



January – March 2024

Volume 67 – Issue 1 Spring

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

In January, when Nebraska was buried in snow, and we were all “enjoying” the frigid temperatures, I came across this quote: “Anyone who thinks that Gardening begins in the spring and ends with the fall is missing the best part of the year; gardening begins in January with a dream.” I have no idea who said it, but it resonated with me. The quote made me stop and think. What can I do differently this year? I’ve tried to maintain the gardens my mom planted, and unfortunately, I don’t always do a good job. How do I enhance the gardens I already have? What must I do to ensure I include plants native to Nebraska? Should I use plants, or should I try starting the plants from seeds? The questions kept coming, and I didn’t have the answers.

To answer my questions, I started researching. Fortunately, I came across several resources to help me plan. I would like to share two of them with you.

Nebraska Extension's "GRO Big Red Virtual Learning" program.

The lunch series digs into best practices for gardening. This free virtual learning program takes place over lunch hour. This month, I learned a great deal about starting plants from seeds, and although this is a great way to begin your garden, I know I will buy my plants. I know I don’t have the patience to grow them from seeds. These programs are presented monthly. I signed up for the next few months and am excited to learn more about best practices for gardening. The link is <https://hles.unl.edu/grobigred>

Another great resource that I’ve spent hours watching videos is **Backyard Farmer:**
<https://byf.unl.edu/>

There is so much information that helps and supports gardeners, whether you are a seasoned/master gardener or someone like me who is trying to improve my skills.

I've started planning my garden and made goals for what I want to plant to enhance Mom's Garden. I am also working on my state goal of planting plants native to Nebraska.

Moosey, who blogs under Moosey's Country Garden from New Zealand, stated, "We gardeners are always dreaming, changing the seasons in a blink of an eye, filling our dream garden with mature, colorful plants in a wriggle of a nose. We can dream of huge, gargantuan epics and humble little potterings. Our garden dreams keep us going through the meanest winter weather and in the most serious summer slumps." For most of us, dreaming about our gardens and making those dreams come true brings happiness and joy to our families, friends, and the community. Spring is coming, and I hope everyone's dream gardens come true. Thanks for spreading the joy and beauty in your gardens.

Chris Martin
FGCN President
PO Box 86
Friend, NE 68359
Plant Nebraska Native Plants: Preserve our Wildlife's Habitats

Annual State Meeting

SAVE THE DATE: June 7 and 8, 2024 in Kearney, NE

Alice and I are excited about celebrating our 90th year as the Federated Garden Clubs of NE, Inc.

We invite everyone to attend our Annual State Meeting on June 7 & 8 in Kearney, NE. There will be a tour of Yanney Heritage Park on Friday afternoon and the Life Members Banquet on Friday night. We will gather at Harman Park for our business meeting and awards presentations on Saturday. We have planned some great speakers and hope everyone will come and enjoy. We will conclude our meeting by 4:00 pm.

Hotel information is also included on the registration form.

We hope to see everyone in June.

Alice and Chris



**NEBRASKA NATIVE PLANTS
JUNE 7-8, 2024
90TH FGCN ANNUAL MEETING
KEARNEY, NE, at Harmon Park
Registration Form**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone number _____ email _____

Registration for FGCN Members if postmarked by May 15, 2024 -----\$35 _____

Registration for FGCN members if postmarked after May 15, 2024----\$40 _____

Registration Non-members if postmarked by May 15, 2024----- \$40 _____

Registration Non-members if postmarked after May 18, 2024----- \$45 _____

REFUND POLICY: 20-30 days in advance -100%; 15-19 days-75%, 10-14 days-50%; 5-9 days-25%; 4 days or less-no refund

NO MEAL REFUNDS 7 DAYS IN ADVANCE

Friday – June 7, 2024

Plan to Attend

2 – 4 pm Tour: Yanney Heritage Park _____

5:00 pm Social Hour, Alley Rose Restaurant _____

2013 Central Ave.

6 pm Life Member Banquet, Alley Rose Restaurant _____

Order off the menu or there is a buffet...Everyone pays on their own

Saturday, June 8, 2024,

9 to 4 pm **The business meeting starts at 10 am**

12:00 Boxed Lunch from Firehouse Subs----- \$20 _____

Choose one: Boxed Salad lunch with _____ham _____turkey _____tuna

Boxed lunch (including medium sandwich 6-7 inches) chips and pickle

Gluten Free _____

_____ham _____turkey _____roast beef _____pastrami _____tuna _____veggie

TOTAL _____

Special dietary needs _____

All meals include gratuity and tax. **No refunds 1 week in advance.**

Please send the completed registration form and check made payable to **FGCN** to: Chris Martin, P.O. Box 86, Friend, NE 68359

Please check the ones that apply:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State officer | <input type="checkbox"/> District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> National Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Show Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Chairman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Past State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest |

Make your own reservations before **May 17** directly to the hotel listed below or choose another hotel in Kearney at your discretion. When calling, please ask for the Federated Garden Clubs of NE block. Cost is \$74.99 with a 14.24% tax for each night. Rooms are available Thursday through Saturday.

**New Victorian Inn and Suites
903 2nd Avenue
Kearney, NE
308-237-5858**

NEBRASKA GARDEN NEWS

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fgcninc@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

Up Coming Events:

April 1, 2024 State Dues to:
Robbie Kupper
315 east 6th St.
Ogallala, NE 69153

May 1, Submit state award applications to
individual FGCN State Chairs.

June 2-5., Inc. National Convention
Denver, Colorado

June 7-8 90th FGCN Annual Meeting
Kearney, NE

August 30-31 RMR Sioux Falls, SD

September 19, 2024 NGC Fall Board
Meeting St. Louis, MO

Find us on Facebook and on the Web www.federatedgardenclubsofnebraskainc.com

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.

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 of the good life of Nebraska.

YOUTH AWARDS

Sharon Muller from the Plattsmouth Garden Club compiled poems for the Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska's Annual Poetry Contest. Congratulations to 6th-grade student Isaiah Hajek-Jones from St. John the Baptist School. He is the overall poetry winner. Other first-place winners are also recognized.

In The Dead Cold

Nothing vibrant

A shoot pokes out of the snow

New life

Almost spring

Colors all around.

Flowers, trees.

All green

The sun is hot

The water is cool

The green is fading

A leaf falls down...

Getting brisk.

Leaves,

Dry

Crunchy

Not green.

Cold outside

White outside

Dead outside.

In the dead cold

Nothing vibrant

A shoot pokes out of the snow

Green Tree

I see a green tree,
As green as can be.
An on the tree is moss,
As green as can be.
By the flower there is green grass,
As green as can be.
My yard,
As green as can be.

Connor Lane

Grade 3

St. John the Baptist Catholic School
Plattsmouth, NE

Never Doubt Nature

No flaws
Every flower counts
Vines
Every tree is for a reason
Radiant colors
Don't hurt nature
Outside
Unique
Bloom
To be colorful
New blooms
Adventure
To be beautiful
Unique sizes
Road to nature
Every year they're back!

Camryn Hanneman

4th grade

St. John the Baptist Catholic School Plattsmouth, NE

Under a Green World

Here I see gardens and there I see trees
Even under my feet there's green
But what a green world I live in
Even though there's cities
Where green is not a thing.

Lou Gambaiana

5th Grade

Plattsmouth Community Middle School

Plattsmouth, NE

The Great Outdoors

I spy with my little eye, something green outside. The verdant hills of lush grass with dew drops strewn all over each blade. Oh, how I love the stunning flower bushes, how I love the way the refreshing breeze feels on my skin. And the delicious smell of magnolia trees, the beautiful sounds of the birds singing. I spy with my little eye, something green outside. The leaves of the trees dancing in the wind and the grasshoppers hopping around in the grass.

Emma Ging

7th grade

St, John the Baptist Catholic School

SMOKEY BEAR/WOOSY OWL POSTER CONTEST, Alice Hemsath, Chair

All posters from Ogallala Garden Club



First grade, Charles Renfro



Second grade – Ororio Rivas-Torres

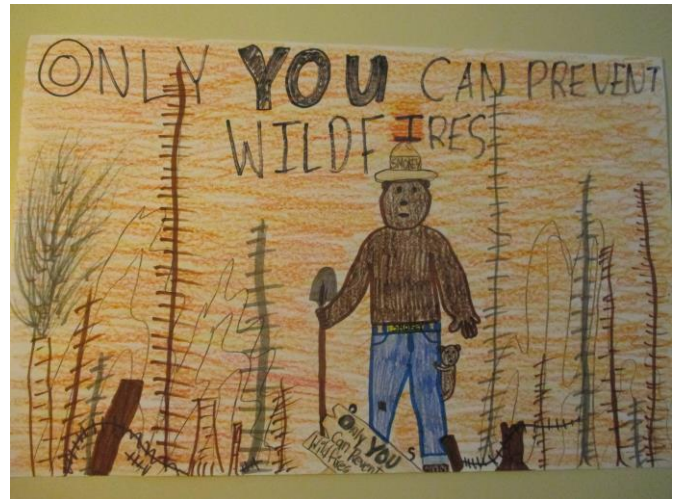
Third grade – Piper Vak



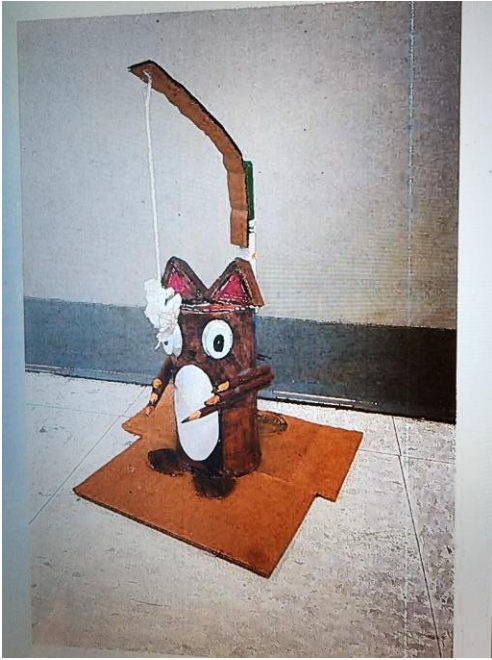
Fourth grade – Ava Nordhausen



Fifth Grade – Frankie Caske



SCULPTURE AWARDS



**The Brown Cat with a toy, Addy Negrete, Grade 5, Plattsmouth Middle School The
Oak Tree with Leaved Branches, Aleah Burton, Grade 6
Plattsmouth Garden Club**



Purple Mallow Poppy which is a native plant of Nebraska. It blooms late spring early summer. This native plant is drought-tolerant perennial.

ROCKY MT. DIRECTOR REPORT – ROBBIE KUPPER

Have you seen “NGC Pathway of Success,” the new link on the top drop-down menu on the NGC website? If you haven’t been to headquarters in St. Louis, MI, you may not be aware that the property borders the beautiful Missouri Botanical Garden. There is no fence dividing the two properties, so visitors often wander onto NGC’s gardens and property.

NGC has recently begun renting their property out for functions – their first event was a wedding.

The “Path of Success” undertaking serves several purposes -- to utilize NGC’s physical assets more fully, to create a new revenue stream, and, most importantly, to educate the public about NGC garden clubs

The project includes creating a 1/4-mile walking path on NGC’s grounds, enabling the Missouri

Botanical Gardens visitors and other members of the public to view NGC’s beautiful gardens and trees, and adding signage to educate visitors about the rich history and purpose of National

Garden Clubs, Inc. You can purchase a paver for the new pathway as an individual or as a club, inscribed with your or your club’s name, etc. For more information visit <https://gardenclub.org/ngc-path-succe>

I am not encouraging or discouraging you to do so; just giving you the information so your state or club can make an informed decision.

NGC Convention in Colorado.

There is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to attend the NGC Convention in Westminster, CO, on June 2-5. Attending the NGC Convention in Colorado is a prequel to the NGC Convention, which Nebraska will host in May 2025 when Donna Rouch will be installed as NGC’s National President. I know several of us will be going to Colorado. I plan to drive, so carpooling is an option. Here is the link to register or see what is on the agenda for the convention. All registrations must be in by May 24.

<https://gardenclub.org/2024-ngc-convention-details>

Hope some of you will consider going.

Chris

FGCN Eastern District Director's Report

February 2024

The Eastern District of the FGCN is getting a good start this new year. Our District includes Elkhorn Valley Garden Club (16 members), Friendly Federated Garden Club (5 members), Plattsmouth Garden Club (30 members), Sunset Hills Garden Club (24 members), Tree City Garden Club (11 members), and 4 at-large members.

Officers:

Director	Julie Lester	Sunset Hills
Assistant Director	Chris Martin	Friendly Federated
Secretary	Verna Headley	Elkhorn Valley
Treasurer	Cheryl Wirth	Tree City

We will be having a Zoom planning meeting this Saturday, February 24th. This will be my first time hosting a Zoom meeting; Chris is helping me along with it, so it will be good! We are using the FGCN Zoom account that you all can take advantage of! Contact Chris Martin to do this.

In our meeting we will be planning our district meeting on June 22nd. We had quite a difficult time finding a date since the NGC (national) and FGCN (state) meetings have been moved to the first two weeks in June this year, and Father's Day and the 4th of July interfere with the other two weekends. Thank you, Lorraine Partick, for setting it up. Plattsmouth will be our Host, Elkhorn Valley will do Decorations and the Head Table, Sunset Hills is responsible for Ways and Means, and Tree City & Friendly Federated will get a Speaker/Workshop for us.

Our clubs have not just shut down for the winter. Plattsmouth Garden Club had a Seed Swap at the Plattsmouth Public Library on January 27th. Sunset Hills Garden Club met and toured the St. Cecilians Flower Show, which is always held the last full weekend of January. (pictures below)

Get those seeds picked out! Get ready for 2024! Have a wonderful spring!

Julie Lester, Eastern District Director



CLUB REPORTS

Plattsmouth Garden Club

Promoting a Seed Swap with the Plattsmouth Garden Club

The Plattsmouth Garden Club (PGC) has planned gardening inspired events for members and guests to promote information and interest in the PGC. The group decided to hold a Seed Swap in January on National Seed Swap Day, a Winter Sowing class in February, a Seed Starting class in March, and a live pruning demonstration by a certified arborist in April of 2024.

The Seed Swap was coordinated and managed by Yolanda Jasso, who is an amazing gardener, artist, and a PGC member. She arranged the use of the Plattsmouth Public Library for the Seed Swap event and designed multiple fliers and announcements for the event. She contacted seed companies including Baker Seeds, Prairie Moon Nursery, and High Mowing Organic Seeds who kindly donated free seeds and catalogs. The PGC group was especially generous with seeds to swap and often packaged them in beautiful hand-made envelopes. The event featured organized seed locations, free catalogs, and information about the Plattsmouth Garden Club. A special bonus for this event was a raffle for a handmade garden hod basket which was filled with seeds and catalogs and gardening implements.

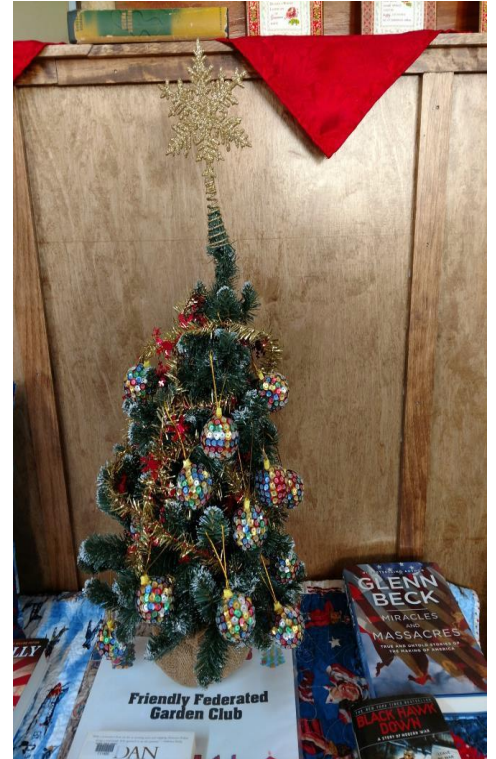
The information about the Seed Swap was shared on several gardening related sites on social media; advertised on the library's public site and in a local media outlet known as the Cassgram. All these different outlets assisted in garnering a great deal of interest in the Seed Swap. The winner of the raffle prize was announced on the PGC Facebook site as another method to keep information about PGC in current news.



On the day of the event, a few people came early and then we were overjoyed to see a steady stream of participants who had seeds to share; and questions and discussions for our group members. We had a total count of about 75 people from multiple cities in eastern Nebraska, including Lincoln and Omaha; they exchanged seeds and learned about PGC. This Seed Swap was a fun-filled celebration by gardeners with many skills and interests and a success for Plattsmouth Garden Club.



Friendly Federated Garden Club



The Friendly Federated Garden Club and Gilbert Library sponsored the Annual Christmas Tree Festival. The Friendly Federated Garden Club started this tradition 39 years ago as an opportunity for the community to participate and enjoy the Christmas Trees. The most viewed tree was the Tree of Remembrance. This tree had nearly 200 ornaments honoring family and friends who passed away. The two trees that the Garden Club donated are below. The Mooses were handmade and are in memory of Gene and Nola Martin. The book representing the tree was *Mooseltoe*. The sequence balls are the ornaments from the Friendly Federated Garden Club. The book representing their tree was *Otto the Ornament*. The community enjoyed the month-long opportunity to enjoy the trees.



Christmas Village Display

CHAIR REPORTS

BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR MEMORIAL- Article 7 – Mary Carlson

A Mystery - It has been said that a Blue Star Memorial once stood at the entry to Mandan Park off South 13th Street in Omaha. It came into disrepair and a maintenance crew took it down and put it into a crew member's storage shed. One day, the Parks Department got a call from a police officer who was investigating a crime and, unrelated to the crime, found the memorial in a storage building. What happened to the memorial after this is unknown. This goes back a few years, so is there anyone who has direct or indirect knowledge of this account? Is this true or a made-up story?? I'm waiting for a response from anyone who may have any memory of this - I have only hearsay to verify the story.

Now for an update on the Gold Star Memorial for Fort McPherson National Cemetery. An application for the installation of the memorial was submitted to the head of Nebraska National Cemeteries. It got approved at state level and is now at district VA office level. Once approved through this Office, it goes to the National VA Office in Washington D.C. When this happens, our congressmen will be notified for assistance in getting a timely approval. When we have that approval, the memorial can be ordered. The cost of installation by a North Platte sign company is \$880 and shipping cost is \$300. We have at present, all but \$380 to pay for completion of the memorial and the installation. A call was made to the Quartermaster of the North Platte Veterans of Foreign Wars. He gave his assurance that he will get the needed money for us. A possibility for assistance comes from two VFW members, retired truck drivers, who have offered to go to the Ohio studio and pick up the memorial when it is ready to ship.

Fund raising for the Blue Star By-Pass Memorial for Omaha Memorial Park is in progress. On January 19, 2024, 200 fundraising letters were sent out to Omaha Memorial Park nearby neighbors. Also, a talk was given to the Dundee-Memorial Park Association. Donations are coming in, and we have enough to cover the cost of the memorial and it is in the process of being ordered; however, we have a way to go to cover the cost of the rock and installation. A meeting was held with the Omaha Parks Architect to discuss placement of the memorial along the Military Memorial Walk in Omaha Memorial Park. Together, we will soon be taking a walk to select the perfect placement. Hopefully, we can complete this project by mid-summer.

An application has been submitted for the Sunset Hills Garden Club to be listed in the Omaha Community Directory. If accepted, grants (up to \$5,000) for Garden Club projects can be submitted to the city of Omaha.

In keeping with our mission, we must not forget maintenance of the present memorials. In the Spring, each memorial needs to be washed with a gentle non-oil soap and a soft brush to get the winter dirt and salt off.

Volunteers are needed for this task. Recommended soaps are like regular Dawn dish washer soap in water. Soap should be pH neutral.

Rod Ruzanic FGCN Inc. Vice President

Just last week, the park called my name on an unusually warm February morning. So the hiking boots got laced up, the jacket zipped, and a cap pulled down over the ears, and a once-daily ritual was reborn. I decided on a two-block warm-up and set my sights on an actual mile walk! Only a few years ago the norm was an easy three to five miles through the park system.

That daily routine had a purpose and beneficial results for me and my two companions. Fresh air, gazing at a new nest in the cottonwood, stretching my still “young-ish” legs, and learning patience while Wolf and Cali diligently inspected each tree trunk along our hiking path. We’d often greet other families on their early morning walks. Regulars like us, or some new jogger with one golden retriever who both enjoyed a short break to say hello. Usually home within an hour; three miles or less is the norm. I guess that’s why the park was reaching out last week. There is a calming comfort in pleasurable remembrance.

Both my friends have moved on to the inevitable. Wolf was 11 years old, and Cali was nearly 15. I planted a tree for each of them. Ashes mixed with potting soil, they are still with me in our yard. This Arbor Day, their fruit trees will be festooned with pear and cherry blossoms, early and columbine tossing colorful bouquets at their feet. By the end of April, most of the fall-planted tulips will also be dancing on slender stems.

Yes, it is the cycle of life. One garden, one shrub, one tree. They all make an important difference. Especially today, we should consider what minimal changes we can make in our own space. Plant a bed or a large portion of your year in “Natives.” Think about which of your selections are compatible with the site and each other. Less lawn and more bird habitat, perhaps. A section for birds and their opportunistic neighbors, the inevitable squirrels, to geed and recharge with fresh water and seeds. For some, a single hummingbird feeder suction-cupped to a kitchen window will suffice.

But for me, it’s more a lifestyle of life cycles that invigorates me. Our Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Forest Service, and the multitude both organizations inspire offered a 10-year goal to encourage Nebraskans to plant one million trees. I remember attending the inaugural meeting in Lincoln and wore out the subsequent tee shirt years ago. So forgive my phrasing, but the idea was “one town, one shovel, one tree at a time.”

Trees are my personal favorites for all they do for the planet. You know about shade and habitat, soil stabilization, and water filtration. All vitally important. Let’s not overlook the manufacturing dynamics. They are producing oxygen, sequestering carbon, and assisting our home to combat global warming.

“I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE EARTH AND ALL THE LIFE WHICH IT SUPPORTS. ONE PLANET IN OUR CARE, IRREPLACEABLE, WITH SUSTANCE AND RESPECT FOR ALL.”

Janina Lamb 1992
Lamb and Lion Studio
LambLionstudio.com 2019 Edition

Scholarship Chair Report: Lorraine Patrick

Scholarship Winner Ryleigh Grove

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce this year's FGCN's \$1,000.00 scholarship winner. And the winner is...Ryleigh Grove from the University of Nebraska Lincoln! Ryleigh is well-deserving of the award having met and exceeded all of the requirements listed to be eligible for the award. Ryleigh graduated in May 2022 Summa Cum Laude from Lincoln North Star High School with a 3.9 non-weighted Grade Point Average. Since that time, Ryleigh has been actively pursuing a degree in plant biology from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Ryleigh has a variety of interests including music and art, but her main focus currently is excelling in her studies at The University of Nebraska Lincoln. In addition to winning the \$1,000 FGCN scholarship, Ryleigh was selected with seven other students to represent Nebraska at the National Corn Growers Association in Washington, D.C. this July. On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, we would like to say "Congratulations" to Ryleigh Grove for being selected to be this year's scholarship winner. We are very happy for her and wish her the best in her educational endeavors!

Lorraine Patrick, Scholarship Chair
Dale Lingren



AWARDS CHAIR: Chris Martin

The Awards handbook and information will be sent to everyone by March 20. All applications will be sent to the appropriate state chairs, and state chairs are asked to send their selections to me by May 20th. Julie Lester, the Photography chair, has this year's rules and categories listed below.

Please take the time to tell your club's story. RMR awards will also be coming out in March. Many categories are the same, so why not submit for both? (Photography rules and categories are different for RMR).

FGCN Photography Award 2024

“Winter, Spring, Summer, & Fall”

RULES: Submit up to 2 images per category by May 1, 2024, with a maximum of 8 photos per person. Upload your images along with a “FGCN Awards Application” for each image and the “Image Release Agreement” below signed (you only need 1 release). Your images should be of high resolution (300 dpi) with a file size of at least 2 megapixels and a minimum dimension of 1600x1200 pixels. Smartphone photos generally are large enough files. The photos must have been taken by the entrant and may have manipulation of the image by the entrant, in camera, and/or in post-processing (like cropping, brightness, etc.). Photos do not have to have been taken this year.

CATEGORIES: This year we are going to celebrate the seasons. What makes you think of each of the seasons? The colors, the flowers, the animals, the light, the images? Use your imagination or if you just see something that makes you think, “Boy, that screams spring”, take a photo and send it in. So, the categories are: 1-Winter 2-Spring 3-Summer 4-Fall.

POINTS: The photos entries will be evaluated by an independent judge on this scale of points:

Conformation/ Interpretation: (Does the photo comply with the class title and does the image interpret the theme?)	20 points
Composition: (Elements and principles of design are used to define the components of the composition of the photograph)	25 points
Creativity: (Expression of the imagination of the photographer)	25 points
Technical Merit: (Successful use of mechanics of the camera)	20 points
Distinction/Wow Factor: (The wow factor; marked superiority in all aspects)	10 points

Total Points: 100 Points

Please submit digital Images, an Awards Application for each, and a Release Form to:

Julie Lester

Photography Chairman
6108 Surrey Hills Drive
Omaha NE 68122-5059
402-571-1274 or cell 402-637-7003
jlester1274@hotmail.com
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 they are your possessions.

Name: _____

Date: _____

FGCN Awards Application – Photography 2024

Award #: 19 Award Name: Photography

Title of Photograph: _____

Photo Category: 1- Winter 2- Spring 3- Summer 4- Fall

Submitted by: _____

(Enter Name exactly as it should appear on any award received)

Address: _____

Phone#: _____

E-mail Address _____

Club Name: _____

Number of Members in Club: _____

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

1. New Project: Yes No Date taken (if known, opt.): _____

2. Brief summary and objectives of project. (Name plant material, location taken, or any other information you want known about photo) (opt.)

3. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:(if applies, opt.)

4. Project expenses and means of funding: N/A

5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance: N/A

6. Attach an awards application to each digital photo to chairman by May 1, 2024.

Submit Electronically to: Photography Chairman

Julie Lester

6108 Surrey Hills Drive

Omaha NE 68122-5059

402-571-1274 or cell 402-637-7003

jlester1274@hotmail.com

Environmental Schools Chair: Chris Martin

I have attached a [brochure](#) from Jim Rouch, NGC Environmental Accrediting Chairman-Deep South and Rocky Mountain Regions, for an Environmental School to be conducted out of St. Louis over four afternoons, March 18-21. Jim states, "Jan Conant and Gloria Whyte do a great job with these ZOOM sessions, which I have attended as a proctor. This is a great opportunity for a student to pick up an ES course or for a consultant to take a refresher course." Personally, I'm excited about having classes online. I'm taking Course 2 in the Environmental School in the middle of March. I have a conflict on March 18, so I can't do this school, but if I didn't, I would have signed up. I hope to one day be able to do an in-person session.

NGC offers several schools. Environmental, landscape design, gardening, flower show, and refresher courses. This is a great way to get ideas for improving our skills and knowledge.

Here is the link to check on what schools are available through NGC.

<https://gardenclub.org/our-schools>



Purple Coneflower



Butterfly Milkweed



Rattlesnake Master

Native Plants for Nebraska