

# Rocky Mountain Rambler

## Greetings from your Director



The accomplishments and creativity of your garden clubs and chairmanships was very encouraging to read in the last Rambler! When we are faced with challenges, we learn to adapt and think of new ways of doing things.

I congratulate those who received awards and recognition for their efforts! I also congratulate all those who quietly continued on. We can all learn from the determination to keep going. I think we've all gained a greater appreciation for the need for human connection and support from each other.

We mourn the losses along the way! There has been passing of some dedicated garden club friends who left lasting impressions on our hearts. They will be greatly missed but always remembered. Even some garden clubs "fought the good fight" but have succumbed to the strain of current events.

May we soldier on! Reach out for encouragement, suggestions, new ideas!

Learn to rise as the Phoenix from the ashes. Many have embraced virtual meetings through Zoom and other platforms. Someone very knowledgeable and eager to teach and help you is:

Cherie Lejeune in Virginia  
LaTripp24@gmail.com  
203-400-3668

~cont'd

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### Special points of interest



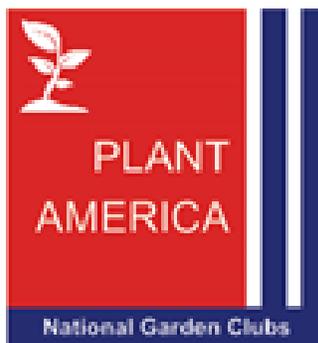
Celebrating Winter in the Rockies  
History of Fort Riley  
In Memoriam



**Rocky Mountain Rambler** is the Official Publication of the Rocky Mountain Region Garden Clubs. Issues available at our Region's **Website:**  
<https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/>

### 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**

## Greetings from your Director ~~cont'd

National Garden Clubs has resources to assist you. I'm impressed with their many efforts to communicate with the membership. The improved website [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) is full of information. They welcome phone calls as well 314-776-7574.

Thank you so much for being the sunny spot in my winter garden!

**Darla Anderson, RMR Director**

**"The Grass isn't always greener; *Plant America's Dream in your own Backyard!*"**

## Upcoming Conventions



**NGC Convention: May 17-20, 2021**, installation Convention. You can attend this **convention virtually**. Find information on the NGC website. <https://www.gardenclub.org> Check it out!!

**RMR Convention: August 27-28, 2021, Lake Milford, Kansas**

Registration forms will be in the May issue of the Rambler.  
Check out the article on page 16-17 concerning Ft. Riley, KS

## zoom — What is it??



### What is this thing called Zoom, and why is everybody using it?

Zoom is a digital video program used to meet when we can't get together because of health, safety, or long distances. Perhaps your state garden club will purchase an annual membership that is shared by every club. At present, **Montana, Colorado, and Wyoming Federations have Zoom memberships** shared with their clubs. It costs about \$150, unless the account is registered as a 501(c)3 through a non-profit organization called **Tech-Soup, resulting in substantial savings**.

Purchase of a **Zoom Pro membership** allows unlimited meeting time and up to 100 participants. One person in the state schedules the meetings so they don't overlap. Schedule a meeting any time of the day or night. Otherwise, individual, free accounts for anyone are available. However, the meeting time is limited to 40 minutes. All members wishing to use the application should download it from [zoom.com](http://zoom.com) by registering their name and email address. Use a personal computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone with a microphone and a camera installed.

A Zoom Pro account requires the account have one host (scheduler) who receives your request for a meeting on a specific day and time. The host will send you an electronic invitation via email that you send to the people you wish to attend the Zoom meeting. For security, the invitation link should not be published in the paper or any other public area, such as posters or Facebook pages. On the appointed day and time, everyone signs in to the Zoom link that appears on the invitation. The club can invite a speaker to present a program via Zoom, too.

~~ cont'd



Remember, an experienced older person can manage to Zoom if a 12-year-old kid can do it. Each club may want to run a practice Zoom meeting to work through your members' bugs and questions. The beauty of this program is that your garden club friends will help you sign in, adjust the microphone and camera, and catch up on what's happening. **It's fun to see friends** – schedule time before starting the official meeting for your members to network about how they're doing and how their garden is growing! You can use your individual account to visit with your family and friends, too.

Feel free to email me with your questions.

Phyllis White, [gardens@bresnan.net](mailto:gardens@bresnan.net)  
NGC Non-Print Media Coordinator



## Ramblings from our Region



This publication belongs to you, the members! I have added a new section called **“Ramblings from our Region”**. If **any of you** (members, chairman or officers) have a great garden picture, garden tips, recipes, craft ideas, a funny or embarrassing garden story, pollinator tips or other interesting facts, please send it to me. They don't need to be long or complicated. We'll use the **Goldilocks' format--“Just the right size”**. Please submit your “Rambling to the [rmrrambler@yahoo.com](mailto:rmrrambler@yahoo.com) e-mail address.

Joanne Jeffres, Rambler Editor

## Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Happy New Year! The holidays have left us, and I feel 2021 will bring all of us a better year. Social distancing is still happening and has become the norm. We now search for decorative, funny, and safe masks to wear. Yes, it is a different life we are experiencing. Communication is the biggest challenge we all face. Socialization during this pandemic has replaced person interactions with email, phone calls, and virtual communication. Zoom is the favorite in Colorado for virtual meetings. Other garden clubs are using Go to Meetings, Google Meet, and Microsoft Team.

I miss the in person contact and, most of all, the hugs. I hear this phrase quite often from my garden club friends. Email is the most often used daily along with face time. I recently polled some of the garden clubs in Colorado to see how the clubs are keeping in touch with their garden members. It was a delight to know phone calls, cards, and written notes is another favorite way to keep up with others.

Though Winter is here to stay for a while longer, I already feel the promise of a happy, fun, and enjoyable year interacting with garden clubs in whatever way is possible. My best wishes to everyone for a happy and creative garden year.

**Margie Soileau, President**

**“Plant, Beautify and Protect Colorado”**

## Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.



Like so many, I was ready for 2020 to come to an end and with the new year came a beautiful blanket of fresh snow. As you can see from our Kansas winter pictures, not only was it beautiful but it was as if we were entering into the New Year with a clean fresh start!

Catalogs are arriving and although it's too early to plant, I've been checking my Hellebores for buds, lots of new leaves but thus far no buds. However, as with most gardeners there is much hope and anticipation of what's to come!

Here's wishing each and everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year!

**Maxine Wells, KAGC President**

**"To Reap the Harvest, First Plant the Seed, or Gardening as Well as for Friendships"**



## In Memoriam

It is with a heavy heart that I relay the passing of Kit Carlsen, Lawrence KS, on Dec. 26, 2020, at the age of 96. Words cannot adequately describe what Kit meant to KAGC, RMR and NGC, but here are some highlights.

Kit was a charter member of Prairie Acres Garden Club founded in 1958 and federated in 1959. She served as president of Prairie Acres (three times) and of KAGC (1989-91). For 14 years (before the magazine went digital) she edited and mailed (in itself a huge job!) the *Kansas Gardener*. In that capacity she had her finger on the pulse of all things KAGC and was, in effect, our unofficial historian. She was instrumental in revising the *KAGC Manual* four times.

Kit was extremely civic minded. She planted wildflowers along the Kansas River, helped Girl Scouts earn gardening badges, landscaped the grounds of Haskell Indian Nations University and the University of *Kansas* Audio Reader gardens, and gave design workshops for nursing home residents.

She held board positions at the regional level: Publicity Chm., Judges Council Chm. (twice) and Editor of the RMR *Directory* (twice).

In recognition of her long-time service to KAGC and RMR, she received the NGC Member Award of Honor bestowed at the 2006 RMR Convention in Denver.

Kit loved flower shows. For 11 years she chaired the annual Daffodil Show (as well as six Standard Flower Shows held in conjunction with the Flower, Lawn & Garden Show) until she was no longer able to *schlep* around the eight-foot tables.

Her extensive yard was filled with daffodils and hostas, two of her favorite plants. I never saw a plant label in her landscape, yet she could tell you the cultivar name of every plant there.

She was probably the most knowledgeable and kind flower show judge Kansas has ever had. She attended symposiums almost yearly and quickly achieved Master status. She chaired judges' councils for both KAGC and RMR, and was chairman of three symposiums. She mentored new *designers* and judges and was an inspiration to all who loved gardening and design.

A few days before her death, a friend brought her a bouquet of flowers from the grocery store. After the friend left, Kit, with the help of her daughter, turned the "bouquet" into a "design." Typical Kit. Submitted by – Karen Booker

## Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



The Montana Federation of Garden Clubs Executive Committee has been meeting via Zoom to conduct business for our state. It is nice to see the team and we do get things accomplished in these difficult times. We are discussing how to proceed with our upcoming District meetings, scheduled for April and our Convention which is supposed to take place in June. I am scheduled to get my Covid vaccination next week so I am hopeful things will get better with more people getting vaccinated.

Winter is here in Eastern Montana but is sure does not seem like it. We have had 40 and 50 degree weather lately along with horrible strong winds the past couple days. The winds knocked down power lines and started a prairie fire 20 miles north of us that burned 3,000 acres. Thankfully, no buildings were lost, but such crazy weather. We do need some moisture, so we hope and pray we get some soon. Nice spring rains would be so welcome.

I participated in a NGC Zoom meeting the first week of January and it was nice to see a few of our RMR people on there. I did sign up for the Michigan Lunch and Learn Tech series and hope to learn more information from that.

My local president and I met last week and worked on our club's yearbook. We are looking forward to holding face to face meetings in the near future. Not being able to hold face to face meetings has been hard on our Montana Clubs. We are worried about losing members. How about you other states? Any ideas on keeping our clubs vital and interested in maintaining membership?

I have been spending these winter hours perusing all the seed catalogs that have arrived in the mail. I ordered my tomato seeds and cucumber seeds last week with my husband's prompting. He thinks the seeds we want will be sold out if I don't order early. I am also starting my amaryllis bulbs. I have five of them planted and will start another five next week. That way I stagger the bloom time and get to enjoy them longer. One of them is up about a foot tall with a flower stalk already. I love watching them grow. Hope to have blooms by Valentine's Day.



Looking forward to spring flowers and face to face meetings.

**Sherry Corneilusen, MT President**

**"Bloom Where you are Planted"**



*Celebrating winter in the Rockies*



Winter can be such a beautiful time of year. All eight state presidents were asked to submit photos taken by themselves or anyone in their respective state club(s) to be displayed in this issue of the Rambler.

Each photographer is given credit for their photo. I just thought it would be fun to see our **Rocky Mountain winter** from several perspectives. Photos submitted are shown throughout this issue. Thank you to everyone that sent in photos!

Joanne Jeffres, Rambler Editor



## North Dakota Garden Clubs, Inc.

### Greeting from the Peace Garden State of North Dakota

Zoom is definitely going to become our best garden friend in the beginning of this year of Covid-19. It is nice to see that our garden friends are doing and we are all dreaming about how to rearrange our gardens in the spring and summer.

North Dakota is usually very cold in January but we have had unusually warm weather this year. Now the weatherman just predicted we will need our better coats soon. This picture of frost is beautiful. Yes, I went outside in my winter pajamas and my winter coat to get this picture. I promise no one in my neighborhood noticed the crazy garden lady except the rabbits and crows.



Joanne Jeffres challenged us to send pictures, so here are two planters I did. If she keeps asking, I will start bragging about my beautiful grandchildren and boring her with multiple pictures of them. These planters would not win any prizes but when a five-year old helps you just go with the flow as a grandmother. You know grand-kids can do nothing wrong.



Oh dear, what would Joanne think--I almost forgot to send everyone this picture. The story behind this one is that is the only bulb left after a very windy day in North Dakota. The other five bulbs probably blew across the river to Minnesota.

**Linda Anderson, President**

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



## South Dakota Garden Clubs, Inc.



2020 was the year that should not have been!!!!!! .South Dakota has had as tough a time surviving the vicious virus as the rest of the nation. We lost a Club, however, we gained a new one at Kimball. We are very happy to welcome them. At a time of new beginnings, it is refreshing to hear that many people are excited about gardening and are asking our clubs for advice and assistance.

My term will end at the end of May and Thelma Busk of Dell Rapids will begin her term June 1st. We wish her much success and desire to support her in every way. I am so grateful for the support I received during my 2 terms.

Our Clubs are preparing to get ready for springtime gardening joy, no matter what the future holds, we can still grow and show others the benefit of loving the outdoors.

Be sure to encourage your Clubs to help students to apply for the scholarships from National.

**Virginia Sandmeier**

**“Plant America, The Healing Power of Gardening”**



## Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.

Greetings from Utah, where our state slogan used to be “The Greatest Snow on Earth.” This year, unfortunately, the phrase does not apply. Even in mid-January, there isn’t a single flake of snow in my yard, and the mountains have only half their normal snowpack. I haven’t missed shoveling the white stuff, but our water supply next summer is a real concern.

Our “Each one, plant one” project has been successful in spite of the drought. The native oaks that we planted in a wildlife habitat restoration area were watered by bucket every week last summer, and almost all of them survived, in spite of wind, heat, and an almost complete lack of rain. As for our Garden Center in Salt Lake City, no final decision has been made on its future, so we are still in limbo, but the good news is that we have not been kicked out, and we’ll plan to use it for as long as we can.

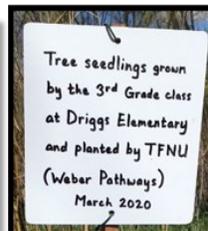
What with winter and the pandemic, most of our clubs have been pretty dormant lately, just like the trees. However, the Utah Rose Society has been meeting online and is planning for an auction in May, a rose show in June, and garden tours in the summer. The Utah Iris Society is also planning to start meeting again in April, and the Park City Garden Club has figured out some creative ways to keep holding most of their meetings while maintaining the appropriate social distancing. How wonderful it will be when we can someday get back to “normal”



Runic letters or Chinese characters? No, - just frosty pine needles on the ground

**"Each One, Plant One" project.** We planted about 25 trees the day that Darla and Robin were there, and another 50 the next week, for a total of 75 Tree shelters (the white tubes) were placed over half of the seedlings and left the other half uncovered, to see whether they would grow better with the shelters. I'll report on the results of that next year.

1. Explanatory sign.
2. Robin and Darla Anderson
3. Planting site in early spring.
4. Oak seedling leafing out.
5. Planting site in late summer.
6. Oak seedling in fall color.



**Geoff Ellis, President, Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.**



## Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

As I look out at the extreme frost on the trees, I am torn between not wanting to be in the cold to being in awe of the beauty I see. I am thinking of spring planning.

This year in the community garden space I use, I will be laying large pieces of cardboard to deter bind weeds. I have used weed mat but it is not as easy to move to new spaces. Someone has started a seed exchange at our city hall building that I have donated to. I am looking forward to garden club meetings when the weather gets warmer. I encourage you to use zoom or google hangouts for face contact when possible. Looking forward to seeing you this summer.

Continue to **“Make Friendships Thru Gardening and Plant America Beautiful”**.

**Shirley Pursel, WFGC President**

## Invasive Species

### INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES – HOW TO CONTROL THEM

#### Part 2

#### Mechanical Control



Mechanical control methods include hoeing, cutting, girdling, tilling, mowing, chopping and constructing barriers using tools or machines. These techniques are most useful in areas with large infestations where terrain does not create safety or equipment issues. Repeated mowing or cutting of invasive plants can weaken the population by depleting root reserves and preventing flowering. But mechanical control is generally most effective when used along with herbicide treatment. Cost is generally low when infestations are small if used with other treatments. Controlling large infestations, especially of woody plants can become labor and resource intensive.

**Cutting/mowing** = best if cut or mowed several times during the growing season especially just before plants flower. Herbicides can be applied to the cut stems or if sprouting occurs. Avoid mowing if seeds have developed to prevent seeds from spreading. Mowing seems to be most effective if done in late April through June.

**Girdling** = Remove the bark and cambium in a ring, 1-2" wide on smaller diameter trees and 6-8", extending entirely around a trunk or stem and cutting in only enough to interrupt the flow of sap. Herbicide can be applied to the wound, but if herbicide is not being used, girdling should be done in early spring. For thick barked trees a chainsaw may be necessary.

I have never had to deal with a large infestation of invasive species but have seen the work required to control Eastern red cedar. **Next time: Chemical control**

**Alice Hemsath, Chairman**

## Plant America



### Plant America with trees— “each one plant one”

With the new adventures of Covid-19, lives have changed. This gives one a chance to be outside more and plant trees for a loved one or even someone that has passed from Covid-19. If each garden club member plants one tree for someone they knew that has passed from the virus, we should make a big difference in our environment. I personally will plant one for my son's father-in-law who fought non-Hodgkin's lymphoma for eight years, but Covid-19 ended his successful fight. It does not have to be a large tree, as the smaller trees can adapt to the location faster than large trees. This summer there should be many, many new trees planted

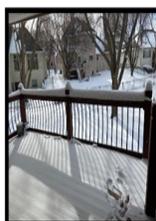
**Bev Heidelberger**

**Plant America, Chairman**



Photos by Sherryl Fitzpatrick, KS

*Celebrating winter  
in the Rockies*





## Penny Pines

Let's hope this year is a much better year than 2020 is many ways, one of which are the fires that decimate our forest lands caused by natural forces or accidental situations or in some cases on purpose by some individuals who have something against nature.

Following are the **most recent donations** to the **Penny Pines program** that were made in the **fall of 2020**.

- ◆ Memory donation by the Soil Sisters and Misters Garden Club, Kearney NE, for Richard Newton, brother of garden club member.
- ◆ South Dakota sent in two plantations for granddaughter of garden club member.
- ◆ Glendive Garden Club donated two plantations and a private donation of 1 plantation.
- ◆ Casper Garden Club sent one plantation in memory of Evelyn Kennedy, past president.
- ◆ Riverton Garden Club sent in two plantations in honor of Sandra Taylor and two plantations from a special club project.



Thanks to all the clubs who keep this National Project in their activities.

The forest is an excellent location to go and set in silence and listen to the trees, wildlife, flowing water, birds, ants moving on their trails (if you listen very closely) and in some cases – just the silence.

**Del Hemseth**

**Penny Pines Chairman**



## Judges Council

Dear Judges Council Chairmen ~ ~

Please inform all of your judges in your councils:

The Flower Show Schools Committee and the NGC Executive Committee have approved further **extensions for Judges and Students** effective immediately. The Good Standing dates expiring in 2020 and 2021 for all Accredited, Life and Master Judges are **extended to December 31, 2022**. No additional exhibiting or judging credits are required.

Student judges approaching the seven-year time frame limit for completion of requirements to become and Accredited judge in 2020 and 2021 are granted an **extension through December 31, 2022**.

Trece Chancellor

NGC Judges Council Chairman



## What? Parliamentary Procedure!!!



**Happy New Year! Welcome 2021!** It has to be better than 2020! I am willing to take a chance! I have witnessed someone trying to “kill” or defeat a motion by trying to table it so.... I am going to continue on my quest to improve our parliamentary procedure habits. Here is the next question/answer in the book, “Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief”, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

### “Question 13: Can something be defeated by adopting a motion to table it?”

#### Answer:

This is a common violation of fair procedure. Such a motion is not in order, because it would permit debate to be suppressed by a majority vote, and only a two-thirds vote can do that. The proper use of the motion to *Lay on the Table* is stated in the answer to Question 12, immediately above. [RONR (11<sup>th</sup> ed.), pp. 215-17.]

How *can* something be defeated without a direct vote on it?

Before debate on an original (ordinary substantive) main motion [see footnote on p. 129 of this book] has begun, you may raise an *Objection to Consideration of [the] Question*, which is undebatable and can suppress the main question by a two-thirds vote against consideration. [RONR (11<sup>th</sup> ed.), p. 216, 1. 34 to p. 217, 1. 2; pp. 267-70; see also 129 of this book.]

If debate on the main motion has begun and you want to get rid of that motion without a direct vote on it, use the motion to *Postpone Indefinitely*. That motion requires only a majority vote, but until it is adopted, it leaves the main question open to debate. [RONR (11<sup>th</sup> ed.), pp. 126-30; see also p. 126 of this book.]

If you feel that it is undesirable that debate take place, move the *Previous Question* immediately after moving to *Postpone Indefinitely*. If adopted by a two-thirds vote, this motion will cause an immediate vote on the motion to *Postpone Indefinitely* without further debate. [RONR (11<sup>th</sup> ed.), pp. 197-209.]”

### Question 12 regarding a move to table a motion was presented in the last RMR.

Respectfully submitted by

**Mary Lerrsen**  
RMR Chairman



Photos by Kaye Catlin, KS



## Celebrating winter in the Rockies

Photos by Lee Hendrick  
KS



## The Use of Line in a Design



### "What Judges Should Observe"

One of the mistakes that I have observed over my 20 years of being a show chair and judge, is the confusions some judges have as to **what they are observing and why**. As a show chair, I stand back and watch the judges make their decision. Some make comments as to how the design would have been better if this or that had happened. A debate sometimes occurs as to the interpretation of the theme and whether the exhibit tells the story required. As a show chair I can not say anything or even make a comment. I say to myself the judges are insufficiently trained in their task. The question becomes how to improve the way a judge observes an exhibit and makes conclusions. **Exactly what training is needed for a judge to give a competent evaluation is the subject of this article.**

Some schools have instructors that have arrangements situated in the front of the class. They are displayed in a way that gives the Instructor visual illustrations for the lecture. I would think it might be good form if instead of having all floral arrangements to observe, the instruction would include a piece of sculpture, painting, or building model. As the principles of design are universal and are used in all of the art forms. The demonstration of the principal may be better explained. The application may be more readily understood using a different medium than plant material. A building that is top heavy, has no rhythm, has weak contrast, and appears to be off balance may be easier to demonstrate than a beautifully executed floral arrangement. I think that as plant persons we are distracted by the beauty of the plant material allowing our feelings to govern our judgments. When submitting an arrangement for publication it is my practice to photograph it in black and white. Color and the romance of the plant material thus can be eliminated. Errors in the design become more obvious.

To answer my question as to what judges should observe thus becomes easier. **They should be observing whether the art, sculpture, building model, floral arrangement exhibits all of the elements of design.** An evaluation as to the degree of the impairment is how a judge concludes what the score will be awarded. The eight **Elements of Design** are: **Space, Pattern, Light, Line, Form Color, Texture and Size**. I remember the elements with the abbreviation of SPELL FACTS. I often write them down on the scorecard and address each in my evaluation. A judge is not communicating to an exhibitor how to do an exhibit but rather **how their exhibit is compatible with the elements of design**. It should make no difference to the judge, if the judge would have done or had interpreted the class title differently. All comments should be helpful to the exhibitor and justifies the ribbon place and score by relating the comments to the Elements of Design and the degree of impairment.



Design incorporating the background, "bright idea"



Thus, the answer to **"What Should Arrangement Judges observe"** is simple, it is how the arrangement exhibits the Elements of Design and any degree of impairment.

**Jim Sadler, Chairman**

**Flower Show Schools and Symposiums**

## Birds



VOILA'!!!! Guess what appeared on my son's truck window sill in Wyoming? He is often in the field with his job for the State as a Hydrologist. Don't forget to clean those Blue Bird houses out and refer to previous articles for instructions on providing food for those early arrivals. With this Covid thing, we are hoping we can be in person for our meeting in Kansas. I plan on bringing my binoculars for some interesting bird viewing. Where there is water there will be birds!



Audrey Coyle,  
RMR Bird Chairman

## Grow Lights?

Starting seeds? Nurturing flowering houseplants? Growing food indoors? Bright, Full-spectrum light is the key to success. With so many grow light options, how do you choose? Asking yourself these questions is a good start:

- What type of plants will you be growing?
- Will you grow year-round or just start seeds in spring?
- How tall will the plants get?
- Where will you put the light—in your living space or hidden away in the basement?
- Should the light be mobile (on casters?)

Plants vary widely in how much light they need to thrive. All green plants require light to perform photosynthesis, during which plants vary widely in how much light they need to thrive. All green plants require light to perform photosynthesis, during Check out these terms: **Intensity      Duration      Color**

Check the internet for detailed information. Try this site:

Taken from <https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/how-to-choose-a-grow-light>



### BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE

- The most destructive habit .....Worry
- The greatest joy ..... Giving
- The greatest loss ..... Loss of Self-respect
- The most satisfying work ..... Helping Others
- The ugliest personality trait ..... Selfishness
- The greatest "shot in the arm" ..... Encouragement
- The greatest problem to overcome ..... Fear
- The most effective sleeping pill ..... Peace of Mind
- The most crippling failure disease ..... Excuses
- The most powerful force in life ..... Love
- The most dangerous act ..... A Gossip
- The world's most incredible computer ..... The Brain
- The worst thing to be without ..... Hope
- The deadliest weapon ..... The Tongue
- The two most power-filled words ..... "I Can"
- The greatest asset ..... Faith
- The most worthless emotion ..... Selp-pity
- The most beautiful attire ..... Smile!
- The most prized possession ..... Integrity
- The most powerful channel of communication .. Prayer
- The most contagious spirit ..... Enthusiasm

LIFE ends, when you stop DREAMING. HOPE ends, when you stop BELIEVING. LOVE ends, when you stop CARING. So, please share this BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE. FRIENDSHIP ends when you stop SHARING.



*Kindness is  
like snow, It  
beautifies  
everything it  
covers!*



## Upcoming Report Due Dates



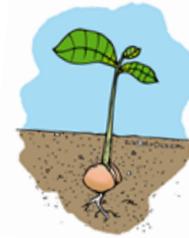
Listed are the upcoming deadlines for our RMR Chairman to have your reports sent to their respective NGC Chairman—

**Scholarship applications due March 1** to Lisa Robinson GardenLisaVA@gmail.com

**History form due March 31** to Andrea Little Littlebruce@msn.com



## Viable Seeds??



**Question: Are My Seeds Still Viable?**

**Answer:** Most seeds last for several years, however others have a relatively short life. How do you know if your seeds are still viable? When properly stored in a cool, dry place, seed's shelf life can be extended. Yet, even then, there is no guarantee that they will still be productive for next season's planting. There are **two easy tests** you can take to check to see if there is life left in your old seeds.

**Water test:** Take your seeds and put them in a container of water. Let them sit for about 15 minutes. Then if the seeds sink, they are still viable; if they float, they most likely will not sprout. This method, in my opinion, is not the best way to check your seeds. For surer results, try performing a germination test.

**Germination test:** Take some of your seeds, preferably 10, and place them in a row on top of a damp paper towel. Fold over the paper towel and place in a zip-up plastic bag and seal it; this helps to keep the towel moist and protected. Then put in a warm location, like a high shelf or on top of the refrigerator, and check the seeds often—around once a day—to see if they have begun to germinate and/or to check the moisture of the paper towel. If it needs more water, carefully mist the towel to where it is damp, but be careful not to apply too much water. Make sure the location you have chosen is away from exposure to direct sunlight. This can overheat your seeds.

Your seeds should begin to germinate in several days up to a couple of weeks, depending on the seed-type. A good rule of thumb is to wait roughly 10 days; however, if you want to give your seeds the best chance, research the germination time of your specific seeds. Once the allotted time has passed, check to see how many have germinated. If you placed 10 seeds on the paper towel, this will be pretty easy to calculate. If less than 5 seeds sprouted, your old packet may not have much success when it comes to planting. If more than 5 sprouted, than your seeds still have a lot of vigor left in them!

Some people wait to perform this germination test around the time of planting, so that the successfully sprouted seeds can be placed directly in their garden—a good way to cut time and ensure the plants will flourish beautifully outdoors.

No matter what step you take to test the viability of your seeds, always remember that every seed is different and your results may vary. With success, you can help your little seedlings sprout into the magnificent, thriving plants they were meant to be.

<https://www.hortmag.com/weekly-tips/how-to-know-if-garden-seed-is-viable>

## Rocky Mountain Region Officers 2019-2021

Office	Officer	E-mail
Region Director	Darla Anderson, Utah	anderson2889@comcast.net
Alternate Director	Betty Roberts, Colorado	bettyroberts@gmail.com
Secretary	Doris Duckworth, Colorado	dorisduckworth@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Lynette Jeffres, Wyoming	lynjeffres@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Mary Lerssen, South Dakota	lerssenm@sio.midco.net
Historian	Roberta Bolton, Utah	roberta.wyo@gmail.com

<p><b>Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.</b>  <b>Margie Soileau</b>                      "Plant, Beautify and Protect Colorado"                      margie@soileau.org</p>	<p><b>North Dakota State Garden Clubs</b>  <b>Linda Anderson</b>                      "The Grass Isn't Always Greener,                      Plant in North Dakota"                      rwanljanderson@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.</b>  <b>Maxine Wells</b>                      "To Reap the Harvest, First Plant the Seed,                      For Gardening as Well as for Friendships"                      Bwells21@cox.net</p>	<p><b>South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs</b>  <b>Virginia Sandemeier</b>                      "Plant America, The Healing Power of Gardening"                      vsandmeier61@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.</b>  <b>Sherry Corneliusen</b>                      "Bloom Where you are Planted"                      sher@midrivers.com</p>	<p><b>The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.</b>  <b>Geoff Elis</b>                      "Plant Utah"                      aloysius2412@live.com</p>
<p><b>Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska</b>  <b>Julie Lester</b>                      "Conserve, Protect, Nurture and Beautify Nebraska"                      Jlester1274@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.</b>  <b>Shirley Pursel</b>                      "Making Friendships While Gardening"                      shirleypursel@yahoo.com</p>



**Gay Austin, NGC President 2019-2021**

- gaylaustin@gmail.com
- Administration Theme:  
"Plant America"
- President's Special Two Year Project:  
Plant America Community Grants
- NGC Website: <http://gardeclub.org>



**Darla Anderson, RMR Director 2019-21**

- Darla.rmrdirector@gmail.com
- West Jordan, UT 84084-3712
- Theme: The Grass isn't always greener; *Plant America's Dream in your own Backyard!*
- Region website: <https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/>



## Rocky Mountain Region Chairman 2019-2021

Project	Chairman	E-mail
Awards	Open	~~
Birds	Audrey Coyle, Colorado Springs, CO	afloris@q.com
Blue Star Marker	Joyce Hendricks, Billings, MT	rnjhend@charter.net
Butterfly	Margaret Straley, Sioux Falls, SD	zebrabread@gmail.com
Chaplin	Linda Anderson. Fargo, ND	rwandljanderson@gmail.com
Environmental Concerns; Energy, Land, Water	Terry Kroke/ Moorhead, MN	tlkroke@yahoo.com
Flower Show Schools and Symposiums	Jim Sadler, Missoula, MT	jimsadler@bresnan.net
Gardening School Liaison to RMR	Kathy Petersen, Arvada, CO	kpetersen303@gmail.com
Invasive Plant Species	Alice Hemsath	dhemsath@charter.net
Judges Council	Open	~~
Life Membership-NGC & RMR	Lynette Jeffres, Riverton, WY	lynjeffres@gmail.com
Membership	Shirley Pursel, Riverton, WY	shirleypursel@yahoo.com
NGC President's Projects	Beverly Heidelberger, Spencer, SD	bevheid2@hotmail.com
Penny Pines	Del Hemsath, Kearney, NE	dhemsath@charter.net
Personnel	Connie McKay	mcm31@icloud.com
Protocol, Courtesy Resolution	Marjorie Koerner, Parker, CO	margekoerner@yahoo.com
RMR Award of Excellence for Regions	Sandra Dennis, Cheyenne, WY	sbdenn2@bresnan.net
RMR Newsletter Editor RMR RAMBLER	Joanne Jeffres, Riverton, WY	rmrrambler@yahoo.com or jjeffres@bresnan.net
RMR Webmaster	Jean Tinberg, Bonner Springs, KS	jeananntinberg@gmail.com
Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl	Connie McKay	mcm31@icloud.net
Wildflowers & Native Plants	June Openshaw, Bountiful, UT	June.openshaw@gmail.com
Xeriscape Gardens	Doris Duckworth, Monument, CO	dorisduckworth@yahoo.com

### *Celebrating winter in the Rockies*



A big "Thank You" to everyone that submitted photos!

Photos by  
Lynette Jeffres, WY



## Fort Riley—History and Heroes Abound

Since we (hopefully) will have our **RMR Convention at Lake Milford in August 2021** we wanted to tell you about places close to Acorn Resort you could incorporate into your trip also. **Fort Riley** is less than 30 minutes from Lake Milford. Fort Riley is a United States Army installation in North Central Kansas. It is on the Kansas River between Junction City and Manhattan. The Fort Riley Military Reservation covers 101,733 acres in Geary and Riley counties. The part of the fort that has housing development is part of the Fort Riley census-designated place. In 2010, 7,761 people lived there. The fort has a daytime population of nearly 25,000.

Originally an outpost on the old frontier, Fort Riley is home to one of the oldest continuously operating military bases west of the Mississippi. History and heroes abound in its storied past. Names such as General George Patton are prominent among the former notable residents of today's famous home of the United States Army's First Infantry Division - The Big Red One.

Established in 1853, Fort Riley is named for Major General Bennett C. Riley. Along the nearby Santa Fe Trail, Fort Riley offered protection in the 19th century to the many travelers, immigrants, and settlers. The main post sports a grand array of majestic structures built of native limestone. The U.S. Cavalry and 1st Infantry Division Museums give you an in-depth and insightful look at military life and progress over the years.



Fort Riley is located in northeastern Kansas, one hour west of Topeka, the state capitol. It is on the Kansas River between Junction City and Manhattan. The Fort Riley Military Reservation covers 101,733 acres.

### History



Fort Riley's history stretches back more than 150 years, as the nation began to focus its attention on overland trails like Oregon and Santa Fe, which were arteries of immigration and commerce.

Fort Riley is named in honor of Major General Bennett C. Riley who led the first military escort along the Santa Fe Trail. The early history of Fort Riley is closely tied to the movement of people and trade along the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails. These routes, a result of the United States perceived "manifest destiny" in the middle of the 19th century, extended American domination and interests into far reaches of a largely unsettled territory.

Selection of the fort's site occurred in the fall of 1852 and Soldiers began to garrison the post the following spring. Following the end of the Civil War, Fort Riley's mission changed to protect the workers building railroads from hostile Plains Indians. In 1866, the 7th Cavalry was organized at Fort Riley under the leadership of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer.

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## Fort Riley—History and Heroes Abound ~~cont'd

During the next three decades, Soldiers used Fort Riley as a staging area for protecting the expanding frontier. As a new century neared, the fort was selected as an important fixture in the Army's educational system. In 1892, the School of Cavalry and Light Artillery began operation, succeeded by the Mounted Service School in 1907, which was eventually renamed the Cavalry School following World War I. The school served as the center for the study and application of cavalry tactics and training. The principles learned by officers including Johnathan Wainwright, Terry Allen, George S. Patton Jr., and others would be put to use in future campaigns and on distant battlefields.

Fort Riley served as a training center during all of the major wars of the 20th century.

Soldiers from Fort Riley continue to be deployed to areas in all corners of the world. From southwest Asia to the Caribbean and the Balkans, Fort Riley Soldiers are engaged in peacekeeping and nation-building missions. They continue to hone their skills by periodic deployments to the National Training Center located at Fort Irwin, California.

Like the Soldiers from previous generations - who have trained, stood ready and deployed - the Soldiers assigned to Fort Riley today look back across a long history of serving and defending our nation. Their sacrifices are many and sometimes the thanks are short – but they fulfill their obligations and duties in a tradition of selfless service. With this sense of duty and dedication that has always been a hallmark of the Army; these Soldiers take these same values into the first decade of the 21st century.

Since we (hopefully) will have our **RMR Convention at Lake Milford, Kansas, August 27-28, 2021** we wanted to tell you about places close to Acorn Resort you could incorporate into your trip also. **Fort Riley is less than 30 minutes from Lake Milford.**

This information and pictures were taken directly from the Fort Riley website.

Submitted by Jackie Watts

