



Rocky Mountain Rambler

Rocky Mountain Region
Newsletter

November 2023

GREETING FROM YOUR DIRECTOR



Fall is upon us. I can feel it in the air in the mornings. The fall weather has prompted me to get my greenhouse insulated and a heater bought for the Winter. I aim to have a functioning garden all through the Winter with herbs, tomatoes, radishes, beans, and anything else I can think of.

One of the herbs that I have planted is Savory. It is almost a forgotten herb in the United States but is still widely used in Europe. There are two varieties of Savory: Summer and Winter.

Summer Savory repels insects, so plant them next to problematic plants to help prevent infestation. Pair with catmint, California poppy, and rue for a beautiful effect.



Summer Savory grows as a small bushy plant. When it blooms, the plant is covered with delicate pale lavender flowers. It is an annual and can grow from 12 - 20 inches in height.

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**Next Deadline to submit to
Rambler: January 15th**



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Director's Message cont.

It prefers a hot and somewhat dry climate as its origin is Mediterranean. Use summer savory in lamb dishes, potatoes, and green bean dishes.

Winter Savory is Native to Turkey and North Africa. It is a hardy, evergreen herb boasting attractive flowers. It is a flavorful addition to a simmering pot of soup or stew. Winter Savory is a perennial, and its height is 12 inches. This savory tolerates cold winters but also likes sunny open areas and more arid conditions. It is tolerable of hot, sunny summers. It grows well with hyssop, lavender thyme, and sage.

Winter savory is used for soups and stews and is a good seasoning with cabbage, potatoes, and other root vegetables. The flowers are a tasty addition to herb butter and delicious with vegetables.

You should try planting some of this herb in your kitchen and give it a try.

Have a great fall, and remember to plant some herbs!!!!!!

Robbie Kupper
Rocky Mountain Region Director
315 East 6th Street
Ogallala, NE 69153
(308)289-6051
fgcninc@gmail.com



Dates to Remember:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| January 15, 2024 | Youth Sculpture Contest deadline | see page 24 |
| January 20, 2024 | Youth Poetry and Smokey/Woodsy Poster deadlines | |
| March 11-12, 2024 | NGC Environmental School (ES) | see page 25 |
| June 2-5, 2024 | NGC National Convention | Denver, CO |
| September 20-21, 2024 | RMR Annual Meeting | Sioux Falls, SD |
| May 19-22, 2025 | NGC National Convention | Omaha, NE |

Rocky Mountain Rambler**November 2023****Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs,**

I would like to Thank the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs for a lovely RMR meeting. Your entertainment was wonderful, and Friday night was so much fun at the Flying W Ranch.

Patty Jewitt Golf Course was such a nice venue and everyone was very accommodating!!

So many people to thank. A Big thank you to Audrey Coyle, the chair of the planning. Along with Audrey, again thank you Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs for all that you did to make this a success.

Thank you for your lovely basket and flowers. I had so much fun unpacking it and looking at everything. Thank you, Margie Soileau, for spearheading that task.

Thank you to Doris Duckworth as the registrar. That is such a big job and also so very important. You shined.

Thank you, Victoria Schmidt, for making me feel so welcome to your State.

Thank you to the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs Southern District for their donations to the "Goody Bags", AUDREY COYLE & VICTORIA SOBEY for creating the centerpieces, JOHN COYLE "Printing" and JOHN RUSSEL Gifted Pianist at Dinner from Colorado Springs.

You have outdone yourselves and deserve a big hand.

My heartfelt Thank You
Robbie Kupper
RMR Director

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Hello fellow gardeners!



This is going to be a big year for Colorado members as we prepare to host the National Garden Clubs, Inc.'s annual conference at the Westin in Westminster, Colorado, the first week of June 2024. It's an exciting time with members sharing their time, knowledge, and skills with us to plan and execute this conference.

I am so excited that we also have members from other states offering to help!

And that help is greatly appreciated. Colorado will of course help those states when it's their time to host the national conference. For those in Nebraska, that time will be here very quickly! If you would like to volunteer to help out at the National Conference in 2024, please reach out to me or Nancy Griffin, our Conference Chair.

We would love to have you all attend. And since it's fairly close by, just north of Denver, we hope that will entice you all to come and join us. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to meet fellow gardeners from across the country, as well as some of our international members. We'll have great speakers and workshops, optional tours, and time for mingling and getting to know other members, and we anticipate it being a great conference.

I hope that your gardens grow bountiful harvests and that we see you at the 2024 National Garden Club Conference in Colorado!

Sincerely,

Victoria

Victoria Schmidt, President

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

"Growing our knowledge through education, experience, experimentation, and sharing."

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

DIANE WARD, President



Each year I travel throughout the state of Montana. Over the course of 2 weeks and putting in 2,000 miles, the State Officers visit the eight (8) districts. These District Meetings are hosted by one of the clubs in the district. This year we moved the normal District Meeting dates from spring to fall and asked the clubs to prepare a “round table” discussion. It’s a great way for the club members to share what projects they are doing and what they have planned for the coming year. Many of the clubs are miles from each other so this gathering allows them to see friends again. My theme is Communication and Education and it was so wonderful hearing about the clubs working together on projects and programs.



District Meeting in Malta, MT – Fall Decorations



Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club Members. Left to right: Susan Billmeyer, Karen Covert, Karen Vosen, Linda Hoines, Vicki Nederegger, Judy Ward

Over the summer clubs held flower shows, had plant sales for fundraising, toured members gardens, visits to nurseries and greenhouses and invited various speakers to speak and educate them on subjects such as composting, growing flowers and vegetables from seed indoors, how to press flowers, and an Agronomist spoke to one club on Pulse Crops with samples and recipe book. The Bitterroot is the state flower of Montana and is difficult to grow. “Bitterroot Bob” recruited club members to help support Bitterroot education. An Arbor Day Celebration was held in Whitehall where 30 FREE trees were given to the first 30 attendees honoring the town being a Tree City for 30 years.

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Arbor Day Display

Measuring for planting



With 23 garden clubs spread throughout Montana, the holidays are celebrated in many ways. During the Fall Season, members get ready for Thanksgiving. Seasonal arrangements and decorating pumpkins with succulents are very popular. They are sold at Fall Festivals, holiday craft fairs and made as centerpieces, which are donated to assisted living and nursing homes for residents to enjoy.

As Christmas gets closer, holiday wreaths and swags are made and sold as club fundraisers. Some clubs hold workshops on how to create your own wreath or swag. Ornament workshops are held for children/adults, showing them how to create beautiful decorations for their Christmas tree.

Christmas Stockings are filled with goodies for children and Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets containing food are given to needy families. Some towns have whiskey barrels that clubs decorate for the holidays.

There's nothing better than a bake sale! From pies and cakes to delicious cookies, there is something for everyone. This is a great fundraiser for clubs.

Some clubs make food donations to their local Food Bank. Let's not forget the "Angel Tree" where clubs can make a monetary donation that will assist needy families.



As the year comes to an end, Christmas parties are loads of fun. Potluck lunches and dinners or going to a local restaurant brings a warm feeling and a chance for members to celebrate the holidays together.

From my state, MONTANA, to your state, I want to wish everyone a **HAPPY, HEALTHY,** and a **WARM** Holiday Season and a **BRIGHT NEW YEAR.**

Diane Ward, President

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.

Hello from Nebraska,

It's been a busy few months. I so enjoyed traveling to Colorado Springs for our RMR meeting. It was great to see some familiar faces as well as having a great meeting. I'm looking forward to attending the NGC Convention in May. I know the Colorado Committee has been working hard and it will be an excellent meeting.

Our gardeners are busy cleaning up their gardens in preparation for winter. I attended a meeting that talked about dos and don'ts for fall garden clean-ups. It was a very interesting talk where the speaker encouraged everyone to have a messy fall garden. He emphasized all the benefits of having a messy garden as it provides food and shelter for many birds and other wildlife. I'm excited to help provide for the wildlife so they survive the winter. I also appreciated that he gave suggestions for native plants we could plant to help protect and provide food for our wildlife in the fall. Love learning new ideas.

We held our annual fall board meeting on October 28, 2023, via Zoom. Thank goodness we did that as the western part of the state had a foot of snow by the time I called the meeting to order, and the eastern part of the state only had cloudy weather or just a trace of snow. It was a great Zoom meeting as we were able to learn what was happening in the clubs from across the state, discuss our annual meeting that will be held in Kearney, NE as well as talk about the upcoming National Convention in 2025.

I'd also like to recognize Mary Carlson, a retired Army Lt. Col, and her committee for fundraising enough money for Tom Stelling to restore five Blue Star Memorials on Interstate 80. Mary's goal is to add at least two new locations for the Blue Star Memorial and at least one more Gold Star Memorial. We are very proud of Mary and her committee.

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Chris Martin

FGCN President

Plant Nebraska Native Plants: Preserve our Wildlife's Habitats

North Dakota State Garden Clubs

Greetings from the Peace Garden State of North Dakota



The Fargo Garden Society is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Organized 100 years ago, the Fargo Garden Society was started by North Dakota Agriculture College professors and downtown businessmen who wanted to share their passion for gardening and help beautify their city. They met at the Commercial Club which occupied the second floor of what is now the Hotel Donaldson. In later years they had various meeting sites and the club's membership grew. The Fargo Garden Society has been meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month since January of 1924.

This Centennial celebration is going on throughout the whole year. The first project was placing two benches at the entrance of the Red River Zoo Pollinator Garden with our name and 1923-2023 imprinted on the backrest. We also designed a garden flag that members ordered and displayed in their gardens throughout the spring and summer.



Bench at the Red River Zoo entrance with one of the succulent planters furnished by Nancy McKinnon.



Joel Simon, Mark Blonigen, and Les Westgard representing the founding fathers plus paper mâché flower lady in the background.

Then an Open House was held at Broadway Station Senior Center with cake and guest speakers. Brenda Moore, National Garden Club President, and other dignitaries from our local projects spoke. We displayed history books and our 1932 silver plated gladiolus vase. Guests were greeted by our paper mâché flower lady in a garden party setting as well as club members dressed to represent three of our founding fathers. We are looking forward to our local newspaper writing an article, plus highlights on the local news channel. Group picture below with National President Brenda Moore.

North Dakota State Garden Clubs, cont.



Garden Flag



Antique 1932 Vase



Paper mâché flower lady in a garden party

North Dakota State Garden Clubs, cont.



National Garden Clubs President Brenda Moore, North Dakota State Garden Clubs President Linda Anderson, and Fargo Garden Society President Lori DeRemer.

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely card and well wishes from the Rocky Mountain Convention.

“Conserve Nature and Grow Friendships in North Dakota”

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



South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs



We have been happily meeting and researching location, speakers, menus, etc. for the 2024 RMR Convention. We have decided on **September 20 and 21 in Sioux Falls**. Our theme is **“Gardening to Benefit our Earth”**. Friday night will be at one of our newest state parks, Good Earth outside of Sioux Falls. You will have the opportunity to hike the trails, tour the museum, view the video explaining the interesting history of the area and ask questions of a staff member. We are still working on Saturday. Stay tune for more info as we get it together!

As I shared, our theme is “Gardening to Benefit our Earth”. It fits well for me because I just finished taking Course 1 of the Environmental School from the NGC. It was offered through ZOOM for \$55. What a deal compared to having to travel and stay at a hotel, etc. It was a two-day event with 70ish students participating. I was the only student from the RMR. That was a surprise to me and Jim Rouch, the RMR Environmental Studies Chairman since we don’t usually have a lot of opportunities to take course in our region. Pat Rupiper was the organizer and did an excellent job of managing 70 students plus others listening. Course 2 is being offered in March. You do not have to take the courses in any specific order so you could do Course 2 even though you have not done Course 1. Visit the NGC website for more information or contact Jim.

South Dakota continues to be dry. We are reminded to water our trees, perennials and bushes so they can weather the winter. However, so far November has been more like September with temperatures in the 60’s and 70’s!! I am sure the cold is coming. Last year we had record snow but it did not significantly help the dry earth. In fact, we did have 5 inches of rain at one time earlier this summer but it ran off so fast, the earth was soon dry again.

Many of the clubs are preparing for the holidays by decorating city streets, public trees, planning parties, etc. The gardens have been put to bed, bulbs have been shared and stored, plants have been stored in the basement or garage, canned salsa/tomatoes/etc. are on the shelves, corn is in the freezer, potatoes are stored in the cold room, etc. However, our meetings continue as we learn and plan for next spring!

Please reserve the dates of September 20 and 21 to come to Sioux Falls. We have a lovely city with the falls, many sculptures in the downtown area, beautiful cathedral, Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, several parks with many flower beds, etc. On the way here, you can see our stunning Black Hills, Badlands, Missouri River (maybe you can stop to fish a bit and catch a walleye), fields of sunflowers, buffalo in Custer State Park, famous worlds only Corn Palace in Mitchell, etc. Hope to see you all!

Mary Lerssen, SDFGC President

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The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.



Utah is patiently waiting for more snow a repeat of last year's epic proportions would be fun. The Utah associated Garden Club hosted for its fall symposium. "A worms Tale". That is not a typo, a worm's tale. Patrick Perry from a worm's tale gave an exciting presentation of composting large scale with worms. Who knew how much there was to say about worms' compost and casting? He regaled us with a slide show of wholesale production of compost at his 3 locations in the US. The majority of his compost is purchased by marijuana growers. They like the complete organic nature of it. Plus, it works! At the end of the evening in the dark and illuminated by car head lights he shoveled a truck load of compost into waiting buckets and bags for participants along with worm

casting and many took home worms in a plastic bag to plant in their garden. The worms were European night crawlers that can survive Utah winters. Plant 10 worms and in a year you will have 10,000! European night-crawlers are good for indoor and outdoor use.

The evening was very well attended with 50 people, from many clubs. A Mexican themed dinner was prepared by the Park City Garden Club. If only the Garden Center allowed adult beverages. A margarita would have completed an exciting Tale of worms.

We recognized our two Smokey Bear winners. Who attended with their parents and family.



Mary Holley

Utah State
President



Rocky Mountain Rambler**November 2023****Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

We are enjoying a beautiful fall here in Wyoming. The trees turning are always so beautiful. We've all been busy getting our gardens ready for winter.

We held our Fall board meeting in Casper in October. We had a great turnout. Clubs from Cheyenne, Riverton, Encampment, Chugwater and Casper were represented. We selected our nomination committee for new officers in October 2023. We received reports on the Blue Star Memorial, the Penny Pines project, and the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl project.

We are delighted to have a new club in our state – the Chug Creek Cultivators Garden Club, located in Chugwater. We welcome all the new members and look forward to meeting them.

Submitted by Connie Wallace
WFGC, Inc. Co-President 2023-2025



Linda English



Connie Wallace

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RMR Bird Chairman Report Fall 2023

Make your garden a bird-friendly space during Migration. It may allow you to glimpse them on their way. Birds have a sixth sense; they sense the Earth's magnetic field. This ability to judge north and south is clearly helpful as they navigate the sky, especially in migration seasons. Scientists are still figuring out how they do it, but the latest clues suggest that magnetic detection is based in proteins in their eyes. In a way, birds may be "seeing" the magnetic field. Below you will find a darling Pine Warbler picture sent by our Colorado President, Victoria Schmidt. People mistake them all the time for a Gold Finch. The male Gold finch has darker black wing stripes, black face markings and they usually hang around in groups, especially in winter and just remember your gold finches lose their beautiful yellow color in the fall and winter. We still need to be feeding and watering them even though we may not recognize them.

RMR Bird Chairman: Audrey Coyle CO.

Pine Warbler



Parliamentarian



This time we are going to talk about committees. This topic has been on my mind for a while as I look at our organization and the future. I reviewed what Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RROONR) said about committees and used some of what they had to say here. Our bylaws state:

“ARTICLE VIII

Committees

The Director can appoint Regional Chairs and Committees as necessary to conduct the business of the RMR.”

Our bylaws do not indicate any specifically needed committees. Our Handbook lists 22 Committee Chairs for the Rocky Mountain Region.

According to RROONR there are two kinds of committees: standing and special ad hoc. Standing committees have a continuing existence and function such as a Membership Committee. Usually, members of standing committees are designated in the bylaws, elected or appointed by the chair. Special ad hoc committees appointed by the Director are created for a special purpose and go out of existence when that purpose is completed.

By definition, a committee is a **group of people** who are appointed to meet to make decisions or plans for a larger group that they represent. Notice, it says “**group of people**”. Often our standing committees’ function with a single person. That is not the intent or purpose of a committee. The purpose of a committee is to represent the membership, act and make decisions on the topic for which they are responsible. A group is three or more.

We have several options. Maybe the committee chair is expected to form their own committee from their own state, volunteers from a combination of their state as well as others, one member from every state, etc. Maybe the Director appoints committee members. This action needs to be determined. We need a “**group of people**” to make decisions, produce activity and make recommendations from our determined committees or is the committee necessary since some of them do not have an annual report which is part of a committee’s function?

According to RROONR, the chair person is responsible to call the meeting or failure to do that, two committee people can call a meeting. Majority vote or consensus applies to all decisions of the committee. Meetings can be by zoom or email if in person meeting is unreasonable. Subcommittees can be formed from the original committee. A secretary may be elected but often the chair acts as the secretary to prepare a temporary memorandum for the committee’s use, somewhat like minutes. However, they are not approved, corrected or retained. A committee is expected to “report” in person and/or by written report. The report may end in a motion if action is indicated in the report. No second is required if the committee has at least two members.

I believe most of the current committees are needed but we need to refresh how they function and make sure we have group input and action if indicated. Active committees are necessary for any organization to function effectively. As often is said, committees are where the action happens. Let’s make it happen!!!

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Lerssen, RMR Parliamentarian

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Awards

Awards By State:

COLORADO

3a Montana Award Writing Yearbook Happy Transplants Garden Club 1st place

11e Conservation and Environmental Concerns: Promoting Conservation
Dig and Dream Garden Club 1st Place

20B Special Achievement Award Garden Club Queens of Spades 1st place

MONTANA

1a Colorado Award: Garden Therapy Includes Gardeners of Different Abilities or Seniors
Bullhook Blossoms 1st place

3 Montana Writing Award Whitehall Garden Club 1st place

3c Montana Award Writing State Publications Montana Federation of Garden Clubs 1st place

8a Utah Award Garden Tours: Tours open to Public Bullhook Blossoms 1st place

10e Civic Development: Project that has been ongoing for several years Bullhook Blossoms 2nd place

14 Landscape Design: Bullhook Blossoms 1st Place

NEBRASKA

Photography Contest: Landscape Angela Carroll Perfect Sunset Juror's Choice
Bob Martin Grand Canyon—3rd place

Photography Contest: Nature Angela Carroll—Lupine—Honorable Mention
Bob Martin—Spring Fawn—Honorable Mention
Robbie Kupper Bumblebee on Cone Flower Honorable Mention

3a Montana Award Writing Yearbook Friendly Federated Garden Club 2nd place

3b Montana Award Writing Scrapbook Friendly Federated Garden Club 1st place

18 Blue Star/Gold Star Highway Memorials Mary Carlson & Blue Star Restoration Committee 1st place

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SOUTH DAKOTA

2A Kansas Award Conservation Educational Activity Dell Rapids Area Garden Club 2nd Place

11g Conservation and Environmental Concerns Project that incorporates wildflowers or native plant materials:
Dell Rapids Area Garden Club 1st place

1a Colorado Award Garden Therapy Includes Gardens of Different Abilities or Seniors
Dell Rapids Area Garden Club 2nd place

26c Photograph Camera Linsey Duff Birds 1st place

2a Kansas Award Conservation Award: Educational Activity Mary Larssen 1st place

3a Montana Award Writing: Yearbook. Mitchell Area Garden Club 3rd place

1b Colorado Award: Garden Therapy: Teaches gardeners with Different Abilities or Senior Citizens
Mitchell Area Garden Club 1st place

10e Civic Development: Project that has been ongoing for several years. Mitchell Area Garden Club:
Honorable Mention Carnegie Resource Center's

10e Civic Development: Project that has been ongoing for several years. Mitchell Area Garden Club
Honorable Mention: Mitchell's Veteran's Park

10e Civic Development: Project that has been ongoing for several years. Mitchell Area Garden Club:
1st place Maintaining flower pots on main street

6c South Dakota Award Birds Design and Installation and Maintenance of Public Or Private Gardens:
Mitchell Area Garden Club 1st place

Photography Contest Nature Linsey Duff Prairie Winter Asters 2nd place

UTAH

3c Montana Award Writing Articles for Publication Agnieszka Lewendowska 2nd Place

8b Utah Award Garden Tours Partnered with Another Group Alternative Garden Club Utah Associated
Garden Clubs 2nd Place

8e Utah Award Garden Tours Tour of Garden Club Members' Garden Patty Smith 2nd place

8e Utah Award Garden Tours Tour of Garden Club member's gardens Utah Rose Society 1st place

13b NGC Flower Show Award Non-NGC Flower Show Utah Rose Society 1st place

16B Youth Awards: Leader that has given outstanding service: Connie McKay 2nd Place

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UTAH cont.

27-1 Multi-Media Award Designed and Managed by Club Member Geoff Ellis 2nd place

Photography Contest: Nature Mary Perry: Bullocks Oriole 3rd place
Susan Vodopich Rose Honorable Mention

Photography Contest: Landscape Susan Vodopich Grand Teton Autumn 1st place
Susan Vodopich Brooks Lake Honorable Mention

WYOMING

Photography Contest Nature Jutta Arkan Refracting Sea Holly Juror's Choice
Jutta Aran The Bee Honorable Mention
Kendra Bogacz Butterfly 1st place

Photography Contest Landscape Jutta Arkan Cheyenne Auroras 2nd place
Kendra Bogacz Fall in the Tetons Honorable Mention

1c Colorado Award Garden Therapy Provides a Service to a group of people Rainbow Garden Club 1st place

3c Montana Award Writing Articles for Publication Amy Grisak 1st place

4c Nebraska Award Horticulture Excellence: Contributing to Horticulture through a project:
Rainbow Garden Club 1st place

6b South Dakota Award Birds Educational Programming Regarding Importance of Birds
Rainbow Garden Club 1st place

7b Wyoming Award Trees Educational Programming Regarding Importance of Trees
Rainbow Garden Club 1st place

10e Civic Development Project that has been ongoing for several years Rainbow Garden Club 3rd place

12 Butterfly Gardening Rainbow Garden Club 1st place

16 Youth Awards Rainbow Garden Club 1st place

27-1 Multi Media Award Designed and managed by club members Rainbow Garden Club 1st place

24 Youth Gardening Rainbow Garden Club 1st place

26B Photography Wildflowers Amy Grisak 1st place

**Kansas and ND did not have any entries.

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Photography Awards:

Landscape

Juror's choice "Perfect Sunset" Angela Carroll Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.



1st Place "Grand Teton Autumn" Susan Vodopich Wyoming Federation Garden Clubs



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2nd Place: “Cheyenne Auroras” Jetta Arken Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs



3rd Place Grand Canyon Bob Martin Federated Garden Clubs of NE, Inc

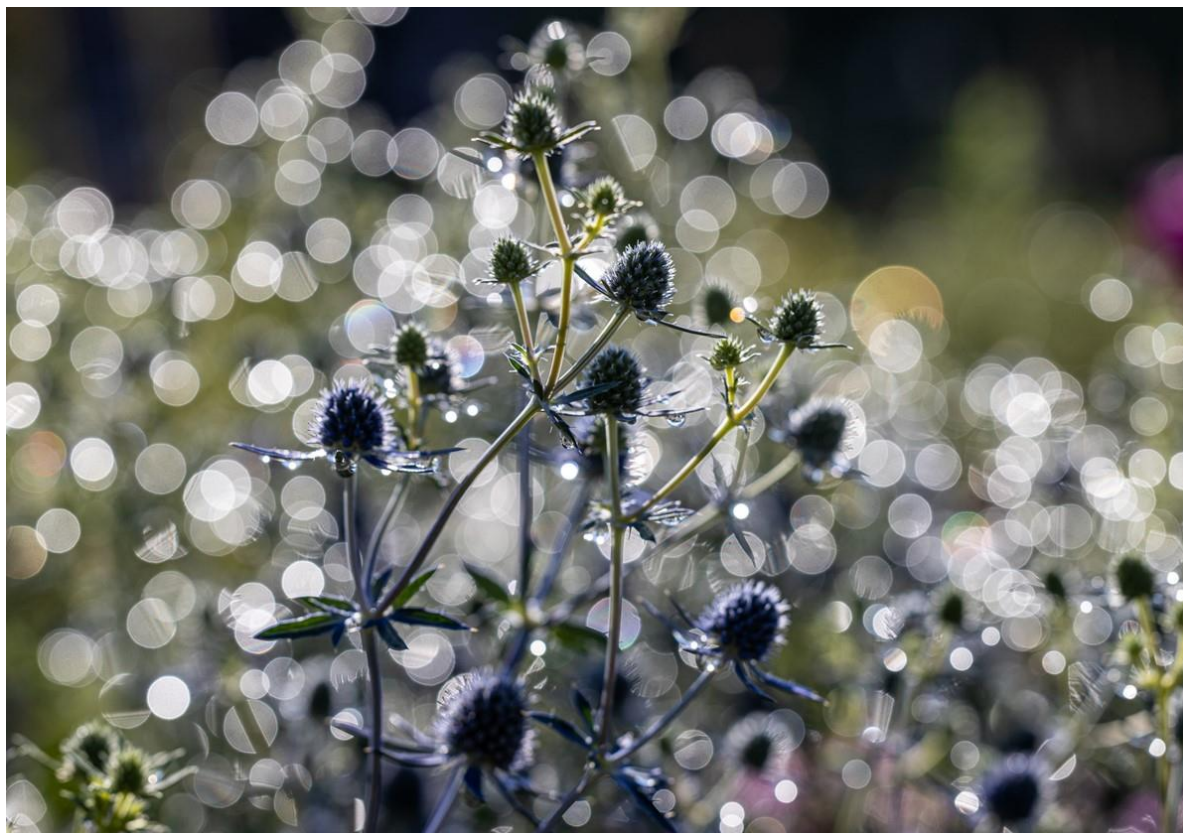


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Nature

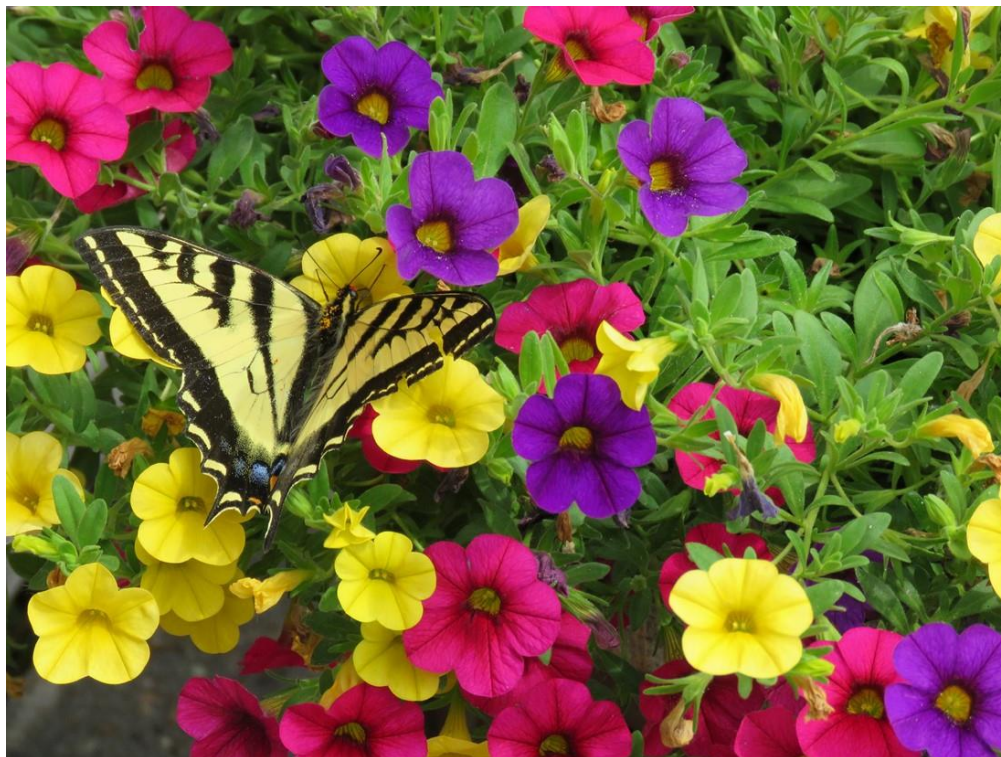
Juror's Choice "Refracting Seaholly" Jutta Arkan Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs



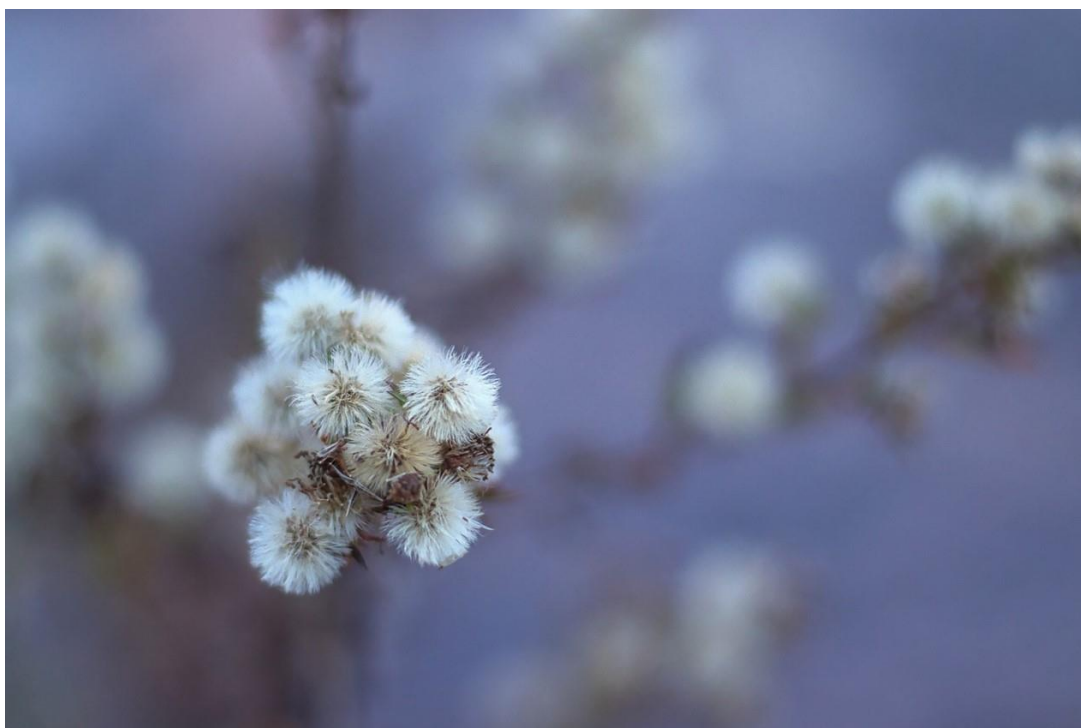
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1st Place “Butterfly” Kendra Bogacz Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs



2nd place “Prairie Winter Asters” Linsey Duff South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs



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3rd place “Oriole” Mary Perry Federated Garden Club of Utah



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Youth Contests

Please consider contacting your local school to see if you can get students to participate. Links to the contests are included.

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Link to contest: [poster-contest-announcement.pdf](#)

Please have your posters to your state chair who oversees the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl contest no later than **Jan 20, 2024**. State Chairs should have their first-place poster winners from each class to the RMR chair (Connie McKay, Holladay, UT mem31@icloud.com) no later than **Feb. 24, 2024**.

Poetry Contest

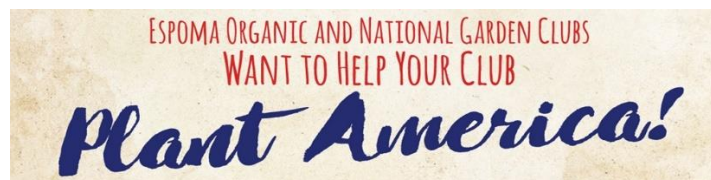
Link to contest: <https://www.gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/youth-poetry-contest-guidelines-2023-2024.pdf>

Please have your poster to your state chair who oversees the Poetry Contest no later than **Jan 20, 2024**. State Chairs should have their first-place poetry winners from each class to the RMR chair (Chris Martin, dzrcc8@yahoo.com P.O. Box 86, Friend, NE 68359 no later than **February 1, 2024**

Sculpture Contest

Link to contest: <https://www.gardenclub.org/youth-sculpture-contest>

Please have your entries to your state chair who oversees the Sculpture Contest no later than **Jan 15, 2024**. State Chairs should have their first-place winners from each class to the RMR Chair: Chris Martin, dzrcc8@yahoo.com P.O Box 86, Friend, NE 68359 no later than **February 1, 2024**.



Members of National Garden Clubs are passionate about growing with a purpose and The Espoma Company wants to help! Together, we're looking for **NGC Affiliated Garden Clubs** with a vision that can be brought to life. We're selecting up to 20 clubs with projects in 2023-2024 to receive a \$250 grant for Espoma Organic plant foods and potting soils.

THE GRANT PROGRAM

Espoma's 'Plant America' Grant Program was announced at the 2017 NGC Annual Convention in Richmond. Grants for \$250 of Espoma products may be awarded to up to 20 NGC clubs annually. Since that time, over 115 grants have been awarded to clubs in 38 states. These creative NGC clubs have used these Espoma resources to beautify their local communities and improve the quality of life for their members, friends, neighbors and communities.

ATTENTION 2023-24 WINNERS – Send your project update with 5 completed project photos by April 15, 2025. Your club may be the “BEST of the BEST” WINNER of a \$500 cash award from ESPOMA! Sorry, no late project updates accepted. The BOB Winner will be announced at the 2025 Convention!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Grant applications for 2023-24 are accepted **October 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024**

Simply complete the online form at <https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/> or on NGC's site

- **Be sure to attach 'before' photos of your site/s and a simple master plan sketch or diagram, plant list, etc. – clubs who do not, stand little chance of winning an Espoma Grant**
- **Tell us when your project is scheduled to begin**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- NGC / Espoma will select NGC Member Clubs as grant winning recipients
- Selected winning clubs will be directed to a local retailer for their choice of products

WHEN THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE

Send description/photos of the completed project by April 15, 2025 to grants2023.25ngc@gmail.com

Remember, your club could then be selected as the “BEST of the BEST” Winner!

- Forward local press information so we can send a press release about your club's good work!
- **REMEMBER:** Applications are accepted **October 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024**

WHAT WE WILL DO WITH YOUR WINNING SUBMISSIONS

- Share on NGC's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
- Release for publication in ***The National Gardener***

STATE PRESIDENTS - PLEASE PUBLICIZE!

CLUB PRESIDENTS - APPLY FOR YOUR CLUB!

Applying for the Espoma Plant America grant is easy. Simply click on the link to the Espoma Grant Program Application.

Go to <https://www.espoma.com/garden-clubs/> Complete the form, add photo .jpgs and your project

description/master plan sketch/plant list, etc. (as a WORD DOC) and submit. We look forward to receiving your application by the **May 31, 2024** deadline! Questions?

Contact Debi Harrington, Espoma Committee Chairman at: grants2023.25ngc@gmail.com or 505-206-0930MT.

Do not contact Espoma directly - except to apply via the link.

Rocky Mountain Rambler**November 2023****NGC Environmental School (ES)**

From Pat Rupiper, NGC Schools Chair, forwarded by Jim Rouch

Announcing the 2nd NGC sponsored Environmental School (ES) Zoom course scheduled for March 11 and 12, 2024. I was a proctor for 1st ES course help in October 2023 and I thought it was very interesting with outstanding content and instructors.

There are four separate courses which one can take to become certified as an NGC Environmental Consultant. The courses do not have to be taken in order and “students” can take multiple courses in a given year, in person or by Zoom, to complete the process.

I am proud to be an NGC Environmental Consultant. I can’t say that completing the process for accreditation increased my income or provided any new employment opportunities. But I view this as one might view other designations, e.g., Boy & Girl Scout merit badges and ranks, stations in fraternal organizations and so forth. It signifies that one has undertaken a course of study and put forth the effort to accomplish a goal. And to become better informed about an important societal issue. I highly recommend the series of National Garden Clubs Environmental School courses. I think you would enjoy them!

I hope you will publicize the course to your members so they can consider registering for the course. One can register under the “schools tab” on the NGC website: <https://gardenclub.org>

This is to be shared on regional websites, to state chairman, however you see fit.

The link takes you to schools page.

Pat Rupiper patrupiper@gmail.com

Regards,

Jim

Rocky Mountain Rambler

November 2023

From Elkhorn Valley Garden, NE,

Verna Headley, Vice President and Julie West, Secretary from Elkhorn Valley Garden Club (EVGC) donated the complete set of National Garden Clubs (NGC) children's books on August 9, 2023 to Waterloo Library in Waterloo, NE as a token of appreciation for allowing EVGC to use their meeting room. The set included *The Frightened Frog, an Environmental Tale* (2015), *The Saved Seed* (2017), *Network with Nature* (2020) and *My Green is Gone* (2022) all written by current NGC President Brenda Moore and beautifully illustrated by Emily Lackey Anderson. These colorful and engaging books are perfect for story time and getting young minds interested in gardening for elementary grades kindergarten to 4th grade although the lessons learned may apply to all ages. The photograph (attached to this email) from left to right includes Verna Headley, Librarian Megan Pruitt and Julie West. These books are available from the NGC store on NGC's website:

<https://gardenclub.org/store>



Rocky Mountain Rambler

November 2023

From Nancy Schmitz (Country Gardeners in Nebraska),

The Country Gardeners enjoy decorating a room every Christmas at Buffalo Bill's home located at the Scouts Rest Ranch in North Platte. The event, "Christmas at the Cody's" is held in the evenings and is open to the public. Evening events include horse-drawn hay sled rides, roasting chestnuts, hot cider and cookies, and tours of the decorated barn. Below are some of the pictures showcasing the decorating skills of the Country Gardeners.





Rocky Mountain Rambler

November 2023

Corrections

From Mary Lerssen (South Dakota),

I wanted to update you on my info for the Handbook and any info in the Rambler. I no longer have a landline phone. The only phone number I have is 605.759.7837. Also, I noted that the "t" in net was cut off on my email, but I think folks would figure that out.

Editor's Note

Hello all, thank you for all of the reports, information, and photos.

I'm hoping to include photos and information from your clubs in the "Our Club is up to..." section of the Rambler along with the RMR Meeting and your State and Local Meetings throughout the year, so keep it coming! Make sure to explain photos while I'm learning names, faces, and places. Send everything to the Rambler email: rmrrambler@yahoo.com

The deadlines to submit to the Rambler are: January 15th, April 15th, August 15th, and October 15th but if you have something you want to get into the newsletter past the due date, give it a try and email me! I will be sending out deadline reminders at the beginning of January because I know how hard it is to keep track of all of those. I will need reports in on time so registration forms and other important information can go out in early February! By then it will be time to dream over the seed catalogs and plan for spring.

Have a beautiful holiday season. *Julie*

Website: Rocky Mtn Region Garden Clubs

<https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/>

Questions or concerns about our website?

Please contact us at rockymtnregiongardenclubs@gmail.com

Facebook: Rocky Mountain Region Garden Clubs

<https://tr-tr.facebook.com/people/Rocky-Mountain->

**Next Deadline to
submit to Rambler:
January 15th**

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.