



Rocky Mountain Rambler

Special Edition—Getting to Know Us



Rocky Mountain
Region Newsletter

Directors Message



My name is Margie Soileau, and I am the incoming **Rocky Mountain Region Director**. I am so excited about this volunteer position and am looking forward to visiting and getting to know the garden clubs in the Rocky Mountain Region.

I have lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with my husband, Raphael, and family for 36 years, and I have finally adapted to Xeric gardening. After struggling for many years, I now have perennials, shrubs, and trees, not a blade of grass. I never even knew there were garden clubs until a friend of mine invited me to attend a meeting with her. I immediately felt at home, and the rest is history. I so enjoy the friendships and activities of garden clubs, and the knowledge I have gained is priceless.

During the next two years as RMR Director, my goal is to communicate with all states in the Rocky Mountain Region and learn more about each of the state garden clubs. I invite all garden club Presidents to contact me with any issues, problems, or just for a friendly chat.

My theme for the next two years is "Plant America-Planting in Harmony with Nature." Though I enjoy all types of gardening, the ultimate joy is working with Mother Nature to enhance further and beautify our yards, parks, and forest naturally. I hope to visit with many of you at the RMR Annual Meeting in Kansas and look forward to many new friendships.

Your Friend in Gardening

Margie Soileau

"Planting in Harmony with Nature"

margie@soileau.org



August 2021

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Special points of interest:

- *Meet your Officers & Chairman!*



Rocky Mountain Rambler



Dates to Remember

| <i>DATE</i> | <i>WHAT</i> | <i>WHERE</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| August 27-28, 2021 | RMR Convention | Lake Milford, KS |
| September 22-24, 2021 | National Fall Board Meeting | Via Zoom |
| October 4-6, 2021 | CFGC Flower Show Symposium | Denver, CO |

Getting to know our Region Officers

Secretary & Historian



I've loved plants and gardening for as long as I can remember, and when asked, I say it is truly my passion. As Historian and incoming Secretary, I am happy to be furthering the work of National Garden Club in this region. I have been a garden club member for over 15 years, joining National Garden Club in Cheyenne as a member and later president of Seed & Weed Garden Club. I was Wyoming's State President 2012 – 2014 and truly appreciated National Garden Club's role in gardening worldwide.

Also in 2012, I started Prairie Garden Club with six other founding members as the second garden club in Cheyenne. Prairie Garden Club is still going strong, and I continue as a member. We moved to Utah at the end of 2019, but the pandemic has made it tough to connect with groups in my new community. I love a challenge and have embraced the challenge of gardening in this new environment. Remember, we're never too old to learn new tricks.

Roberta Bolton, Secretary & Historian
Lake Point, UT

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.

Getting to know our Region Officers



Treasurer



Growing up in a farming/ranching family, I'd always been involved in growing and nurturing plants and animals. As a college student, I expanded my knowledge base through classes in range management, botany, & crop science. I've not used those skills in my professional life but certainly have in my own yard and in our garden club projects.

When my friend Barb asked me to come to a garden club meeting nearly 20 years ago, I had no idea that garden club was even a "thing." My own yard sported a variety of plants shared by my mom, aunt and grandmother, but I didn't realize there was a group of women in my community who got together to learn about gardening and did great projects in the community.

Community involvement was expected in our family and had been ingrained in my sisters and me since we were children. Our parents were involved in a variety of organizations and we were 4-H members from the time we could join at 9 years old. Giving back to your community makes you and your community stronger!

One of the best rewards of my time in garden club has not been the gardening knowledge I've learned or even the plants I've shared and received but the friendships I've gained. Life's treasures come in many forms and you gather them as you navigate this crazy world in which we live! What is the best thing that garden club has brought to you?

Lynette Jeffres, Treasurer
Riverton, WY

Parliamentarian



I am back! I know many of you from my past years as parliamentarian and attending RMR events. However, with Covid, we really did not see each other – sure glad that is improving. I am an avid gardener with veggies, fruits and flowers. I love to share plants with friends. I enjoy saving a small seedling to grow into a shrub or plant. My favorite flowers are hydrangea, tuberose and Peruvian summer daffodils, although I have some lovely iris as well many other perennial flowers. I am a "collector" of plants with hops, Joe Pye Weed, blood root, numerous columbines, clematis, coral bells, peonies, etc. I have met very few plants I did not like - maybe purslane!

I am an Extension Master Gardener as well as a member and president of our local garden club in Sioux Falls. I also supervise seven Community Gardens in Sioux Falls. We have over 250 gardeners. It is time-consuming and a lot of work but such a reward to see a new gardener "grow" to love gardening. I enjoy going to the RMR meetings because I meet so many great people and learn from each of them. Everyone has their area of interest and expertise. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this wonderful organization.

Mary Lerssen, Parliamentarian
Sioux Falls, SD

Rocky Mountain Rambler

Getting to know our State Presidents



Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Hello, my name is Nancy Griffin, President of The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs.

I have been a member of the Dig and Dream Garden Club for over seven years now, having served as Dig and Dream President for 2, two year terms.

Since my early childhood, I have been interested in plants. My father was the first one to teach me how to plant flowers, which were marigolds, and I loved helping him.

I am a native of Colorado, and gardening can be a struggle here.

My passion led me to our local newspaper, where I saw an ad for the Club asking people to attend if they were interested.

As soon as I my work scheduled allowed me to (I have been a licensed REALTOR since 2004), I started going to the meetings. At first the business meetings were a bit overwhelming, as our local club has always tried to do many outreach community projects. My favorite part of the meeting though, was when we got to listen to the guest speaker. Topics ranging from soil prep, worm gardens, and how to properly plant tomatoes enticed me to no end.

I finally had a friend of mine (who worked at a local cemetery) make me six 2x4 foot garden beds out of headstone pallets nonetheless, which has allowed me to experiment with different veggies and companion plants.

Garlic was my first experiment, and now I plant a crop every fall.

Gardening gives me a sense of peace and grounding. My world can be very hectic at times, and gardening is my escape.

I am now State President and have some very big shoes to fill from all the wonderful Past State Presidents that have worked so hard to build a solid foundation that helps us continue the work and values that NGC asks us to promote. I am proud and honored to work alongside our members and bring the world of gardening to those that seek it.

Nancy Griffin, President

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

"Garden with Heart, Plant with Purpose, Conserve with Care"



Today is packed with potential!

Yesterday can motivate, and tomorrow can inspire, but today is always the time to make things happen, because dreams don't come true in the future—they come true one today at a time, and every today counts. **Tap the power of now. It works!**

—Taken from Woman's World

Getting to know our State Presidents

Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.



As the 2019-2021 KAGC President, I am carrying on until October when we will be electing a new KAGC President, so until then, the theme is “To Reap the Harvest, First Plant the Seed, for Gardening as Well as for Friendships.” As with gardens, friendships must be nurtured and tended with care.

My goal during my term was to grow our clubs which in turn will expand the interest in pollinators and conservation. Sadly in 2020, this did not happen, but beginning this year things are looking up! We are adding new members and making new contacts. I am sure we will continue to increase our membership and spread our passion.

As a farmer’s daughter, gardening has always been of great interest. Growing up, most of our food came from our own resources. Both my parents enjoyed growing flowers as much as vegetables so we had not only food for the table but also flowers for the beauty and soul. During the summer months there were always cut flowers in our home. This has led me to expand my interest to arranging. In 2019 and prior to the shutdown, I managed to take FSS I & II. This year I continued with III and in October IV. I have used what I’ve learned as one of the volunteer arrangers at Botanica the Wichita Gardens.

Maxine Wells, KAGC, President

“To Reap the Harvest, First Plant the Seed, for Gardening as Well as for Friendships”.



Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Gardening has always been a part of my life. My parents were avid gardeners sharing with me their experiences and plants. My wife and I garden on one acre in Missoula, Montana. We have what I would call a hybrid English-style garden. We have no grass. The garden is organized in rooms, with each having a featured plant theme with boxwood hedges and topiary. We have an Asian-style tea house and a lath begonia house. One of the features of the garden is our dovecote of white pigeons.

I became interested in the garden club in 1993 when I served as the first president of the Missoula Garden Club. I was member of the year in 1999 and member of the court of honor for NGC the same year. I have been the superintendent of the floriculture building at the Western Montana Fair since 1995. Active in the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs I have served in many capacities. I am a master NGC judge. I have chaired the Judges Council, two-state conventions, four flower schools, three symposiums and one Rocky

~~ cont’d

Rocky Mountain Rambler

Getting to know our State Presidents

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.~~ cont'd



Mountain Regional Meeting. I am now the President-elect of Montana Federation of Garden Clubs. In September, I will assume my office. My theme is “Building Community through Gardening”.

When traveling through Montana in June, I was made aware of the extent that the clubs are integrally involved with their communities. The members share their love of nature in many ways. Maintaining public parks, flower beds around public buildings, landscaping Blue and Gold Star markers, revitalizing small town business districts are just a few of the activities of the clubs. A sense of community and sharing of their gardening knowledge is a common thread throughout the state.

As president, I want to acknowledge the service the clubs are doing hence my theme “Building Community through Gardening.”

Jim Sadler, President

“Building Community through Gardening”



Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska



It is an honor and pleasure to be part of the Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc. My theme is “Growing and using herbs in Nebraska and my project is “Container Gardening Growing Herbs” .

At this time, Nebraska has 13 garden clubs affiliated with FGCN, Inc. and a little over 200 members. Our goal is to add at least two more garden clubs throughout Nebraska and, of course, more members.

My executive team and I are very excited and enthusiastic to be here for 2020-2023.

Robbie Kupper

President, FGCN

“Growing and Using Herbs in Nebraska”



Everybody
smiles in
the same
language!

I have always said, you should learn something new every day.

Unfortunately, many of us are at that age where what we learn today, we forget tomorrow.

But, give it a shot anyway



Rocky Mountain Rambler

Getting to know our State Presidents

North Dakota State Garden Clubs



Greetings from North Dakota, the Peace Garden State. My name is Linda Anderson, and I am President of the North Dakota State Garden Clubs. I am a retired administrative assistant who worked 41 years at my local public health department.

I am a widow, blessed to have my two grandchildren live eight blocks away, and I am an active member of the Fargo Garden Society. Both perennial and vegetable gardens grace my yard. Besides gardening, I love overseas travel.

One of my goals for the next year is to install one more Blue Star memorial in North Dakota.

We are also working on actively recruiting more garden clubs to join the North Dakota State Garden Clubs and enjoy the many benefits of being a member of the National Garden Clubs.

Our Bismarck Mandan Garden Club hosted the State Annual Meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota on Saturday, August 14 at the Eagles Club Mandan. We toured their eight public garden projects after our business meeting and program.

Linda Anderson. President“

“The Grass Isn’t Always Greener, Plant in North Dakota”

North Dakota State Garden Clubs



South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs

Thelma Busk

"Dirty Hands, Good Life"

412 E 9th St., Dell Rapids, SD 57022

dakfayepri@santel.net

Amazing sights and things

to do in

South Dakota



Pictures taken from:
<https://www.travelsouthdakota.com/trip->

Rocky Mountain Rambler

Getting to know our State Presidents

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



My theme is the same as last year, “Gathering Friendships thru Gardening.”

I have been in Riverton Garden Club since 2004, when Barb Yates invited me. I have enjoyed traveling to NGC Convention in Rhode Island and to RMR and State convention many times. I enjoy being involved in the community and meeting many new people. I look forward to another two years of these fun times.

Shirley Pursel

WFGC, President

“Gathering Friendships thru Gardening”

Our National Garden Club President—**Mary Warshauer**



Plant America: Play Outside--A Playground of Possibilities*

Nature’s splendor provides us with vast and extraordinary beauty – and similar challenges. When we pause to notice insects buzzing, trees swaying in the wind, the rhythms of ocean waves, or the night sky of twinkling stars, Nature’s melodies become a source of strength and renewal – and certainly never more than over the last year. Our imaginations are unleashed into a playground of possibilities as we enjoy the boundless wonders of the outdoors.

However, our treasured natural resources need protection and restoration. NGC is dedicated to preserving our earth’s natural resources through our communities’ civic beautification and our environment’s conservation. We must continue to raise awareness to safeguard what we hold dear. Each time we share our members’ knowledge and talents in a hands-on community project, NGC has the chance to create long-lasting relationships that will support the environment and enhance our communities.

NGC encourages a wide variety of projects that preserve, protect and restore the environment within our communities. It is this dedication and passion that have enabled us to embrace virtual platforms for communication and education. Utilizing virtual platforms has created the opportunity to engage membership and broaden our audience, which has truly allowed our community to blossom. NGC will continue to engage and educate through virtual means to promote its mission, grow its membership and engage new communities. The possibilities are endless.

We will consider the future, set challenging goals and have the determination to achieve them. Our shared passion enhances the enjoyment of learning from and interacting with our beautiful planet.

After all, playing outdoors is what gardeners do best!

*Taken from NGC website



Rocky Mountain Rambler

Getting to know our State Presidents

The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.



Hello, my name is Mary Hogan Holley, and I am excited to be serving as Utah's Garden Club President. I have a lot to learn, this being my first foray into the State and National stage of Garden Clubs. I began my Utah garden life as a young student and graduate of Utah State University's Plant Science and Horticulture class. After graduation I moved to Park City, at the time a sleepy little ski town. That was 1976. A short time later, I began my career in cut flowers and plant care in a business called Mountain Flora. We created flowers for ski lodges, hotels, restaurants, and planters and plant care in private homes. Mostly, we did a lot of weddings! I retired in January of 2020. Just because, not because of COVID. It was a good decision.

My husband Glenn and I have always enjoyed outside activities. Now we have more time for skiing, hiking, camping and biking. In 1988 the Park City Garden Club was created by Sally Cousins Elliot. I became the first President, while balancing full-time life/ work/club and a 6-month old son. My one and only, Harrison Hogan Holley. It was a tradition after that. Because we were a young club, it seemed every new President had a baby or twins. Sally made us part of The National Garden Club, and I have to confess I never understood why? We paid the extra \$'s every year and once in awhile the current President would venture down to the Garden Center for a meeting in Sugar house Park. Now I am going to learn and live the why and how these dues count!

Our club in Park City is 33 years old, now an older club. We are always searching for younger members. We still meet monthly for a fun social and garden-centric speakers, tours and projects. Our theme is "Through garden tours and wildflower walks we plan to educate our members and encourage the enjoyment of gardening." My goal for these two years is to try and get another club started in the state to add to Utah's roster. One of those clubs that pay "mysterious" dues to National.

I am looking forward to The Flint Hills Splash and meeting everyone. Utah will be hosting the 2022 regional, so I will be asking questions and soaking up all your ideas and advice.

Thanks again to Connie MacKay of the neighborhood Garden Club for assisting with the school kids and the Smokey The Bear contest in a challenging year. Utah had four regional winners and two National! At this writing, the Garden Center still stands in Sugar House Park, unchanged and beginning to be used by clubs and hosting events for public paying groups. No further renovation or repurposing is on the radar, yet.

Mary Holley, President UAGC
"Play and plant in Utah Wisely"
mountainflorautah@gmail.com



Rocky Mountain Rambler

Getting to know our Regional Chairman

Awards, Michele Gustin



As a full-time florist and enthusiastic life-long Gardener, I am a native of Colorado and a member of Garden Clubs for over ten years. I will be serving as 1 CFGC Awards and Historian , Flower Show Judge, Community Outreach and Educational Scholarship Chairman of Dig and Dream Garden Club, along with serving as President of Floral Art Study Club.

Michele Gustin, Awards Chairman

Birds, Audrey Coyle



RMR Bird Chairman, NGC Trees and Shrubs Chair, Each One Plant One Chairman and Colorado State CFGC Butterfly and Blue Star Chair.

My Grandmother first got me interested in gardening by letting me help her plant her tulip bulbs, telling me how they will appear magically next spring!

I have since been in a Garden Club for 35 years in three different states and still enjoy my garden club friends and experiences, and the many positions I have held.

Garden Club has made my life a beautiful memory. My youngest son of three, and I have a lifetime love of birds, especially our Hummingbirds and Raptors. I enjoy reading about all kinds of info and especially Nature and this beautiful Garden Earth!

During Mary Warshauer's 21-23 administration, I will be NGC's "Each One Plant One" Chairman. You will all be hearing often and more info from me for this Tree Planting initiative.

Audrey Coyle, Bird Chairman



Blue Star, Joyce Hendricks



In 2000 I joined the Thumb R Green Garden Club in Billings, Montana, having been invited to join by my friend, Shirley Spildie who was a National Flower Show Instructor. Since I was working at the time, I attended sporadically. In 2010 when I did retire, I was glad to have joined the club. The programs and members were all very helpful as I began to garden more earnestly. Shirley invited me to attend Flower Show School I and I was hooked. Since then, I have completed the Flower Show Schools and enjoy participating in flower shows throughout the state.

In 2017-2019 I was honored to serve as the President of the Montana Federation of Garden Clubs. In that position, I traveled the state and meet many of the state's members.

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Getting to know our Regional Chairman



Blue Star, Joyce Hendricks ~ ~ cont'd

I love to grow vegetables and flowers at my home and help the club with their projects around town. We plant and take care of flower beds at the fairgrounds and at the park where our Blue Star Highway Marker is located.

In 2020, I took on the challenge of the state Landscape Design Committee. We were able to have Course I in September with 15 people attending. Course II is planned for this September. Hopefully, we will be able to offer the last two courses as well.

I look forward to serving as the Rocky Mountain Region Blue Star Memorial Chair over the next two years.

Joyce Hendricks, Blue Star Memorial



Butterflies, Margaret Straley



Everyone has a story. Margaret Straley has quite a history with National Garden Clubs! She became a state president just four months after joining the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs in 2005. It was at that time she learned about the plight of the Monarch butterflies and has had a passion for them ever since.

Her other passions (most people call them hobbies) include sewing, crafts and gardening. She goes in full speed ahead, gardening season is April to October, and sewing season is the other half of the year.

She has created some very unusual projects. Everyone says, “we always do it this way.” She says that is not working so let’s try something new! You cannot be with her and stay inside the box. Life is short—get out of the box and be different.

Born in garden zone three learning to garden in zone four was not so much a challenge as was getting the seeds started in the planters too early. The craft room was turning into the plant room and then the weather outside was ready for the early sprouts! Being a night owl, gardening went on until wee hours of the night sometimes -just because they invented bug spray!

Margaret has served as state president, two terms, state secretary, three terms, state Chairman for Blue Star Memorials several terms. Her time serving Rocky Mountain Region includes Blue/Gold Star Memorial Markers chairman and Butterfly Chairman and Regional Secretary. She represented the Region at National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention as Nominating Committee Delegate as well.

She is busy but has time to volunteer for the local nursing home, Toy Lending Library and Sioux Valley Genealogical Library.

~ ~ cont'd

Getting to know our Regional Chairman

Butterflies, Margaret Straley ~~ cont'd



If you believe in the mission of NGC, Inc. be a volunteer in your community garden club! The possibilities are awesome!

Margaret Straley, Butterflies

Facebook & Co-Editor, Phyllis White



Phyllis grew up in Pennsylvania, enjoying gardening in her mother and aunt's flower and vegetable gardens. Mowing the lawn with a hand push mower and clipping the hedges with tiny garden shears instilled a love for landscaping at an early age. Over the past 24+ years, she's belonged to three garden clubs in Montana, forming one of them in a neighboring town.

Because of the short growing seasons, Phyllis has a greenhouse crammed with tomatoes and an ever-enlarging succulent collection. She grows and preserves apples, cherries, raspberries, and chokecherries. She is a long-time volunteer for the Gallatin Rest Home Auxiliary and has served on a local Bozeman park board for over 20 years. Phyllis and her husband have one daughter and three active grandchildren living close by.

She's a former Montana State President and developed and maintained the state website for 16 years, and now serves as the parliamentarian, mentoring/personnel/protocol chairman, and advisory council. As an accredited flower show judge, she was honored to judge the Philadelphia Flower Show and the first NGC virtual flower show. Phyllis has served as editor of The Rambler, RMR webmaster, and alternate director during Darlene Skari's term. At National Garden Clubs, she was editor of Keeping in Touch for six years, registrar for the 2010 NGC Fall Board in Montana, RMR nominating committee representative, 2020 website development chairman, and coordinator for all the communication committees. She now serves on the Executive Committee as the NGC Historian and is the Media Coordinator.

Phyllis White, Facebook

Flower Show Schools and Symposiums, Jim Sadler



Gardening has always been a part of my life. See page six for bio.

Getting to know our Regional Chairman



Invasive Species, Alice Hemseth



I have served in many capacities within garden club; Past Nebraska president, past State treasurer, past state secretary, current district director, current club president, horticulture chairman for state. Days are also filled helping as a volunteer at Frank museum, women's club and church prayer garden for landscape maintenance. I taught at 2-year college for 30 years, and work with extension for eight years. Now retired?

Alice Hemseth, Invasive Species

Membership, Shirley Pursel



“Gathering Friendships thru Gardening” See page 10 for bio

Penny Pines, Del Hemseth



Past Nebraska president, past state treasurer, past state secretary, current district director, current club president, horticulture chair for state, volunteer at Frank museum, women's club and church prayer garden for landscape maintenance are a few of many areas I have been involved in as a garden club member. I also taught at a 2-year college for 30 years, and worked at extension for eight years. Now retired?

Del Hemseth, Chairman

RMR Rambler, Joanne Jeffres, Editor



A small division of an old-fashioned bleeding heart more than 70 years ago was my introduction to gardening. My parents divided their large bleeding heart and gave my sister and me a “chunk” to put in our “own flower garden”! What a gift they gave us!

Beautiful green yards and lots of flowers have always caught my eye. It wasn't until I was married that I really took on the challenges of gardening and everything that comes with the “beautiful green yard and lots of flowers”. Wow, the old adage that there's a callused palm with every green thumb, is so very true.

When my daughter, Lynette, asked me to go to garden club with her about 18 years ago, I did, and I was hooked. I found a diverse and wonderful group of women. ~~ cont'd

Getting to know our Regional Chairman

RMR Rambler, Joanne Jeffres, Editor ~~ cont'd



The sharing of knowledge, camaraderie, and a chance to participate in the projects really interested me. I knew it would be a wonderful way to give back to my community.

After my first trip to the Rocky Mountain Region convention, I was asked if I would serve as editor and prepare their newsletter. I said “I’ll try” and I guess you are stuck with me. Lol

Please encourage everyone in your organization(s) to do just a little and together, the group can accomplish great things—one project at a time.

Joanne Jeffres, RMR Editor

Smokey Bear-Woodsy Owl, Connie MacKay



My name is Connie. I was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Utah in 1970 to teach the hearing impaired and have lived here ever since.

I love gardening, children, nature, and our planet. So joining ranks with Smokey Bear-Woodsy Owl just seemed natural for me.

If you are ever looking for me in Salt Lake City, check out the local gardens, the zoo or a mountain trail in the Wasatch Range. I will be the one smelling the flowers or photographing a pretty cloud or an interesting insect.

Connie MacKay, Smokey Bear-Woods Owl

Wildflowers & Native Plants, Pamela Graves



I’ve been the Native Plants Chair for the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs for the past ten years. I’m a Colorado native and have always believed in using native plants in gardens and landscaping.

In my garden, I’ve allowed yarrow, penstemon, and other natives to seed and spread and have added wild roses, which do not require water yet have happily gotten out of hand.

Pamela Graves, Wildflowers & Native Plants



Getting to know our Regional Chairman

Xeriscape Gardens, Doris Duckworth



Having grown up in the Midwest, I expected great soil and plentiful rainfall in Colorado. What a surprise when at least 50% of my plants died the first year. Not wanting to give up on gardening, I enrolled in the Master Gardener Program through the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.

Fifteen years in the C.S.U. Master Gardener Program taught me that I couldn't grow everything I had grown in the Midwest. However, the good news was that there were less pests in the West! It seemed like a good trade-off---less pesticides, but more water and compost.

So my passion for gardening then became a quest to find a better variety of flower or vegetable---and then a desire to judge them! So I became an NGC Flower Show Judge in 2002 and have been judging at Standard Flower Shows and county fairs ever since. My favorite flower is the tall bearded iris! If I am not outside gardening, I am at a lake or at our camp in the mountains!

Doris Duckworth, Chairman

Whipped Cinnamon Pumpkin Butter Make it ahead!

Whipped Cinnamon Pumpkin Butter is bursting with fall flavors and perfect on bread, muffins, pancakes, waffles, and just about anything else!



Ingredients

- 2 sticks (8 ounces) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg (optional)
- Pinch salt
- 1/ cup plus 2 tablespoons pure pumpkin puree
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

1. In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat the butter until light and fluffy. Add the cinnamon and 1 tablespoon of the pumpkin puree. Beat until very well combined. Continue beating, gradually adding the remaining pumpkin puree, until completely incorporated. Add the honey and vanilla and beat until thick and fluffy, about 2 minutes.

Serve or store in the fridge in an airtight container. Bring to room temperature before using.

Recipe Notes

If you use fresh pumpkin puree, make sure it's not too watery. If it has a lot of extra moisture, wrap in cheesecloth and squeeze out the excess water.

Taken from: <https://handletheheat.com/whipped-cinnamon-pumpkin-butter/>



Rocky Mountain Region Officers 2021-2023

| Office | Officer | E-mail |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Region Director | Margie Soileau 855 Freemantle Dr. Colorado Springs, Co 80920 | "Planting in Harmony with Nature" margie.rmrdirector@gmail.com 719-648-8025 |
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RMR State Presidents 2021-2023

| | |
|--|---|
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| <p>Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc. Maxine Wells "To Reap the Harvest, First Plant the Seed, for Gardening as Well as for Friendships". 814 N Mission Rd., Wichita, KS 67206 Bwells21@cox.net 316-393-6950</p> | <p>South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs Thelma Busk "Dirty Hands, Good Life." 412 E 9th St., Dell Rapids, SD 57022 dakfayepriims@santel.net 605-999-3523</p> |
| <p>Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Jim Sadler "Building Community through Gardening" 1220 Clements Rd., Missoula, MT 59804-2908 Jimsadler1220@gmail.com 406-728-4743</p> | <p>The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc. Mary Holley "Play and plant in Utah Wisely" mountainflorautah@gmail.com 435-640-4171</p> |
| <p>Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska Robbie Kupper "Growing and Using Herbs in Nebraska" 315 East 6th Street, Ogallala, NE 69153 fgcninc@gmail.com 308-289-6051</p> | <p>Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc Shirley Pursel "Gathering Friendships thru Gardening" PO Box 6105, Riverton, WY 82501 shirleypursel@yahoo.com 307-851-2966 (c)</p> |

Rocky Mountain Region Chairman* 2021-2023

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|--|--|---|
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| Membership | Shirley Pursel, Riverton, WY | shirleypursel@yahoo.com |
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| RMR Award of Excellence for Regions | Margie Soileau, Colorado Sp., Co | margie.rmrdirector@gmail.com |
| RMR Newsletter Co-Editors RMR Rambler | Joanne Jeffres, Riverton, WY Phyllis White, Bozeman, MT | rmrrambler@yahoo.com gardens@bresnan.net |
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