would grow taller than me.  
    It was after one late night,  
    that a little sprout was in sight!  
    The next day to my surprise  
    a tall weed was starting to rise.  
I was sad about all time that was wasted,  
but glad for the chances I could chase!  
Farmers plants trees and I plant weeds,  
but then I realized I won't give up!  
A. Keith, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Nebraska

**We Need to Care**

**We need to care for the trees and the plants,  
We need to care for the animals and insects!  
We need to care for preserving the earth,  
We need to care, for all that it's worth.  
We could save the world,  
We could save each other!  
We should really re-build,  
We could help one another!  
The ecosystem would be thrilled.  
And it could all start with you.  
You, and everyone else who will help!  
We could restore the Earth's former hue.  
We need to care for the trees and the plants.  
And yes, the animals and the insects.  
A. Wray, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Nebraska**

**Gardeners Don't Give Up**

I planted a seed with hopes it's a tree  
My hope is that it grows tall and free.  
My days were spent watering this tree.  
In hope that it would grow taller than me.  
    It was after one late night,  
    that a little sprout was in sight!  
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I was sad about all time that was wasted,  
but glad for the chances I could chase!  
Farmers plants trees and I plant weeds,  
but then I realized I won't give up!  
A. Keith, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
.Nebraska

**We Are Different, Yet the Same**

Johnny Appleseed and Rosa Parks  
Have both planted seeds.  
They may not be physical,  
But they may have been mentally.  
They may not have been real,  
Or they may have made history.  
Some made awareness, some made folktales.  
Both on a journey,  
making friends and making enemies.  
Both had opportunities to  
grow,  
and so do you.  
L. Hamernick, 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Nebraska



**Chris Martin  
Awards Chairman**

## Blue Star



### BLUE STAR/ GOLD STAR MEMORIALS FEATURING THE STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado stands out as having the most memorials in the Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) Garden Clubs. National records show that 18 memorials, 15 by-way memorials, and two replacements have been ordered. Also, Colorado installed the first memorials in RMR. Two were ordered together on September 12, 1947. Colorado records show two other memorials were ordered around the same time, but an exact date is not given. Two memorials were placed along U.S. 40 in western Colorado and dedicated on the same day, December 28, 1950. Claims were made that these were the first ordered for Colorado. However, records show two memorials, originally located at Raton Pass, and presently located near Trinidad and Burlington, were dedicated on December 25, 1950. Which two sets were the first ordered?

Since 2000, Colorado has dedicated 11 Blue Star Memorials, with a new one to be dedicated at Colorado National Guard, Joint Forces Headquarters. Two Gold Star Memorials have been dedicated in 2019 and 2020. Gold Star Memorials through the National Garden Club have only been available since about 2017, when the Gold Star Mothers asked the Garden Clubs to add the Gold Star Memorials to our “charter”. Only one Gold Star Memorial order is found on the National list. As I have found several times, the National list of ordered memorials does not always correspond to the state list.

Audrey Coyle is the Colorado representative and has provided a list of the memorials in Colorado and added additional information. I have attached her information. Collecting this much information is a huge endeavor. I will highlight some of the memorials that have an interesting history. I will do this by their linked number and place.

Number 4, Fort Collins, has been moved four times.

Number 3, Trinidad; Number 7, Colorado Springs; Number 8, Deer Trail; Number 14, Winter Park; Number 16, Denver; Number 17, Denver, have all been moved since initial installation.

Number 10, Larkspur, has been removed as the rest area was closed. Still to be determined is the new site for the memorial.

Number 12, Lafayette, road widening caused the park to be ‘demolished,’ and the memorial remounted on a brick wall.

Number 15, Arapaho County, has not been verified. If you're in the area, maybe you can be the finder and report to Audrey.

Number 20, Littleton, was lost and then replaced.

As demonstrated by this list, memorials move, disappear, get damaged, and need to be monitored. According to Tom Stelling, who restored memorials across Nebraska, memorials need to be washed once a year with a soft brush and water. So, if you live near a memorial, you could monitor and clean it, and if there are issues, report them to Audrey.

~~ cont'd

## Blue Star ~~ cont'd

Colorado is a big state, and it takes all Garden Club members involved in locating memorials and giving assistance to your state representative, Audrey Coyle, so she can maintain as accurate a record as possible.

Also, if landscaping is allowed around the Memorial, consider planting flowers. This is the year to plant the red, white, and blue to celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

See attached list of memorials in Colorado and photos.

I thank Audrey for all of her work in maintaining records of Colorado's memorials.

### CFGC COLORADO

#### BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER LOCATIONS

1. South side of U.S. 40, approximately 3 miles NW of the town of **Dinosaur**. Dedicated on December 28, 1950.
2. North side of U.S. 40, approximately 15 miles east of the town of **Cheyenne Wells**. Dedicated on December 28, 1950.
3. 3. On the west side of the rest area building at **El Moro Rest Area off I-25**, approximately 3 miles north of **Trinidad**. Originally located on east side of I-25 at Raton Pass. Dedicated on December 25, 1950.
4. On the front of the **Visitors' Center/Rest Area** building 1 block west of I-25, on the south side of Prospect in **Fort Collins**. Originally located at a roadside park at the Wyoming border, this marker was dedicated on December 28, 1950. The marker was moved to the Hidden Fort Historical Site, some miles south of the original location, and rededicated on August 27, 1964. It was moved again in February 2002 to the rest area on the southbound side of I-25 just north of Fort Collins. The marker was restored and moved to its present location in the spring of 2007.
5. In the city of **Broomfield** on the SE corner of U.S. 287 and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the **Blue Star Park**. Dedicated on August 21, 1954.
6. On U.S. 24 (Frontage road for I-70) 5 miles east of **Burlington** in the **Peconic picnic area**. This small marker is attached to the side of a stone fireplace. Dedicated on December 28, 1950.
7. Between U.S. 24 and space Village Drive approximately 3 miles east of Peterson Air Force Base, east of **Colorado Springs**. Dedicated in mid-1971. This marker was not easily visible, due to changes of road level. This marker was relocated to Lion's Park in **Woodland Park** at the intersection of U.S. 24 and CO 67. The park is known as Lion's park and is home to a flag display of all 50 states. It was rededicated in September 2010.
8. At the westbound rest area off I-70, 3 miles SE of the town of **Deer Trail**. Dedicated on December 28, 1950. In 2019 the rest stop was closed and the Memorial was moved into Deer Trail. It is located in their city park by the walk path near Highway 40. The veterans in Deer Trail greatly appreciate having this in the town on display.

~~ cont'd

## Blue Star ~~ cont'd

9. At the westbound rest area off I-70, 3 miles SE of the town of **Deer Trail**. Dedicated on December 28, 1950. In 2019 the rest stop was closed and the Memorial was moved into Deer Trail. It is located in their city park by the walk path near Highway 40. The veterans in Deer Trail greatly appreciate having this in the town on display.
10. Approximately 1500 feet south of Weld County Road 14 ½ (14<sup>th</sup> Street) on the west side of U.S. 85 at the roadside park in **Fort Lupton**. Dedicated on October 26, 1969. This Marker was restored by historical Markers Restoration in May, 2016.
11. Rest area on the northbound side of I-25 at exit 172, just east of **Larkspur**. Dedicated on March 5, 1979. **This rest area was closed in 2009**. Arrangements to move the marker to a more visible and suitable site are not yet resolved. **It will be sent in for restoration in 2022 and relocated. (#27)**
12. Courtney Ryley Cooper Park in **Idaho Springs** at Colorado Blvd (I-70 business loop) and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. Dedicated on June 10, 1995.
13. On the NE corner of U.S. 287 and Baseline Road in **Lafayette**. This marker was originally on the side of a stone fireplace in a roadside park at this location. Due to road widening and construction of the Lafayette Bypass, the park was demolished. The marker remains, however. It is now mounted on a brick column. Dedicated on May 30, 1952.
14. On the east side of U.S. 40, approximately 2 blocks north of **Winter Park** Visitor Center, in Hideaway City Park. A rededication ceremony on August 19, 2007 was followed by restoration and permanent mounting of the marker at this location. The marker was originally located approximately 3 miles west of town at the Arapaho National Forest Blue Star Picnic Ground and was originally dedicated on June 22, 1962.
15. State Highway 49 at mile 333, **Arapaho County**. A photograph was taken by CDoT on March 29, 1997. This marker has not been verified.
16. On the grounds of **Denver** CDoT Headquarters at E. Colfax Avenue (U.S. 40) and Tower Road. Formerly located at I-76 and 88<sup>th</sup> Street.
17. On the NW corner of E. Colfax Avenue (U.S. 40) and Quentin Avenue in General's Park in **Denver**, where it was moved in 2007 after restoration. It was originally 1 block further east, at Ursula Avenue and Colfax, at the entrance to the former Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center Complex. The original dedication date is unknown.
18. On the north side of Colfax Avenue (U.S. 40) in the eighth block west of Simms Street at the crest of the hill in Panoramic Park in **Lakewood**. Dedicated on June 5, 1961. Vandalized, then replaced and rededicated August 8, 1985.
19. At the rest area off I-70 at Exit 163, approximately 1 mile NE of **Edwards Air Force Base CO**. Dedication date is not known. Marker was restored by Historical Markers Restoration May 2016

Blue Star ~~ cont'd

- 20. This marker is located near the entrance to **Hudson Gardens & Event Center** at 6225 S. Santa Fe Drive (U.S. 85) in **Littleton**. It was dedicated November 15, 2003. This marker replaces one that disappeared during a major highway expansion project. It had been located at Mountain View Blue Star Park, just 4 miles south of its present location.
- 21. Located approximately 4 miles south of I-25 at Exit 140 on Highway 115 just outside of the main gate of **Fort Carson, CO**. Dedicated on November 10, 2005.
- 22. Is located at the **Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield site**, located in southwest **Denver**. It was dedicated May 29, 2013.
- 23. Is located in **Evergreen Cemetery, Colorado Springs** adjacent to the Chapel that is listed on the National Historic Register. The marker was dedicated on June 14, 2014 Flag Day and was done in cooperation with the **Kinnikinnik DAR Chapter**.
- 24. Located at the **Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center** at 1700 North Wheeling St., **Aurora CO.**, in cooperation with the **Colorado Elks Association**. Dedicated on May 21, 2022.
- 25. Located at the **Pikes Peak National Cemetery** at 10545 Drennan Road, **Colorado Springs CO.**, in cooperation with the **Kinnikinnik DAR Chapter**. Dedicated on June 14, 2022.
- 26. Located at **Western Region One Source**, 482 28 Road, **Grand Junction, CO** 81501, in cooperation with the **Colorado Elks Association**. Dedicated in May, 2025.
- 27. Located at **CDoT Right of Way at the Air Force Academy Scenic Overlook on I-25, Colorado Springs CO**. This is the restored Larkspur rest area marker that was removed when it was closed (#10). It is a Bicentennial Marker. It was restored by Sewah restorations. Dedication TBD
- 28. Located at **CONG Joint Force Headquarters**, 6848 S. Revere Parkway, **Centennial, CO** 89112, in cooperation with the **Colorado Elks Association**. Dedication TBD



BS at the visitors center in Pikes Peak national cemetery In CO SPGS

Blue Star dedication in Aurora CO VA Hospital



BS Larkspur removed and restored before placement at Air Force Academy

Blue Star ~~ cont'd

**BLUE STAR BYWAY MARKER LOCATIONS**

1. At the Visitor Center at **Fort Logan National Cemetery**, this is located east of Sheridan Blvd. (U.S. 95) and just south of Hampden Avenue (U.S. 285) **Denver**. Dedicated in 1993.
2. On the lawn of American Legion Post 119 in **Estes Park**, at the intersection of U.S. 36 and CO 7. Dedicated on June 10, 2000.
3. This Marker was dedicated on October 28, 2002. It is located in the Memorial Rose Bed of Hawthorne Park in **Grand Junction**.
4. This marker replaces one that was attached to the side of a stone fireplace in Grand Junction's Blue Star Park (where the present day football stadium is located) and was lost during a major renovation at the site. The original marker was dedicated August 19, 1953.
5. On the grounds of Legion Park in **Gunnison**, located on the north side of U.S. 50 on the east side of town. Dedicated on May 26, 2003.
6. In **Durango**, in Santa Rita Park on U.S. 50/CO 160. It was first dedicated on May 20, 2007. Due to highway widening, both the park and the marker had to be moved and reworked. The marker was rededicated on November 11, 2009.
7. This Marker is at Linn Grove Cemetery, 1700 Cedar Ave., in **Greely CO**. Placed by the Greely GC. It was dedicated in September 2020.

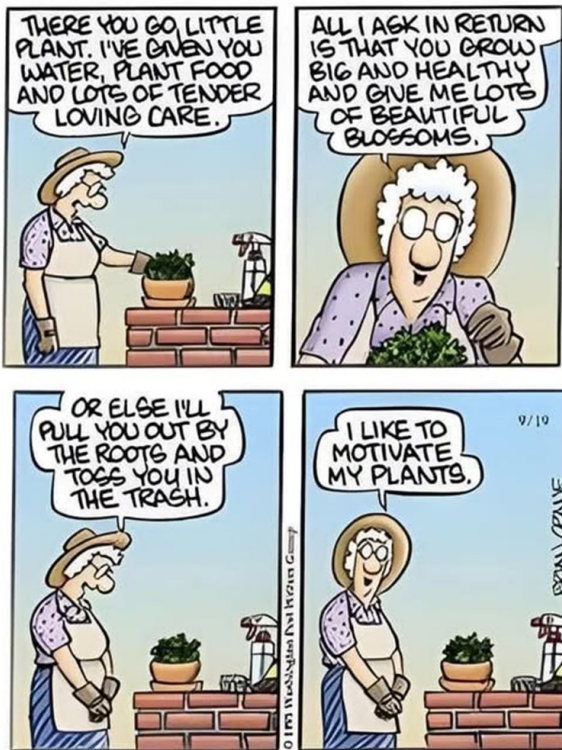


**GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKER LOCATIONS**

1. This Marker is at **Fort Logan National Cemetery**, located east of Sheridan Blvd. (U.S. 95) and just south of Hampden Ave. (U.S. 285) **Denver**. Dedicated in 2019.
2. This marker is located at **Linn Grove Cemetery**, 1700 Cedar Ave., **Greeley CO**. It was dedicated in September 2020.



Today's Tidbits



I am a female honeybee!

- \* I visit up to 2,000 flowers a day.
- \* I only gather ½ teaspoon of honey in my lifetime.
- \* I live about 40 days
- \* I am the only insect that produces food eaten by humans
- \* I pollinate 80% of the world's plants
- \* I help feed the world!

**This hit home for me!**

When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, you don't throw it away, you change the batteries. When a person messes up and finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not, you help them change their batteries! Some need AA.. attention and affection; Some need AAA.. attention, affection and acceptance; some need C.. compassion; some need D.. direction. And if they still don't seem to shine... simply sit with them quietly and share your light.

**THE SUBTERRANEAN COMPARISON: PEST VS. PROTECTED.**

The most endangered insect in your garden looks almost exactly like the pest you are trying to destroy.



**URGENT FEBRUARY ACTION:** if you are turning your compost heap or digging near old tree stumps this week and unearth a massive, fleshy white grub, stop. Do not crush it. Do not leave it on the freezing soil for the robins. Put it back exactly where you found it. You are likely holding a legally protected species.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (UK)

<p><b>1. THE PROTECTED GIANT</b> (Stag Beetle - <i>Lucanus cervus</i>)</p> <p>ENORMOUS (up to 8cm) ORANGE HEAD</p> <p>6 VISIBLE LEGS</p> <p><b>Legally Protected</b> ⚠️ Globally declining, UK is a stronghold. Detritivore (wood recycler): Only eats dead, rotting timber. Slowly turns wood into rich soil. Apex Recycler ♻️</p>	<p><b>2. THE COMPOST ALLY</b> (Rose Chafer - <i>Cetonia aurata</i>)</p> <p>MEDIUM-SIZED</p> <p>SMALL LEGS (Harmless, moves on back)</p> <p><b>Ally</b></p> <p>Compost-dweller: Harmless super-composter. Slow-moving.</p>	<p><b>3. THE TRUE PEST</b> (Vine Weevil - <i>Otitiorhynchus sulcatus</i>)</p> <p>TINY (&lt;1cm) BROWN HEAD</p> <p>NO LEGS</p> <p><b>Pest</b></p> <p>Herbivore: eats live plant roots. Decimates spring roots of potted plants. Harmless to wood.</p>
<p><b>Leave the Stumps</b></p> <p>Greatest conservation act: simply leave dead tree stumps in the ground to rot naturally over coming decades. Apex Recycler habitat.</p> <p><b>Long-term Conservation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multi-year cycle of grubs deep inside buried wood/compost heaps. Avoid exposure.</li> <li>- Double-digging borders empties compost bins exerts from thermal shelter in late February.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Re-bury Immediately</b></p> <p>Protected, damp wood, dark place. Put back where found immediately. Protect from frost and birds.</p> <p>Immobile, locked in winter diapause, disturbance causes death from thermal shock or avian predation in minutes. - 4-7 years fleecous wiped out in minutes. - Multi-generational grubs deep in wood/compost.</p>	<p><b>Your Action: Check for Legs Protocol</b></p> <p>No legs/tiny? → Vine Weevil (remove)</p> <p>Large, orange head, and 6 legs? → Stag Beetle/Chafer (re-bury)</p>

**VERDICT: RESPECT THE GIANTS IN YOUR SOIL**

Not every grub is a pest, and a tidy garden is often a biological desert. Check for legs, respect the dead wood, and stop blindly killing the giants sleeping in your soil.

## Flower Symposium



### **Why Garden Clubs Should Sponsor Flower Shows A Rocky Mountain Region Perspective Grounded in National Garden Club Standards**

Flower shows have long been a cornerstone of garden club activity, serving as both an educational tool and a public expression of creativity. For garden clubs in the Rocky Mountain Region—where geography, climate, and distance shape how clubs function—sponsoring a flower show is not only achievable, but deeply valuable. When planned in accordance with National Garden Clubs (NGC) rules and guidelines, a flower show becomes one of the most effective ways a club can fulfill its mission of education, community outreach, and design excellence.

#### **Flower Shows as Education in Action**

One of the primary reasons for sponsoring a flower show is education. NGC flower shows are designed to teach—both exhibitors and the public—about horticulture, floral design, and the artistic use of plant material. Educational value is so central that NGC standards require structured divisions, clear class schedules, and judging based on established principles rather than personal taste. This ensures that every exhibit becomes a learning experience. [\[Document 60 | Word\]](#)

For Rocky Mountain garden clubs, this educational focus is especially important. Our growing conditions vary widely, and flower shows provide a venue to share practical knowledge about plant culture, adaptability, and seasonal challenges unique to high plains, foothills, and mountain valleys. Whether a show emphasizes horticulture, design, or education exhibits, it allows clubs to present regional expertise in a formal, respected framework.

#### **Community Outreach and Visibility**

A flower show is one of the most public-facing activities a garden club can sponsor. When staged for the public, a show creates interest in gardening, design, and conservation while introducing new audiences to the work of garden clubs. NGC guidelines encourage shows that welcome the public and include educational components precisely because they build goodwill and awareness.

In the Rocky Mountain Region, where communities are often smaller and more spread out, a flower show can become a significant local event. Regional shows in Montana and surrounding states have demonstrated that even modestly sized shows generate strong community engagement when clubs collaborate or co-sponsor. These partnerships strengthen district and state relationships while making efficient use of limited resources.

#### **Flexibility Within NGC Rules**

One misconception that sometimes discourages clubs from sponsoring shows is the belief that NGC rules are restrictive. In reality, NGC regulations are designed to provide

~~ cont'd

## Flower Symposium ~~ cont'd

structure while allowing flexibility. Clubs may choose from Standard Flower Shows, Design Specialty Shows, Horticulture-Only Shows, or Petite Flower Shows, depending on their goals, facilities, and membership size

For Rocky Mountain garden clubs, Petite and Design Specialty shows are particularly practical. These formats reduce the need for extensive space, large plant material, or advance registration—an advantage when members travel long distances. NGC rules clearly outline how these shows are organized, judged, and awarded, giving clubs confidence that their efforts meet national standards.

### **Encouraging Participation and Skill Development**

Flower shows encourage members to stretch creatively and technically. Designing for a class title, following size and material requirements, and receiving written judging comments all contribute to personal growth. NGC judging standards emphasize constructive feedback, reinforcing that the goal is improvement and education, not simply winning ribbons

For judges in the Rocky Mountain Region, local flower shows also provide essential opportunities to earn judging credits. This mutual benefit—education for exhibitors and professional development for judges—strengthens the entire regional judging pool and supports long-term sustainability of NGC programs.

### **Preserving Tradition While Supporting the Future**

Flower shows connect today's garden club members with a long tradition of floral artistry. At the same time, they offer room for contemporary interpretation, new design styles, and innovative educational exhibits. NGC rules encourage clubs to include Education, Youth, and Botanical Arts divisions, ensuring that flower shows remain relevant and inclusive.

In the Rocky Mountain Region, sponsoring flower shows is also a way to preserve regional identity. Themes often reflect local landscapes, history, and culture, allowing clubs to tell their own story within a nationally recognized framework. This balance between local character and national standards is one of the greatest strengths of NGC flower shows.

### **Conclusion**

Sponsoring a flower show is one of the most meaningful contributions a garden club can make—to its members, its community, and the broader National Garden Clubs organization. For Rocky Mountain Region garden clubs, NGC rules and guidelines provide a clear, flexible pathway to success, regardless of club size or location. By embracing the educational mission, encouraging participation, and celebrating regional character, garden clubs ensure that flower shows remain vibrant, relevant, and rewarding for generations to come.

**Jim Sadler**  
**Chairman**

## Heritage Tree

**What is a heritage tree?** A heritage tree can have many qualities and these trees may vary widely. Being a tree of great size and age are the easy ones. Historical events could also protect trees that are associated with the event, such as indigenous peoples' medicine tree. Other features may be harder to describe such as an unusual tree species for this area. If Manitou Springs was to plant Sycamore trees along Fountain Creek, they would certainly become heritage trees, if successful, because such trees don't normally grow here. Another point to take would be protecting habitat trees that are providing refuge to local bird and wildlife. Protecting heritage trees protects wildlife-sensitive areas and habitat, so it follows that the heritage tree program would acknowledge habitat and sanctuary trees for wildlife.



There have been beautiful trees barely missing unnecessary removal just through the efforts of local tree people speaking up for them. One, I remember in particular, is the leaning cottonwood in Memorial Park. The City was afraid that this beautiful tree would fall over, something that isn't likely and doesn't follow the science of cottonwood trees. Just getting the proper information to the City personnel saved that tree. That was one and I know there are more. *One person's worthless tree is another person's much-loved friend.*

In a recent tree discussion, the imperfect tree' was brought up. Some folks only want 'perfect' trees, which isn't what nature would want, in my opinion. Trees happen. Each one is an individual. Some trees are straight as an arrow while others dance about on their way towards the sky. Life happens to trees and, like people, they continue to grow the best they can. The differences and imperfections of trees make them so interesting. This conservation referred to alternative decisions in pruning. Rather than remove a wind-snapped tree, for instance, the tree could be topped at the break, preserving beautiful, shady, lower branches and holding onto the service of the tree. Not perfect, but the tree still lives, providing for the community. The topped tree can stay until replacement tree(s) have grown to replace that shade. With current drought conditions, we need all the shade we can preserve. In the local cemetery I have seen trees with active bees living in the trunk removed. I have witnessed imperfect habitat trees with bird and mammal housing taken down. Clearing our forests of 'imperfect' trees depletes the habitat for the local ecosystem.

Do you have a heritage tree? Take a thoughtful look. Any history and stories that you know about your tree? What trees would you miss if they were removed? What trees hold special attributes? What trees hold special memories? Such trees should be documented and preserved for future residents and wildlife.

We lost some heritage trees in my town. It was sad, removing two old and knotted elm trees that graciously provided shade along a major street in town. Those two trees had been big and beautiful since I first moved here in 1983. They were old trees then. We would touch the burls, talk about roots and how the trees were working so hard to survive in their location. Many hugged them as they passed. Every year they leafed out and shaded the cement and the asphalt. They were old, gnarled and burlled. And they were beautiful. A local artist painted them and dubbed them 'The Lovers' as they embraced each other.

~~ cont:d

## Heritage Tree~~cont'd

Tree lovers came out to protest their removal. A few protesting residents were arrested. Those two trees would qualify as Heritage Trees.

My own heart wanted to borrow time to plant new trees there, between the elms. I wanted time for new trees to take hold while being supported by the old elms. Patience is ever the gardeners' quality. Trees, of course, excel in patience! Everything humanity does has repercussions and reports through the course of time. We do hold the future in our hands. Trees, are the low hanging fruit to engage with, while battling climatic change. Heritage trees deserve our recognition and support. Ask your City about important trees in your town. Be a voice for heritage tree designation in your community. Consider becoming the Lorax to give voice to your local trees. Trees would benefit from more Loraxes working in their favor. Yes, we all will benefit.



*Becky Elder,  
Colorado, 2026*



### Good Bugs vs. Bad Bugs

Click on this link  
to see which is which.

[Bug Information](#)



**THE SUBTERRANEAN COMPARISON: PEST VS. PROTECTED.**  
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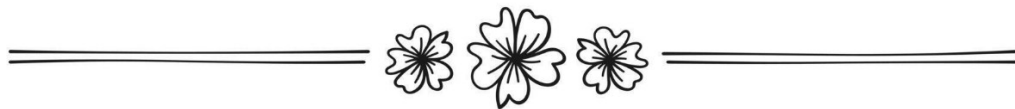
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## Pasta Making

On March 23, 2026, the Plattsmouth Garden Club enjoyed having guest speaker Valeska Dryden demonstrate how to make homemade pasta using garden herbs.

This was the first time the Plattsmouth Garden Club has offered this unique event to Plattsmouth Garden Club members and the Plattsmouth Community.

Lorraine Patrick, Plattsmouth Garden Club  
Nebraska



## Photo Contest



Hello Everyone,

Here is the information on the **photography contest**. We are going to **feature different types of gardens**. Entries are due on **July 30, 2026** and everything will be in digital form. If you have questions, please contact me. Photos are to be sent to: [RMRphotos2023@gmail.com](mailto:RMRphotos2023@gmail.com) Please make sure you send in the paperwork that goes with it, too.



Looking forward to seeing many beautiful photos. Chris Martin

402-540-2241

**Photo Contest information and Contest Entry forms** can be found on the **last few pages of this issue of this Rambler.**

## Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl

The Smokey Bear /Woodsy Owl Poster Contest ended January 17,2026. Five of the eight states in the Rocky Mountain Region participated.

These posters will be sent on to the Forest Service to compete nationally

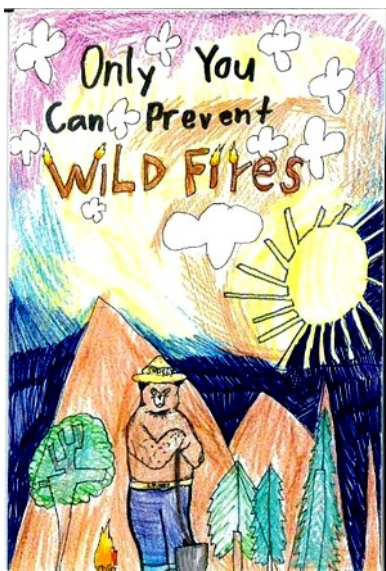
CONGRATULATIONS!!!! And BEST OF LUCK!!!



Ashely Woodard 5th Grade  
Nebraska



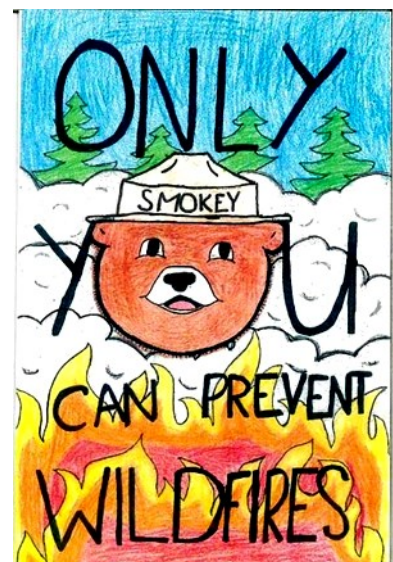
Nora Brunsen...2nd Grade  
South Dakota



Henry Peraza 1st Grade  
Utah



James Boyce...4th Grade  
Utah



Remi Rossiter....3rd Grade  
Utah

Connie McKay, Chairman

## Wild Flowers and Native Plants



Here is my last edition (3<sup>rd</sup>) of our intrepid Explorers of the “Corp of Discovery” and their wildflower discoveries of the Rocky Mountain Region states that our RMR comprises.



The explorers ascended more than a thousand feet in May and June as they approached the high mountains and Lewis collected specimens of glacier lily “*Erythronium grandiflorum*”. As spring advanced, the little yellow flower accompanied the Corps much of the way up the slopes. The bulbs, leaves, flowers and seed pods all provided food for the Indian, as well as for animals from small rodents to grizzly bears. Later, Jefferson noted in his Garden Book that he planted “*Lilly, the yellow one of the Columbia, root food of the natives.*” This mountain beauty is becoming rare and should be allowed to flourish in their native habitat.



Another Lily family plant that caught Lewis’s eye, was the camas or (quamash), “*Camassia quamash*”, it was another liked and important source of food, that bread was made from the dried bulb. Lewis wrote in his journal in June 1806, that the camas was in bloom, “*at a short distance it resembles a lake of fine clear water, so complete is this deception that on first sight I could have sworn it was water.*” A specimen made it safely back East and is now in the Lewis and Clark Herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences.



The Shrubby Penstemon “*Penstemon fruticosus*”, collected by Lewis, was one of several species of penstemon native to the western mountains of North America. The month of June in 1806 was the busiest of the entire expeditions in terms of collecting. 39 specimens arrived later at the Herbarium after many at home assumed the worst had happened to the Corps. As most gardeners that know their flowers, the defining feature of penstemons is the presence of five stamens, which also explains the origin of the name (*penta*), from the Greek meaning five.

In the penstemons, the fifth stamen has no anther and therefore no pollen, which means it is sterile. It is called a stamenode.



The unusual feathery styles of Old Man’s Whiskers, “*Gem triflorum*”, account for the imaginative common name for this plant that Lewis wrote about collecting. He collected it in the Bitterroot Mountains and later Frederick Pursh named it for science. Clark’s entry for the same day speaks of “*those Snowey tremendous mountains which I shudder with the expectation of passing over.*” They soon ran into deep snow and had to retreat. Lewis fell some forty feet and his horse almost

landed on top of him. Fortunately both escaped injury. When he wrote of his fall he then described an unknown plant, the beautiful and rare **mountain lady slipper\***

\*Next edition, I have decided to continue the story one more edition.

**Audrey Coyle, Colorado**

**RMR Wildflower Chairman.**

## Rocky Mountain Region Officers 2025-2027

Office	Officer	E-mail
<b>Region Director</b>	<b>Shirley Pursel</b> "Many Hands Make All Work Light," PO Box 6105 Riverton, WY 82501	307-851-2966 shirleypursel@yahoo.com
<b>Alternate Director</b>	~~	~~
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lorraine Patrick</b> Nebraska	Lorraine-patrick0809@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lynette Jeffres</b> 915 East Roosevelt Ave. Riverton, WY 82501-2937	307-856-4399 307-851-1972 c ljeffres@gardenclub.org
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	<b>Mary Lerssen</b> 2615 East Woodland Hills Rd. Sioux Falls, SD 57103-4335	605-759-7837 c lerssenm@sio.midco.net
<b>Historian</b>	Open	

## RMR State Presidents 2025-2027

<b>Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.</b> <b>Pat Smit</b> <i>"PLANT AMERICA, plant native, plant for pollinators."</i> pat.smit@live.com	<b>North Dakota State Garden Clubs</b> <b>Linda Anderson</b> <i>"Conserve Nature and Grow Friends in North Dakota"</i> 1501 – 28 ½ Ave S., Fargo, ND 58103 rwandljanderson@gmail.com 701-893-5233
<b>Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.</b> <b>Penny Morgan</b> 1321 SW Pin Oak Parkway Topeka, KS 66615 785-250-8219 pmorganks@aol.com	<b>South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs</b> <b>Pam Catalano</b> <i>"Planting Native Plants Benefits Everyone"</i> 606 S Minnesota St Mitchell, Sd 57307 605-630-0719 pamcatalano062@gmail.com
<b>Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.</b> <b>Jeannie Bennett</b> <i>"Theme"</i> jeanniebennett@gmail.com	<b>The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.</b> <b>Sue McJames</b> <i>"Stewards of the Earth"</i> 1669 Redstone Ave., A-2, Park City, UT 84098 435-901-2707 susanmcjames@hotmail.com
<b>Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska</b> <i>"Theme"</i> <b>Rod Ruzanic</b> ruzanicrod@gmail.com	<b>Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc</b> <i>"the love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies..."</i> - Gertrude Jekyll <b>Susan Pixley</b> sannpixley@gmail.com

## Rocky Mountain Region Chairman\* 2025-2027

Project	Chairman	E-mail
Awards	Chris Martin	dzrcc8@yahoo.com
Birds	~~	~~
Blue Star Marker	Mary L. Carlson, NE	marylcarlson5@gmail.com
Butterfly	Margaret Straley, Sioux Falls, SD	zebrabread@gmail.com
Chaplin	Linda Anderson. Fargo, ND	rwandljanderson@gmail.com
Environmental Concerns; Energy, Land, Water	Rod Ruzanic, Ogallala, NE	ruzanicrod@gmail.com
Facebook	Phyllis White, Bozeman MT	gardens@bresnan.net
Flower Show Schools and Symposiums	Jim Sadler, Missoula, MT	jimsadler1220@gmail.com
Gardening School Liaison to RMR	~~	~~
Invasive Plant Species		
Judges Council	Doris Duckworth, CO	dorisduckworth@yahoo.com
Life Membership-NGC & RMR	Lynette Jeffres, Riverton, WY	lynjeffres@gmail.com
Membership	Barb Yates	Barb.yates@me.com
NGC President's Projects	Robbie Kupper	kupperro@gmail.com
Plant A Tree	Rod Runzanic	runzanicrod@gmail.com
Personnel	~~	~~
Protocol, Courtesy Resolution	Mary Lerssen, Sioux Falls, SD	lerssonm@sio.midco.net
RMR Award of Excellence for Regions	Robbie Kupper, Nebraska	
RMR Rambler	Joanne Jeffres, Riverton, WY	rmrrambler@yahoo.com
RMR Webmaster <a href="#">RMR Website</a>	Patricia Smit - Colorado	pat.smit@live.com or rockymtnregiongarden clubs@gmail.com
Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl	Connie McKay, Holladay, UT	mcm31@icloud.com
Wildflowers & Native Plants	Audrey Coyle, Colorado Springs, CO	afloris@stratisiq.com
Xeriscape Gardens	Doris Duckworth, Monument, CO	dorisduckworth@yahoo.com

\* If you need an address or phone number please let me know at [rmrrambler@yahoo.com](mailto:rmrrambler@yahoo.com)

North Dakota State Garden Clubs Presents  
**90<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain Region Convention**  
 Registration Form



*“Cultivating Flora and Friends in Fargo”*

**August 21 - 22, 2026**

**Urban Plains Park and Atonement Lutheran Church**  
**Hosted by Fargo Garden Society**



Please print, fill in, and mail with your check postmarked before August 1, 2026. Registrations postmarked after August 1 will be charged a \$10 late fee. Make checks payable to RMR and mail them to:

**RMR Convention Registrar:**  
**Barb Sherburne**  
**5470 49<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Fargo ND 58104**  
**701-429-7154 [barb.sherburne@gmail.com](mailto:barb.sherburne@gmail.com)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I belong to the \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Officer _____ include office | <input type="checkbox"/> RMR Chairman          | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Studies Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Chairman                     | <input type="checkbox"/> RMR Life Member       | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Studies Consultant        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Committee Member             | <input type="checkbox"/> RMR Previous Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Show Judge                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life Member                  | <input type="checkbox"/> State President       | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Consultant      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RMR Director                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President        | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RMR Officer _____ include office | <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member     | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest                            |

Friday Registration: 1:30 to 4:00 Urban Plains Park Registration Fee \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Dinner: 4:00 to 6:00 PM Heart and Soul food truck Urban Plains Park \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Lunch: 1:00 PM Buffet, Atonement Lutheran Church \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Banquet: 6:00 PM Social, 6:30 Dinner, Atonement Lutheran Church \$35.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL COST \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for entire package \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Dietary Choices:**  Vegan  Gluten-Free  Food Allergies

**We would like each club to bring at least one silent auction item. If you would like to bring more than one item, or a door prize, please feel free to do so. All invitees are invited to participate.**

**Friday tours:** Sandra Vigen’s Garden tour and Healing Garden at Urban Plains Park with dinner

**Saturday tours:** Edible Forest and Japanese Gardens at Northern Plains Botanical Gardens  
 Demonstration Gardens and Daylily Collection at North Dakota State University

Convention

**ACCOMODATIONS**  
**Standard Rates**  
**Per Night**

AAA, AARP, Senior and Military discounts may be available

La Quinta Inn  
 2355 46th St S Fargo  
 701-639-9731  
 \$133/night if 2 night stay

Comfort Suites  
 4417 23rd Av S Fargo  
 701-707-0061  
 \$183

AmericInn by Wyndham  
 4325 23rd Av S Fargo  
 701-235-4699  
 \$181

Sleep Inn  
 4625 23rd Av S Fargo  
 701-492-6245  
 \$135

C'Mon Inn  
 4338 20th Av S Fargo  
 701-277-9944  
 \$139

Holiday Inn Express I-94  
 4711 19th Av S Fargo  
 701-356-3232  
 \$128-157

Hilton Garden Inn  
 4351 17th Av S Fargo  
 701-499-6000  
 \$147

Club House Hotel and Suites  
 4450 15th Av S Fargo  
 701-282-5777  
 \$233

Best Western Kelly Inn and Suites  
 1767 44th St S Fargo  
 701-282-2143  
 \$139-176

Delta by Marriott  
 1635 42nd St S Fargo  
 701-277-9000  
 \$185

**DOWNTOWN LOCATIONS**

Radisson Blu  
 201 5th St N Fargo  
 701-232-7363  
 \$184

Historic Hotel Donaldson  
 101 Broadway Fargo  
 701-478-1000  
 \$252

Jasper Hotel  
 215 Broadway Fargo  
 844-535-6689  
 \$201

Voted by Conde Nast Top 15 Hotels  
 in the Midwest

**CAMPGROUNDS**

Lindenwood Park and Campground  
 1955 Roger Maris Drive Fargo  
 707-232-3987  
 \$35-50

Red River Valley Fair Campground  
 1805 West Main Av West Fargo  
 701-282-2200  
 \$40

# Rocky Mountain Region Award Application

2025-2027  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Send awards to RMR Awards Chairman to arrive no later than **July 30,2026,**

RMR Awards Chairman:	Chris Martin	402-540-2241
	PO Box 86	<a href="mailto:rmrawards1@gmail.com">rmrawards1@gmail.com</a>
	Friend NE 68359	

Award# \_\_ Award Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of State Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

**Type or print** exactly as name should appear on any award received (name of club, group of clubs, individual, etc)

Number of members of Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. New project: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Beginning date:\_\_\_\_\_ Completion date:\_\_\_\_\_

2. Brief summary and objectives of project:

3. Involvement of club members, other organizations:

4. Project expenses and means of funding:

5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance:

6. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan (does not need to be professionally drawn):

## Photo Contest

Hello Everyone,

Here is the information on the photography contest. We are going to feature different types of gardens. Entries are due on July 30, 2026 and everything will be in digital form. If you have questions, please contact me. Photos are to be sent to [RMRphotos2023@gmail.com](mailto:RMRphotos2023@gmail.com) Please make sure you send in the paperwork that goes with it, too.

Looking forward to seeing many beautiful photos.

Chris Martin  
402-540-2241

Photo Contest

**Rocky Mountain Region Photo Contest Entry Form**  
**Theme: Our Beautiful Gardens**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

**Junk Gardens:**

Picture #1 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Picture #2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Flower or Vegetable Garden:**

Picture #1 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Picture #2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Fairy or Rock Gardens:**

Picture #1 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Picture # 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Image Release Agreement**

By entering this contest, you agree to the terms of this agreement: You grant the Rocky Mountain Region the use of any images that you upload for educational and promotional purposes only on a royalty-free basis and without compensation. Including any reproductions of those images, which are deemed necessary. You will be given full credit for any of your images used for these purposes. You retain your copyright to any images that you upload. You also agree that the images that you upload were captured by you and are your possessions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Photo Contest

**Image Release Agreement** By entering this contest, you agree to the terms of this agreement: You grant the Rocky Mountain Region the use of any images you upload for educational and promotional purposes only on a royalty-free basis and without compensation, including any reproductions of those images, which are deemed necessary. You will be given full credit for any photos used for these purposes. You retain your copyright to any images that you upload. You also agree that you captured the images that you uploaded, and they are your possessions.

**TO REGISTER AND UPLOAD YOUR PHOTOS**, use the email below:

[RMRphotos2023@gmail.com](mailto:RMRphotos2023@gmail.com)

### Scale Of Points

**Conformation/ Interpretation: 20 points** (Does the photo comply with the class title and does the image interpret the theme?)

**Composition: 25 points** (Elements and principles of design are used to define the components of the composition of the photograph)

**Creativity: 25 points** (Expression of the imagination of the photographer)

**Technical Merit 20 points** (Successful use of mechanics of the camera)

**Distinction/Wow Factor: 10 points** (The wow factor; marked superiority in all aspects)

Total Points: **100 Points**