



Rocky Mountain Rambler

Rocky Mountain Region
Newsletter



November 2021

Greetings From Your Director



I am amazed at how quickly the weather changed from Summer to Fall, but I am not complaining as this past Summer was so hot and dry. I love this time of the year with the milder temperatures, the colorful trees, and the feeling of slower and less

hectic days.

I had the privilege and opportunity to join the Kansas Association of Garden Clubs, Inc. for their Annual Meeting. What an incredible, talented, and fun group of ladies. I was honored to install new officers. This group of ladies are so knowledgeable and dedicated to all garden club members, and I know they will guide and support to the best of their ability.

I had my first RMR President's roundtable Zoom meeting. Thanks to all who were able to attend. The topics covered were membership, communication, and support of garden clubs. It seems all RMR states are experiencing much of the same issues. Lack of growth due to the pandemic has hit the garden clubs hard, and some states have lost complete garden clubs due to this issue. NGC has a 3R Membership program available to all clubs, and it is a robust and exciting program. Please take time to review the NGC website (gardenclub.org).

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Special points of interest:

- New Website information
- Ramblings from the Region
- Recipes



Directors Message ~ cont'd

RMR has a NEW Website! Thanks to Lynette Jeffres and her sister, Carla Scheer, for volunteering to take on this critical task. I invite everyone to go online to view. Just google <https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/> which will bring you to the website. It is still a work in progress, with more information to come.

Please remember, I am always available to all club members in the region, and I hope each of you feels comfortable calling on me for assistance. Take care and have fun putting your gardens to rest.

Your Friend in Gardening

Margie Soileau, "Planting in Harmony with Nature"

margie@soileau.org

margie.rmrdirector@gmail.com



Dates to Remember

<i>DATE</i>	<i>WHAT</i>	<i>WHERE</i>
January 15, 2022	Smokey Bear	Entries to State Chairman
January 15, 2022	Article Deadline	RMR Rambler Articles
June 14, 2022	SD Annual Meeting	Mitchell, SD
August 26-27, 2022	RMR Conference	Park City, 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.

Rocky Mountain Rambler

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Hello again, from the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs. Fall is here and it's a reminder to all of us that change can be beautiful!

We have been busy with many things. I had my first in person and zoom Board Meeting in September. We had a handful of in-person attendees with another handful on the computer. I/we are working on trying to pump excitement into these meetings so that more members can take advantage of the knowledge that is passed along. The technology that transpired that day was a wonderful nudge for us to get a new **Technology Committee** started so that they could prioritize our tech needs. This committee is doing a fabulous job in identifying weak areas and bringing cost effective solutions so that we can implement a robust way to communicate with our membership both in person and via the internet.

Our State Headquarters has been the subject of quite a few helping hands who have helped to maintain, clean and winterize the home this year. Our State Headquarters is named Emerson House and is available for clubs, members and the general public to use when available.

We have been struggling with obtaining what is known as a "Certificate of Liability", which can be used by our local clubs to secure a meeting place, or performing a community outreach activity, field trip or at a fundraising event. Many more venues are asking for this type of insurance. In the event you are not an insurance aficionado, it is where an insurance policy is in place to cover your members during an event in the event of an accident or such. Colorado is looking at ways to either provide or to direct Club Presidents where they can reasonably purchase such a policy. If you have some ideas, I would love to hear how your club(s) were able to do it and at what cost.

It is good to see that more clubs are beginning to meet again, take field trips and reignite old and new friendships. We also started our Zoom Leadership Roundtable quarterly call one week after our September Board meeting. While not everyone attended, the ones that did gave great feedback on the value of the small investment of time it took to find out what other clubs are doing, needing and wanting to accomplish. This call alone provided a deep needed connection to the attendees letting them know that there are resources out there, that their state garden club wants to help and provide tools encouraging growth and sustainability and to allow fellowship between members that may never have the chance of meeting in person.

We have a lot of work ahead of ourselves, but with a **can-do attitude, a love of gardening and fellowship** we will get there! We have so much to be thankful for, let us not forget that and find ways to pass along the goodness we all have in ourselves to help others blossom.

Your gardening friend,

Nancy Griffin, CO State President

“Garden with Heart, Plant with Purpose, Conserve with Care”



Rocky Mountain Rambler

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Modern Halloween and its Beginnings

Most folks have a general understanding of the ancient beginnings of Halloween. What they generally do not know is the genesis of modern Halloween. To shorten the story, one must know that at the turn of the 19th century children played pranks on their neighbors. Pranks such as turning over of outbuildings, running burning wagons through town, and other mischievous actions were the universal way Halloween was celebrated. On one occasion the children in the neighborhood tore up the front gardens of a garden club member. Known for caring for public gardens in her small town of Hiawatha, Kansas, Mrs. Krebs wanted to search for a solution to the children's actions of destroying her front gardens. Known locally as the "Flower Lady", Mrs. Krebs was not to be deterred. She organized a Halloween Frolic, as we would now call it a Halloween Parade. She organized costumed children into a parade on October 31st in 1914. They paraded downtown Hiawatha. The local newspaper did a story that caught the nation's imagination. It did not take long until the practice of organizing costumed children into parades was seen over the nation. Children parading at our local malls owe a direct link to Mrs. Krebs, her destroyed flower beds, and her search for a solution.

Now all this is very well and good, Mrs. Krebs is from Kansas, and I am from Montana. The connection is not obvious but given some thought it makes sense. My theme as president is "Building Community Through Gardening". Mrs. Krebs through her love of gardening and service to her community built a tradition and improved her community and ultimately the nation. Children were given a fun alternative to playing pranks. She demonstrated how small actions that are done with good intentions and a desire to improve her community changed children's lives. Is this not what Garden Clubs do throughout the year? Our community projects of planting public gardens, celebrating our veterans and their families by installing Blue and Gold Star Memorials, sponsoring contests for children, and other projects all build our communities.

We are now challenged with the Covid pandemic shutting down schools and children's activities. Children are adrift and need interactions. Maybe it is time for Garden Clubs to sponsor Halloween parades. **We have a hero in our garden club DNA.** Mrs. Krebs's example of serving her community should inform us of her actions. Remember, masks are allowed with costumes.

Jim Sadler, President-
Montana Federation of Garden Clubs
"Building Community through Gardening"



Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska



When I get up in the morning for the last week, you can feel that fall is in the air. I love fall, but so often we have a very short fall and then it becomes winter way too fast. As fall is approaching, I am grinding zucchini to freeze and today I chopped around 10 cups of onion. Boy does my house smell like onions, but I love just grabbing a handful of frozen chopped onions to put in a recipe.

On September 18th, Nebraska held our fall board meeting. Because of the risk of covid again, we decided to have our fall board by Zoom. In a way, I think this is a better idea than having a face to face meeting. First, Nebraska is a big state (area) and all of us have to drive to a meeting, so now we can meet from the comfort of our home. There is another advantage and that is that more people can attend, hopefully some that have never been to a fall board meeting.

At the Fall Board meeting we listened to the report from the ad hoc committee that was assigned to look into investing our scholarship money. From that report, some type of decision will be made.

After leaving the RMR meeting in Kansas, all of my officers were very motivated about some of the awards that are given at RMR. We are going back to our local clubs and get people enthused to apply for awards at a State level, RMR level and National level.

We have some very talented garden club members. I encourage you to go to our Facebook page to watch two U-tube videos about our garden club members. Mona Radcliff was featured about her flower garden and Ted Slagle about his beekeeping. I am still amazed that he handled the bee hive without wearing gloves.

I would like to leave you all with some tips on storing herbs for the winter. Remember my theme is “**Growing and Using Herbs in Nebraska**”.

Storing Herbs and Spices

Exposure to light; over heating, bruising or cutting; will release the oils you want before they are used.

Cut stems under water.

*Wash & rinse herbs

*Take herbs and place stems in bowl of cold water. Using scissors, cut about 1/4” to 1/2” of the stems while they are submerged under the water. Let the stems remain in the water for about 5 minutes to soak up as much water as possible.



Storage in water.

*Once cut, place the stem of herbs in cup of water. Cover herbs with a plastic bag. Store in the refrigerator for use.

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Rocky Mountain Rambler

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska ~cont'd



Storage Herbs in paper towel.

*Once herbs have soaked in water for at least 5 minutes, wrap in slightly damp paper towels and place in plastic bag. Refrigerate and use when needed.

(This method works great with lettuce heads also.)

Keep fresh:

*Fragile herbs such as basil, chervil, coriander at room temperature.

*Sturdy herbs such as parsley, oregano, rosemary, savory, and thyme in refrigerator.

Drying Herbs:

*Dry rapidly in a warm, dark room at temps below 100° F.

*Place herb leaves in paper bags with 1-2 inches of stem showing, tie loosely. Then hang upside down to dry.

*Place leaves on a tray and turn daily.

Freezing Herbs:

*Place herbs in labeled plastic bags, individual servings or in mixture servings.

*Roll into cigars for herbs with large leaves, works best for basil, savory, and sage. (chiffonade)

*Chop finely and freeze in ice cube trays— herbs and water or oil.

Happy gardening and remember plant some herbs!!!

Robbie Kupper

President, FGCN

“Growing and Using Herbs in Nebraska”



Gloves! Gloves! Gloves!

The Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska is selling stylish **Atlas 370 gardening gloves** (All sizes).

There are four different colors to choose from: purple, orange, green and pink. The cost is **\$8 per pair or two pairs for \$15.**

If you are interested, please send a check along with your glove size and color preference to:

Lorraine Patrick
3716 Schumann Dr.
Bellevue, NE 68123



Rocky Mountain Rambler

North Dakota State Garden Clubs



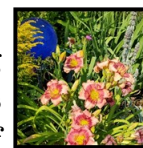
Hello from dry **North Dakota**—(Linda's article was not published in September issue)

We are in a deep drought, so our plants are suffering from high heat and no water. We have been watering and mulching endlessly to keep everything alive.

It has been wonderful that my local club was able to keep meeting on Zoom and in person to continue our educational programs.

We had an educational program on how to build our soil. We don't want to use bone meal in the heavy clay of the Red River Valley of the North Dakota, when planting tulips, just use regular fertilizer. In the Spring, check NDAWN for the local soil temperature to find out when it is safe to plant in the Spring was very helpful.

During another educational program on "Shady Characters: Perennial Gardening for the Shade and Partial Shade", the nursery owners told us that all the plants were "mixed up" this year. They said the plants that usually bloom at the end of July were blooming at the beginning of July. That is what happens when one Friday you have a frost and the next Friday it is 102 degrees.



Dakota
Sunrise
Daylily

The Fargo Garden Society has been weeding at the Red River Zoo and I know the Bismarck Mandan Club has been working in their eight public gardens.



Bee on
Echinacea

At the North Dakota State Garden Clubs Annual Meeting the Bismarck Mandan Garden Club gave a presentation on "Moving a Garden. Due to construction, the Bismarck Mandan Garden Club and the City of Mandan successfully moved an entire garden from the library to the East Marquee."

Wishing everyone happy fall gardening and I hope to see everyone soon at meetings locally and on Zoom in St. Louis.

November information—

Hello from dry **North Dakota**

Since the August newsletter we have received nice soaking rains helping to take us out of a deep drought. North Dakota's average frost is September 15th but as of the middle of October we have had no deep frost. With the recent rains our grass has turned green, and our roses are blooming again. As gardeners, we are so enjoying this beautiful Fall weather.



The Fargo Garden Society celebrated Fall by making a scarecrow for a fund raiser. Thanks to Lori DeRemer, Nancy McKinnon, Linda Anderson, and Mary Jensen for all the materials and unique ideas.



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Rocky Mountain Rambler

North Dakota State Garden Clubs

The Garden of Healing is dedicated to the families who have suffered a loss and need a space for quiet and healing. Purchased bricks are sold and engraved either with names or memorials of loved ones that have passed away. Within the next weeks the first phase of The Garden of Healing was built. The Garden of Healing is built between two hospitals in Fargo and is a place of **LIFE, LIVING, AND HEALING**. The engraved bricks outline the walking paths. A rainbow appeared on the day of planting as a blessing for this garden.



The Fargo Garden Society helped plant close to 200 shrubs and perennials, and we assisted SheyWest Nursery with their selection. The following members attended the official open house in October, Becky Goetz, Pat Westgard, Les Westgard, Linda Anderson, Nancy McKinnon, and Beth Rogness. (pictured below)



Above, back row left to right: Terry Kroke, Kim Schur, Lori DeRemer, Linda Bellemare, Marilyn Isaacson, Rosa Rogers, Theresa Gross, Beth Rogness, Mark Blonigen, Alane Degenstein, Jenifer Swetland, Carolyn Gaarder,

Front row left to right: Arlen and Sarah Fisher, (Garden of Healing co-founders), Mary Jane Breitling, Linda Anderson, Nancy McKinnon, Jodi Plecity (Garden of Healing co-founder), Becky Goetz, Mary Jensen, Mark Jensen, Pat Westgard, Margaret Rundlett-Doom, Peggy Schaan, Kay Braun

Beth Rogness chaired The Garden of Healing Fargo Garden Society committee. The Fargo Garden Society members donated over 60 Karl Forester Grasses to this garden. Lori DeReimer, Mary Jane Breitling, Nancy McKinnon, and Linda Anderson helped with the planting.

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

**Linda Anderson, President
North Dakota State Garden Clubs**

2022 RMR Conference Information —

Joanne said, plant a seed in November and you will see sprouts in February. **Here is the seed.....**

What kind of accommodations would each state or group like to have? We may not be having the meeting space in a hotel, so accommodations could be anywhere close by. Please let me know by email or phone to what you think you might like and we will research it for you.

The date for convention has been set for August 26-27, 2022. We hope to have more information as to places, accommodations, etc. by the February issue. So, please let us know what you would expect or like as far as accommodations go when you visit Utah.

Mary Holley, Utah President , mountainflorautah@gmail.com



Rocky Mountain Rambler



Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.—New Co-Presidents

Kansas has two new Co-Presidents — Welcome, Sherryl



After spending 50 years in pharmacy I retired and my hobbies have become the focus of my life. I play with flowers, belong to 4 garden clubs and volunteer at Botanica. I primarily collect plants, do a little hybridizing, and show flowers in competition here in Wichita. I grow about 310 different irises, 320 different daylilies and about 100 different daffodils. For anything new to come into my garden something has to come out and what comes out is sold at a club plant sale.

The time to scale back is fast approaching.

I am starting on this adventure of being president of KAGC with Floanna Crowley as co-president. May we do good things for the organization.

Sherryl Fitzpatrick

KAGC Co-President, 2021-2023

“Use Wisdom in Caring for Nature”



Kansas has two new Co-Presidents — Welcome, Floanna



I was raised on a farm. In my earlier working years, I worked in an office and accounting. From there I started my business selling my paintings and art work. Almost 30 years ago, I joined the County Master Gardener program and found that it was great exercise and therapy. Wichita had a great garden show that also had an exceptional flower show each year. I was hooked the first time I entered. I joined the Suburban Garden Club and soon went to the Flower Show Schools and advanced to master judge. I practice flower arranging by volunteering at Botanica, the Wichita Gardens. It has combined my love for art and gardening. I served as club president four times and the Kansas Associated Garden Club president about ten years ago. I currently serve as the state FSS and Symposium Chair. I believe in this organization and hope to continue to encourage growth and participation.

Floanna Crowley

KAGC Co-President, 2021-2023

“Use Wisdom in Caring for Nature”



Ponderings



- If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.
- Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.

Rocky Mountain Rambler

Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc



After being cancelled a couple times due to COVID, the East Central District hosted the annual KAGC Convention on October 1-2, 2021. This was held at the Atchison Event Center in historic Atchison, KS, home of Amelia Earhart. **Beautiful center pieces** were arranged by flower show judge Donna Schneck who was unable to attend due to health reasons. These center pieces were created with plant material from members and her gardens, and the wooden bugs from a scout project.



Kansas has new co-presidents as of the KAGC convention. Sherryl Fitzpatrick and Floanna Crowley were installed by RMR Director, Margie Soileau. Also installed were Secretary, Margaret Enidicott, Treasurer Andrea Staudenmair, and Caroline Wittman, Parliamentarian. We are still looking for a Vice-president and hoping someone will step up. Sherryl and Floanna are both members of the Suburban Garden Club of Wichita as was the club of past president, Maxine Wells.



Sherryl Fitzpatrick, Floanna Crowley, Margaret Enidicott, Andrea Staudenmair, Caroline Whittman, (Maxine Wells sitting behind) Margie Soileau, RMR Director

The Board of Directors met, voting to make some changes. Since we have lost clubs, we voted to combine the Northeast District with the West District. It was voted the state presidents travel expense money be for travel, hotel and food for NGC, RMR, and KAGC and receipts be submitted at the end of the fiscal year, and any funds not used be returned to the state. We voted to make meetings and voting acceptable by electronic and ZOOM plus other smaller changes. These were all voted on and approved by the convention attendees.

The Suburban Garden Club of Wichita had a great program this month on Pollinator Gardening using native plants by one of our members, Nancy Gordon. The pictures of her gardens and sources were wonderful and informative. She also has a Certified Monarch Waystation. Many members were happy to receive the saved seeds she brought to share, plus a copy of a pocket guide of Wildflowers and Grasses published by the Great Plains Nature Center.

We have met to plan our meetings for 2022 and are working to fill the programs with subjects in conjunction with NGC, plus fun and informative to our members and encouraging new members.

Sherryl Fitzpatrick & Floanna Crowley
KAGC Co-President, 2021-2023

“Use Wisdom in Caring for Nature



Rocky Mountain Rambler

South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs



Hello from South Dakota where fall has just arrived with the trees turning a beautiful color of reds, yellows and oranges. Fall to me means bonfires, apple picking, pumpkins, raking falling leaves and of course husband watching football. It also is a time where planning what I can do different in my garden next spring. It's a great time for me to think and rethink those plants that just like to spread everywhere.

My local garden club had its annual bulb sale this past weekend, so I need to finish up planting the tulips and allium that I purchased. I live in a beautiful state and was lucky to make a trip to the Black Hills the first weekend of October to see all the changing of color there in Custer State Park. If you have never been, you must put it on your list to see and if you are there make sure you bring carrots for the beloved donkeys.

Thank you to the crew in Kansas for hosting the 2021 Convention in Atchison. It was my first meeting as state president. It was such a great experience and a joy to meet so many of you. I loved the photo contest and being presented with all the awards that my state worked hard on was a highlight. Can't wait to go to Utah next year!!

Thelma Busk

"Dirty Hands, Good Life"

dakfayepri@santel.net



"Food for Thought"

Recipe Submission —If you have a Holiday recipe —salad, entrée, bread, dessert, etc. that you would like to share with other gardeners, please e-mail it to the RMR Rambler at rmrrambler@yahoo.com

Herb Vinegars

One way to preserve the wonderful flavors of fresh herbs for use year-round is to make herbed vinegars. Herbed vinegar can be used in salad dressings, marinara sauce, and marinades. Use decorative containers with tight fitting lids or corks and give as gifts from your garden.

1. Pick fresh, blemish-free herbs from the garden in the morning after the dew has dried but before the sun steals the potent flavor.
2. Slightly bruise herbs and pack them into glass jars loosely.
3. Add about 1/2 cup herbs per pint of vinegar.
4. Cover with good quality, slightly heated, but not hot, cider or wine vinegar.
5. Cap with an acid proof lid and allow to steep in a sunny windowsill for a couple weeks.
6. Strain through cheese cloth and return strained vinegar to jars.

Add a fresh sprig of herb to the jar for identification and visual appeal.

Best herbs for vinegars: Basils, Chervil, Chives and Chive blossoms, Dill leaves, Fennel, Lemon Verbena, Marjoram, Rosemary, Salad Burnet, Savory, Tarragon, Thyme, Lemon Thyme. Use these in any combination you desire. You may also wish to add Garlic, Savory seeds, Red chilies, or lemon.

Read more: [How to Make Herb Vinegar | eHow.com](http://www.eHow.com)

Rocky Mountain Rambler

The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.



We had a good time in Kansas, learned a lot about the Parliamentary process, also that it takes a team of well-organized people to pull off the event. My regret was we should of gotten there earlier so we could of enjoyed the resort and surrounding areas more. More than our trailer and a stellar sunset.

There were wonderful members from all the states. They felt like old friends from the first meet. Thank you, Kansas. Hope you can all manage the journey to Utah. We want to see you and want to welcome you to Park City.

The highlight of the trip was on our way back to the KC airport with hours to wander. Geoff did some after hour research and found the National Park Service Tall Grass Prairie Preserve, co-owned by the Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service. Quiet, nice, outdoor experience in the heart of Kansas. Just what we needed to experience after our speaker Stephen Bridenstine and the Flint Hills



Making Suet
feeders
Wiggy Brennan and
Julie Christensen

Covid is still influencing our clubs... The Orchid Society is back to zoom and some tours—not wanting the full membership in attendance—have cancelled and rearranged plans for the Park City Garden Club. Good ideas come forth and the meetings go on. The club made suet for the birds thank you to the Rambler Recipe. Thank you,

Audrey Coyle for the idea. The neighborhood Garden Club let loose Monarch butterflies at the Garden Center with a butterfly expert, Parker Buttner of Riverbottom Butterflies in Draper, Utah. The Utah Dahlia Society held an excellent well

attended Dahlia Flower show at the Garden Center in September . The many different varieties were beautiful. We now have the tuber sale to look forward to in the spring.

On October 30th, we are hosting Mark Malmstrom, a Professional Arborist, to speak at our Fall symposium. He is a competitive tree climber and does cone picking in Oregon for forest reforestation. The symposium, **“The Wonderful World of Trees,”** will be at 1:00 at the Garden Center in Salt Lake City. This will be held in conjunction with our fall board meeting.

A huge wet snowstorm hit Park City and the mountain areas last night and into the day. It wreaked havoc on many trees, especially the aspen that hadn't lost their leaves yet. The willows and Amur maples also took a hit. A chipping company is looking at a bright future in this town.

The UAGC did a fall cleanup at the Garden Center and are planning to plant seedlings next week on the Weber River. " Each One Plant One."

Mary Holley, UAGC President

“Play and plant in Utah Wisely”



Patty Smith and
Donna
Delanty with
finished product

Rocky Mountain Rambler

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Hello all from Wyoming,

The fall colors in our state right now are vibrant and wonderful. I trust you are all enjoying the fall around us. WFGC held their fall board meeting in Casper early October. We were treated to a pumpkin bouquet presentation given by Kendra Bogacz, Riverton.



After we finished our business, lunch and visiting, we were treated to a tour of the yard of Linda English, Casper. It was beautiful and inspiring. We are busy trying to decide a date and place for our Summer Annual meeting. We hope to have a presentation on bonsai trees with native trees at that time. Something to look forward to!

Our local clubs met in the summer in member yards, public gardens, helped with fairs and supported and worked with other service clubs. Working with other clubs helps to reach our goals and make others aware of our garden clubs. Maybe it's a great place to find new members.

Riverton Garden Club re-installed their Blue Star Memorial Marker. We are looking into putting the markers in other veteran's parks within our county.



Have a great fall while “Gathering Friendships thru Gardening”.

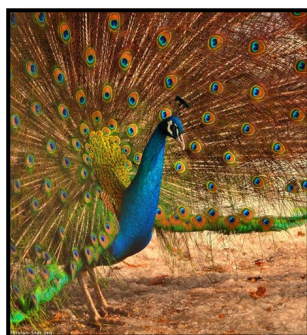
Shirley Pursel
WFGC, President



Dan Wieferich, Cottonwood GC's VP is enjoying his bonsai trees.



Riverton's re-installed Blue Star will be landscaped this spring.



I always prefer to believe the best of everybody.

It saves so much trouble.

~Rudyard Kipling~



**Today, give a stranger one of your smiles.
It might be the only sunshine he or she sees all day.**

Award of Excellence



Rocky Mountain Region Directors' Project for 2019 – 2021 Award of Excellence # 25 Final Report

For those who did not attend the RMR Meeting at Lake Milford, Kansas, this past August, I just want to share the winners of the cash prizes our Region offers for participation in the Regional Directors Project. To recap, Darla's Project was titled: **"The Grass isn't always Greener: Plant America's Dream in your Own Backyard"**

The project concept was that each member of our garden clubs could do something to improve or beautify an area in their own landscape or a public place. The first and primary criteria for the Region to submit an entry for the NGC Award of Excellence for Regions #25 is that each state in the region must participate! Thus, as chairman for the region, I must have a submission from each of our eight states or I can not send the region report on to National.

First I want to give a sincere **Thank You to** the president or their Award of Excellence chairman of each state for getting a submission to me during the fall 2020 which was the second year of Darla's term as Regional Director. At the National Convention, held via Zoom spring 2021, the Region winning the NGC AoE for Regions #25 with a \$500 check was announced – that Region this term was New England.

After I submitted the Region Report by December 30, 2020, I had an external team of judges select the best projects between our four larger states based on membership, and the four smaller states. The two winners in each size division receives the \$100 & \$50 prizes from Rocky Mountain Region for their participation.

\$100 First Place Awards went to

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.
South Dakota State Federation of Garden Clubs

\$50 Second Place Awards went to

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
North Dakota State Garden Clubs



L to R: Les Westgard, ND; Sherry Corneliusen, MT; Thelma Busk, SD; Robbie Kupper, NE; Sandy Dennis, AoE Chairman

I extend my congratulations to each state for turning in a report, and to the above listed states for the quality of their projects during this past Directors Term.

Sandy Dennis

RMR Award of Excellence
Regions Chairman, 2011-2021.



Rocky Mountain Rambler

Plant a Tree



“Each Member Plant One, Preferably Native Tree”

Gay Austin’s initiative in 2019 to plant a native tree each year 2019-2021 continues with Our National President, Mary Warshauer through her term 2021-2023.

By May 1, 2022, Audrey Coyle, NGC Inc. Tree Chairman, would like your name, the tree’s common and scientific name, amount planted of each kind, when and where planted Remember to go back to 2019. Please send this information to your state president by April 1st, 2022, as she will inform Audrey and report at the national convention.

Bev Heidelberger for Audrey Coyle



Blue Star



Blue Star Memorial Markers Committee

Over the past two years many clubs have dedicated Blue Star Memorial Markers and Gold Star Families Memorial Markers/plaques. Even during the pandemic these dedications have occurred. What a wonderful way to pay tribute to those who have and are serving our country as well as their families.

I had requested information from the state presidents as to any of these markers that had been placed in the past term.

- In 2019 Filmore, **Utah** replaced an older marker that was deteriorating. This was an Eagle Scout project.
- In 2020 Grassroots Garden Club in Torrington, **Wyoming** dedicated their marker.
- The Greely Morning Garden Club in **Colorado** dedicated their marker in April 2019
- Fort Logan, **Colorado** dedicated a Gold Star Families Memorial Marker in 2018.
- The Suburban Garden Club of **Kansas** dedicated a Gold Star Families Memorial Marker in the Botanical Garden in Wichita.
- In **Montana**, Cascade, Stevensville and Glendive Garden Clubs have dedicated Blue Star Memorial Markers and Glendive also dedicated a Gold Star Families Memorial Marker.

Other clubs in our 8-state region have probably also dedicated markers but I do not know who they are but would welcome information.

I would also like to **receive pictures of your club's markers** to make a poster to display at our meetings. The sites are all very different and it is exciting to see how they are planted. This might encourage other clubs to participate.

Thank you to all members who work diligently to maintain the sites where their markers are located. This is a very important part of having and marker and continues to show our military and their families respect and honor.

Joyce Hendricks, Chairman



Butterflies



The Monarchs have moved to Mexico. It's ok, don't cry, they'll be back again next year. Yes, they seem to always come back but the problem is they are not coming back by the thousands as they did some 50 years ago.

Now is the time to collect the milkweed seeds (usually in pods). {The monarch cannot survive without milkweed, remember.} Since milkweed must go through a cold cycle to germinate next spring, it's a great time to spread the seeds in areas that are not mowed often. Scatter seeds in flower boxes or pots so there will be exposure to cold and a higher percentage of seed germination next spring.



Monarch chrysalis

Other butterflies do not migrate the distance that monarchs do. Some prepare a chrysalis and must also go through a cold cycle to hatch as an adult butterfly next spring. Look for swallowtails to do this. If you see this in the wild you could collect it to observe it. When the weather warms in the spring, it hatches! Use your computer and a search engine such as Google to see what the chrysalis looks like. *

Remember to watch for shelterbelts where wind is at a minimum. It is a great place to observe many kinds of flying insects and birds.

Either the state butterfly chairmen or state president that attended the RMR meeting in Kansas in August took home a sample of the butterfly oasis to share with members and other gardeners. Come spring, don't forget to prepare it for newly arriving butterflies and bees who need water to survive.

Margaret Straley Butterfly Chairman



*PS—The chrysalis is in a cup and I brought it in the house so that we can watch it hatch out. If the weather is cooperative I will release the butterfly so it can fly to Mexico. If need be, I will feed it with some red juicy juice at my house for a couple days then release it when the weather is cooperative!



Winter wreath idea
using things you have in
your home.



Flower Show Schools and Symposiums



I was speaking with a long-time friend recently. We were talking about the Garden Clubs Flower show. My friend who has won many awards over the years and, as you would imagine a very good designer, told me that she was bored. That she had no new ideas and had used all of her design materials many times and was uninspired. I am fearful that my friend is coming to a point in her design career that designing is not fun anymore and has become a chore. Giving her situation some thought, I want to share my ideas on what a schedule writer can do to re-inspire their experienced designers. Since my suggestions are universal, they will also apply to new designers.

When a schedule is being written, do not choose class names that use the name of a place, area, or region. This mistake is often made by inexperienced schedule writers. The reason is that class titles are difficult to convey to designers. It is always an irony that horticulture only people or generally non-design people when at club meetings when show titles are suggested often choose place names. I was stuck one year with a show on “Yellowstone Park”. I was asked to come up with class titles that suggest Yellowstone National Park. As a general show title, nothing is wrong with calling the show Yellowstone National Park, the problem is to come up with classes that suggest the show title.

One of the first rules is to recognize the expertise of the designers that may enter the show. Checking the Handbook of Flower shows thumbing to design types and making choices can lead to designer fatigue. For most of the design types, an inventory of various design helpers, sculptures, and design containers is needed. The expense of metal sculptures and having storage for them is a problem for many designers. After their use in two or more shows, these helpers lose their fresh idea feel. A designer can become bored. Remember it can take up to 10 hours to collect, select materials, and conjure up the design. If you must, have no more than one advanced design type in a show. It is better to simply have designers’ choice as the design type. The chances that a designer has the materials needed in a designer’s choice class title is higher than choosing the advanced design types. Schedule writers must understand that writing classes that no one wants to enter show that you have been a failure. Your class must inspire the designer and as a result, will want to enter the class.

How do you inspire a designer? Choose class titles that suggest some emotion, color, or suggest action. Yellowstone Park could be “Yellowstone Lake”. Better would be “Sunrise over Yellowstone Lake”. See what has happened, you have suggested a color palette to the designer. Interest and ingenuity are encouraged.



pumpkin
in the
rose patch



pumpkin
on parade

As for my friend who has become bored, I am challenged to write a schedule that will inspire her. The class titles chosen should not be so difficult that she thinks they are not worth the effort. That the class titles can be completed by using plant material and simple helpers as the main elements. It is my hope that new perspectives and interesting descriptions will get her to enter and ignite again her sense of fun. If I follow my suggestions and she participates, I will have written a successful schedule.

Jim Saddler, Chairman

Invasive Species



AQUATIC



Aquatic invasive species are organisms that are not native and cause significant harm to an ecosystem when introduced. Harmful impacts can occur to municipal water supplies, recreation, agriculture, aquaculture and other commercial activities. Aquatic invasive species include amphibians, crustaceans, fish, plants and mollusks.

Listed below are the most **UNWANTED aquatic invasive species** for the states in the Rocky Mountain region; Zebra/Quagga Mussel; New Zealand Mudsail; all types of Carp; Rusty Crayfish; Snakehead; waterflea.

Invasive plants include: Parrotfeather Milfoil, Brazilian Elodea, Water Hyacinth, Hydrillia, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly-leaf pondweed, didymo or rock snot.

Fish pathogens and diseases include hemorrhagic septicemia or whirling disease and several types of viruses, bacteria and parasites including the larvae of certain parasitic flatworms the can burrow into your skin while swimming and cause swimmer's itch.

Pictured below are some of the most unwanted.

Asian carp



Rusty crayfish



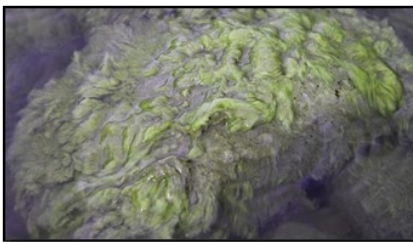
Mudsail



Zebra/Quagga Mussel



Didymo



Hydrilla



Water Milfoil



What can you do? In some RMR states boat owners are required to purchase the **ANS (Aquatic Nuisance Species) Stamp** and operators must retain proof of purchase on his or her person, the motorboat or sailboat, when operating the vessel. Boats may be inspected and kept clean as boats can be damaged by mussels in particular. **Be aware!**

Alice Hemsath, Chairman



Membership



Members:

Our National Garden Club will be hosting the "The 3-R's" once a month. They will be hosting Zoom meetings the 2nd Monday of the month. **November 8th, 12:00 Mountain Time**, will be the first session. It is a one hour meeting giving you ideas to build your membership. **Recruit, Retain and Revitalize** is the subject of the meetings. If you would like to be invited to these Zoom meetings, let me know at: shirleypursel@yahoo.com.

Each state president also has this link that they will hopefully send to you. This team of NGC members are fun and keep the meetings moving.

Come join us and try one. See what you think. I am sure you will be able to pick up some tips.

Shirley Pursel, Chairman



Penny Pines



Wow! I don't believe that I need to tell you how terrible this year has been for fires in the west destroying trees and forested areas like never before. It could have been much worse if it had not been for the brave men and women who risked their lives to protect homes and others. With hope, next year should be a better year with less fire and drought.

In reviewing the Penny Pines Reforestation program contributions, I want to make sure that I mention the contributions from Beverly Heidelberger for one in 2020 and three in 2021. I could not find where I mentioned that in my previous articles.

Del Hemsath, Chairman



NGC President's Project



National Garden Club Inc. presents **#playoutdoors**



Since research tells us outdoor activities improve health and happiness for adults and children, National Garden Clubs, Inc. is promoting outside activities to help encourage spending more time outdoors all year long.

Outside activities build physically healthier individuals, improve motor skills, help prevent obesity and strengthen muscles and bones. Unstructured outdoor play for children and adults contributes to cognitive and social/emotional development, improves imagination, develops positive behavior skills, and improves communication, cooperation, and organizational skills

Copy the #playoutside journal and share it with a child close to you, keeping the certificate on the last page to give to them later. Help them fill out their daily entries if needed. Print off a certificate from the NGC website (FORMS section) to give to the child right away to celebrate their accomplishment.

Beverly Heidelberger, Chairman



Easy Pumpkin Muffins

- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree (just plain pumpkin -- NOT the canned pumpkin pie filling)
- 1 (15.25 ounce) box spice cake mix



Instructions — Preheat oven to 375° F.

1. Spray a muffin tin with cooking spray or line with baking cups. If using paper liners, I suggest that you give the paper liners a little spritz of nonstick spray as well, just to prevent any sticking.
2. In a large bowl, use a spatula to fold together pumpkin and dry cake mix. Then I like to use an electric mixer to make sure that the batter is fluffy and completely combined. It will be thick!
3. Use a scoop to fill prepared muffin tins with batter.
4. Bake for 18-20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pan for about 5 minutes and then remove muffins to a wire rack to finish cooling.
5. These freeze really well, so store in an airtight container or a zip-top bag in the freezer and just thaw as necessary. Taken from <https://www.theseasonedmom.com>

Parliamentarian



Question 17: Can votes be taken in an executive session?

Answer: Yes, votes can be taken in executive session. Proceedings in an executive session are secret, but are not restricted in any other way. [RONR (11th ed.), pp. 95-96.]

Question 18: Is it possible to withdraw a resignation after it has been submitted?

Answer: A resignation is a Request to Be Excused from a Duty. It may be withdrawn in the same manner as any motion may be withdrawn-that is to say, before the proposed resignation has been placed before the assembly by the chair stating the question on its acceptance, it may be withdrawn without the consent of the assembly, but it may not be withdrawn without permission of the assembly once it has been placed before the assembly for its approval. [RONR (11th ed.), pp. 289-92; 295-97.]

Taken from "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief"



Mary Lerssen, Parliamentarian



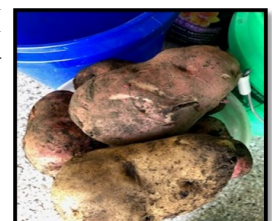
Spectacular Spuds!



Fall is here with its lovely colors. Our neighbors have a beautiful red maple and we have a yellow one so we have been enjoying them. I am hopeful that we will not have a frost for a while so we can continue enjoying them and my fall radishes, spinach and lettuce can develop.

I have to brag a bit. We have had the biggest and most potatoes we have ever had this year. Why? Who knows but I think we got rain at just the right time because I rarely watered them as they are at my community garden and not in my home garden. A single potato hardly fits into a five-gallon pail!

Mary Lerssen, SD Gardener



2021 RMR Photography Contest Results

The Rocky Mountain Region Annual Meeting was canceled in 2020 due to covid. The theme was “Wildlife of the Rocky Mountain Region,” and In 2021, the theme was “Wildlife, Water, Trees, and Pastoral Scenes of the Rocky Mountain Region. We combined both contests into one with a total of 20 entries.

Photography Judge Melissa Uland is the creative services lead for an international firm. She has twenty years of experience in communications, design, and photography. She creates and develops outreach strategies – including branding, messaging, marketing, and design – that reflect her client’s goals and are the foundation for community outreach efforts. Melissa’s multifaceted approach incorporates a keen eye for design, color, visuals, and photography. In her free time. She enjoys mountain biking and has a collection of trailhead pictures from across the U.S.

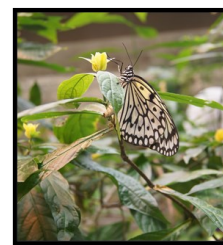
The results of the contest include ribbons and encouraging messages from Judge Melissa Uland. The results are as follows:

Overall Winner (Rosette Ribbon) is Chris Martin for “Butterfly.”

First Place (Blue Ribbon):



1. Linsey Duffy “Late Snow”
2. Darla Anderson “Bees Can Bee Bee-eautiful
3. Chris Martin “Butterfly”
4. Sheryl Fitzpatrick “Where’s The Turtle”



Second Place (Red Ribbon)



1. Lindsey Duffy “Lunch Awaits”
2. Darla Anderson “Wasps In Space.”
3. Chris Martin “Squirrel.”
4. Joanne Jeffres “Elk-Searching For Food.”
5. Roberta Bolton “Bisons on Antelope Island.”
6. Roberta Bolton “Sunset Over The Great Salt Lake With Ewe.”

Third Place: (Yellow Ribbon)



1. Sheryl Fitzpatrick “Monarch Butterfly”
2. Linda Farr “Lunch Time For A Bison.”
3. Linda Farr “Grasshoppers At Play.”
4. Chris Martin “Old Faithful.”

Fourth Place:(White Ribbon)



1. Alice Hemsath “Pond Turtle 1”
2. Alice Hemsath “Pond Turtle 2.”
3. Sheryl Fitzpatrick “Robin In Birdbath.”
4. Joanne Jeffres “Swallowtail-Butterfly.”
5. Chris Martin “Swirling Waters.”
6. Sheryl Fitzpatrick “Bee in Peony.”

Donna Rouch, NE, Contest Director

All photos can be found on the RMR Website under Awards and Gallery: [RMR Website](#)

Smokey Bear-Woodsy Owl



It's that time of year again....time to talk about **fire safety and cleaning up** our planet.

School has reopened with face to face learning in most states. All the children here in Utah are wearing masks to school in an attempt to ward off Covid germs and to filter out all the smoke that is in the air from the California fires. It is a GREAT TIME to talk about the \Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest.

Due to Covid it is almost impossible to get into the schools to talk about the contest. I have found that there are a number of short videos put out by the forest service that cover the subjects of fire safety and cleaning up the planet beautifully! They are short and to the point...most are 1 - 3 minutes in length. If you are interested in seeing these, go to smokeybear.com or You Tube, Smokey Bear Woodsy owl contests.

Some of the videos are even in Spanish. Perhaps you could mention this to schools when dropping off flyers.

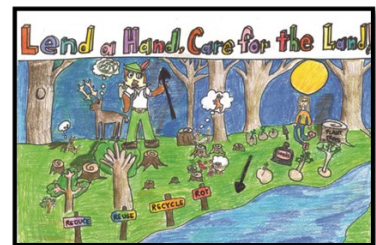
It is important to think about the contest now, since posters must be turned in to your **State Chairman by January 15th**. The past few years, the Rocky Mountain Region has won recognition on a national level multiple times. Last year a 1st grader and a 3rd grader won 1st place nationally . The children were thrilled to receive \$50 each. . Both young ladies were sponsored by The Neighborhood Garden Club of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Connie MacKay, Chairman

1st Grade Poster



3rd Grade Poster



[Rocky Mountain Region Website Address](#)

The Rocky Mountain Region Website has been updated. Please check us out and take a look at our Director, State Officers, Newsletters, Awards, Gallery (includes photos from 2020-21 RMR photo contest), Resources links to NGC, Recipes. Take time an “poke around” to see what’s here!

This is a work in progress! If we all work together, the site will grow! Let us know at rmrrambler@yahoo.com as to what you want to see on this site!

Simple click this link — [RMR Website](#) Enjoy!!

Carla Scheer, Webmaster

Joanne Jeffres, Rambler Editor





Gold Star Marker at Botanica, Wichita, KS

Rogene Glenn of Suburban Garden Club, Wichita, KS composed and presented the following for the Dedication of our Gold Star Marker at Botanica, The Wichita Gardens



Invocation:

Lord of life, we ask thy blessings on all of us here and for whom we represent.

Our Veterans sacrificed their lives. Today we want to devote this Gold Star to all our men and women, past, present and future. Amen

Benediction:

I pray that Botanica will be a “peaceful, reflective place” for all military families. Perhaps for the very first time, it honors those who made a sacrifice “greater” than any of ourselves. Our hearts tell us this memorial will be a lasting tribute and honor to “their sacrifice” and make some assurance their suffering will not be forgotten. Amen

One of the Gold Star Mothers was interviewed on television and stated the dedication helped give her closure. Needless to say, there were many (including myself) with damp eyes. I noticed some of our Patriot Guard wiping their eyes as well.

Here's a picture of the Marker along with the wreath designed by Floanna Crowley.



As the Gold Star Families and the Patriot Guard arrived, yellow roses given the Families and attendees, a few of the veterans.



Submitted by:
Maxine Wells, KS





Taming Wildflowers & Feeding Bees

Taming Wildflowers and Feeding Bees: How to Create a Local Hot Spot

The Red Rock Garden, blooming along the highway just south of Dell Rapids, South Dakota, was established in 1993 as a wildflower garden. Despite exposure to harsh sun and wind, it grew happily and abundantly for 24 years until it far exceeded our club’s ability to control it. Something needed to change and that something turned a pretty little spot beside the road into a favorite rest stop along the local recreational trail.

To make summer maintenance more manageable and tackle the depleting pollinator crisis, club members decided to exchange the wildflowers for pollinator plants in 2017. The beds were laid out using a garden hose to create a butterfly shape. Invasive native plants and generous re-seeders were thinned, tamed, and trained to create a respectable garden filled



with well-behaved flowers, all specially selected as food and host plants for bees and butterflies. Prominent in the new design was the use of Sioux quartzite rock quarried right in Dell Rapids (hence the name “Red Rock Garden”). It was used to border beds, line paths, and add hard-scape interest. The club added a Little Free Library stocked with gardening books, magazines, and pamphlets, as well as general books for all



ages. Benches were installed and a local Boy Scout constructed a pergola for his Eagle Scout project.

During this transformation, the city recreational trail extended its route past the garden, greatly boosting visitor numbers. The Red Rock Garden has become a popular stop for friends on walks and families on bikes. The pergola, surrounded by an ever-



changing display of spring bulbs, perennial blooms, and annual color, provides a peaceful setting for lunch and conversation. The Little Library contains checklists for a kids’ garden scavenger hunt—find a caterpillar, a grasshopper, a purple flower, something bumpy, etc. Families are often spotted reading picture books together from the library before continuing on their ride.



The Red Rock Garden not only feeds the pollinators but is teaching the community what every gardener knows, **that time spent in a garden feeds the soul.**

**Dell Rapids Area Garden Club, South Dakota—
by Linsey**



Starting from Scratch at Garfield Park



The Plattsmouth Garden Club, located in the Eastern District of Nebraska, has given the Veterans Memorial Garden at Garfield Park in Plattsmouth a much-needed facelift this year. Plattsmouth Garden Club (PGC) President John Williams, along with PGC Treasurer Jerry Blackwell and FGCN Treasurer Lorraine Patrick led the charge after learning that the City of Plattsmouth mowed down the garden in the Fall of 2020 leaving very few of the beautiful plants to come back in the spring.

After several discussions at our monthly meetings, we decided to take the Veterans Memorial Garden at Garfield Park in a native direction. With a \$100.00 budget earmarked for plant purchases, PGC President John Williams traveled twice to the Native Plant Nursery in Lincoln and came back with a variety of native plants. After scheduling several work parties, several pairs of helping hands came out to help with weeding, as well as the planting of the newly purchased native plants. Black-eyed Susan's, pitcher sage, butterfly weed, and prairie wild rose are some of the new plants that were planted this year at the Veterans Memorial Garden.

But wait – **there's more to this story.** The Plattsmouth Garden Club did not stop there! The Plattsmouth Garden Club was determined to have a beautiful Veterans Garden again, and we were going to do it right. Lorraine decided to create little signs with colorful pictures of the plants, along with the Latin and common names of the ones that were planted. This way, passersby would learn about the different native plants as they were growing in the garden. Additionally, John purchased a new retractable water hose, which helps keep the plants watered at Garfield Park during the hot summer months. Lastly, to ensure no more mishaps at the rejuvenated Veterans Memorial Garden, a beautiful new sign has been purchased which reads:

“This Garden is maintained by the Plattsmouth Garden Club.”

Submitted by
Lorraine Patrick
Plattsmouth GC, NE



John Williams
and
Jerry Blackwell



New Plants Garfield Park

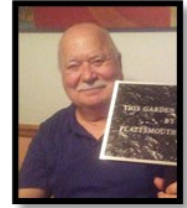


Garfield Park Rock





My Ghost Deer by John Williams



I attended a class on water gardens utilizing rainwater at the Iowa School For The Deaf in Council bluffs, Iowa several years ago. I even learned using barrels to store rainwater during the summer dry periods catching the rainwater from the roof of my house. Near the end of the class our instructor told us how deer loved Hosta as much as we loved caviar and how she kept them away by building a three tier fence. I especially like her idea of a maintenance free fence to keep deer out of her garden. Now that was my kind of fence! Cheap or should I say less expensive.

I bought six steel T-Posts and drove them around my garden. Then I strung 4lb. test clear cat gut fishing line taut in three layers around my fence posts. One line was about a foot above the ground. One was in the middle and one was stretched around the top of the posts. I had already tried planting peppermint down the middle of my garden and a row of rhubarb along the Western side. I planted peonies on the East side and scattered Iris around the other edges and in the middle too. All to no avail because the deer would still take a stroll through my garden and eat everything including my row of expensive huge strawberries plants clear to the roots and killed them.

I even created a spray bottle of pepper spray to keep the rabbits away from my garden. I placed a 3 quart pan on the stove and filled it with water, placed a fresh jalapeno, a table-spoon of jalapeno juice and a few sprinkles of cayenne pepper in it. Brought it to a boil for twenty minutes. Let it cool and strained the mixture. Once the impurities settled out I poured off the top and placed it into my spray bottle. Then after a rain or once a week I would spray the mixture on my beans, cucumbers and other tender plants I didn't want the rabbits to consume. If this spray burns your plants just dilute it with a little more water.

This concept worked well for the rabbits. One early morning I witnessed a rabbit hopping into my garden and seem to head right for my bush beans. He moseyed up to a plant and took a carefully oriented bite. Immediately he shook his head and moved his paw across his mouth. I didn't think rabbits were capable of thinking, but surprisingly he bent right down and took another nibble from the same plant. Again he shook his head and rubbed his front paw across his mouth for the second time. He looked around as if to make sure no one witnessed his embarrassment and hopped away from my garden and found a clover patch.

My bush beans were never attacked by rabbits again that summer. The pepper spray worked very well against rabbits but seemed to draw the deer in. I don't know whether the deer liked the ingredients in the spray but eventually they ate all my beans to the ground.

~~ cont'd



My Ghost Deer ~cont'd



I don't believe in ghosts but these deer were able to move effortlessly all over my yard unseen. I began thinking I had ghost deer. Let's face reality. How is it possible my neighbors are able to see the deer moving randomly around my yard and I could not? Does that make sense? No, it doesn't.

But now I had a deer fence stretched around my garden to keep the deer out. I remembered our college instructor had said the deer could not see the fishing line but they could feel it. If they could not see the line then they would not jump the fence, just move around the edges. Now I was ready! I would have a garden all to myself.

Several days later, even though I hadn't seen any deer, my fence had been breached. All the fishing lines were broken as if the deer had just walked through it. That meant I had real live deer not GHOST DEER. I felt better because I didn't want to believe in ghosts anyway.

I restrung my fence with 14lb. clear fishing line that would be a lot stronger than that 4 lb. test line. This method really worked. I had won! I won, the deer didn't! No deer and my garden grew like it was supposed to.

A month later I had a premonition, so I opened the blinds in the kitchen windows and was shocked to see two deer standing in the middle of my garden eating my plants, my food! I banged on the window and caught their attention as they glanced towards the house. I ran downstairs, banged open the basement door and ran out and saw them running across my yard and jumping the chain link fence and disappearing into the woods.

I wondered how they were able to enter my garden and exit it? Only a ghost deer could pass invisibly through my deer proof fence. These deer weren't ghosts because I had seen them so how did they pass through my fence? I inspected the fence and discovered a section on the south end was broken. I learned from the last time so I tied off the line at each post. That way if a breach occurred only that one section would be broken and the rest of the fence would remain intact. These deer couldn't be smarter than me!

That summer was a losing matter but next year I will win! So the following year I restrung the 14 lb. line and apparently the deer had indeed learned a lesson; to stay out of my garden. I was happy falsely thinking I had won again. I was apprehensive because I was beginning to think these were smart deer, you know, deer that could reason and think intelligently, not like ghost deer that could walk through walls and fences.

A couple months had passed and I couldn't believe my eyes one afternoon as I peered out the kitchen window.....[Click here to continue story:](#)

This link will take you to the Rocky Mountain Region website. You will be able to read the rest of "The Ghost Deer" as well as browse the updated site. Enjoy



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
Alternate Director	Robbie Kupper 315 East 6 th Street, Ogallala, NE 69153	"Growing and Using Herbs in Nebraska" fgcninc@gmail.com 308-289-6051
Secretary	Roberta Bolton 7125 N Ridge Rd. Lake Point, UT 74074	307-286-0759 Roberta.wyo@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynette Jeffres 915 East Roosevelt Ave. Riverton, WY 82501-2937	307-856-4399 307-851-1972 c lynjeffres@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Mary Lerssen 2615 East Woodland Hills Rd. Sioux Falls, SD 57103-4335	605-759-7837 c lerssenm@sio.midco.net
Historian	Roberta Bolton 7125 N Ridge Rd. Lake Point, UT 74074	801-255-4835 roberta.wyo@gmail.com

RMR State Presidents 2021-2023

<p>Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Nancy Griffin "Garden with Heart, Plant with Purpose, Conserve with Care" 19331 E Berry Pl, Aurora, CO 80015 mysticmoongardener@gmail.com — 720-936-5785</p>	<p>North Dakota State Garden Clubs Linda Anderson "The Grass Isn't Always Greener, Plant in North Dakota" 1501 – 28 ½ Ave S., Fargo, ND 58103 rwandljanderson@gmail.com — 701-893-5233</p>
<p>Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc. Floanna Crowley & Sherryl Fitzpatrick Co-Presidents — "Use Wisdom in Caring for Nature" Floanna Crowley Sherryl Fitzpatrick 341 N. Valley View St. 2869 TeeTime Ct Wichita, KS 67212 Wichita, KS 67205 floanna@cox.net sfitzpat3@att.net</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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Birds	Audrey Coyle, Colorado Springs, CO	afloris@stratisiq.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
Facebook	Phyllis White, Bozeman MT	gardens@bresnan.net
Flower Show Schools and Symposiums	Jim Sadler, Missoula, MT	jimsadler1220@gmail.com
Gardening School Liaison to RMR	Kathy Petersen, Arvada, CO	kpetersen303@gmail.com
Invasive Plant Species	Alice Hemsath	dhemsath@charter.net
Judges Council	Doris Duckworth, CO	dorisduckworth@yahoo.com
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, Halladay, UT	mcm31@icloud.com
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Wishing all of our dedicated
Gardeners, Friends and Families—

