

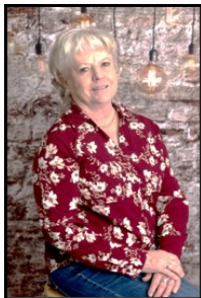


# Rocky Mountain Rambler

Rocky Mountain Region  
Newsletter



## Greetings From Your Director



Wow what a summer! I have had the pleasure of attending the Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs State meeting in Cheyenne, going to the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs in Vail, Colorado, and of course, the Rocky Mountain Region meeting in Cheyenne, Wyoming. RMR was hosted by Prairie Garden Club of the Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs. The most

recent meeting, the Rocky Mountain Regional was wonderful. We had in attendance over 60 people.

That was wonderful and our National Garden Club President, Donna Donnelly and her husband, Harold, had dinner with us on Saturday night. Donna's talk was about getting our email to our region directors so that we can have our email at National and register online for things like The National Gardener, information that is readily available, and schools. This is how National Garden Club will know who you are.

Your state presidents were asked to get that list to me. Friday night was at Lions park and we ate at Ranch Eats Food Truck. We had felting class and origami seed envelope folding with seeds for our envelope. We were entertained by live music the whole evening. Saturday we met at the new senior center. Our meals were also catered by the Laramie County Senior Center. Food and facility were top notch! ~~ cont'd



September 2025

### Inside this issue:

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*"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments!"*



### Special points of interest:

- Meet your officer team
- Lots of great activities



### Directors Message ~~ cont'd

We were treated to yard tours and a presentation about tea parties; presentation on Habitat Hero Program; and one on Pollinator Gardens. I really enjoyed seeing many of you from past meetings with a few new faces as well.

**Shirley Pursel, RMR Director**

**“Many hands make all work light”**



### Meet Your 2025-2027 RMR Officer Team



**Director  
Shirley Pursel  
Wyoming**

**Vice President  
Denise Fink  
Montana**



**Secretary  
Lorraine Patrick  
Nebraska**



**Treasurer  
Lynette Jeffres  
Wyoming**



**Mary Lerssen  
Parliamentarian  
South Dakota**



## Dates to Remember



<i>DATE</i>	<i>WHAT</i>	<i>WHERE</i>
October 15, 2025	Article Deadline for Aug.-Sept. Rambler	rmrrambler@yahoo.com
January 15, 2026	Article Deadline for February Rambler	rmrrambler@yahoo.com

## How to find our Garden Club Websites

Let's stay connected! It's fun to see what other garden clubs are doing—their officers, activities, projects and gardens they have created. To connect easily open the RMR Region Website. When open, all you do is select a state you want look at. It is simple as a few clicks of the keyboard. Go for it!!

### State

RMR Region—RMR Rambler

National Garden Club

### Website

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

<https://gardenclub.org/>

### RMR Website:

Each state is listed and all you have to do is click on the state or topic you want to look at.



[Rocky Mountain Region Garden Clubs Facebook Page](#)

### 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.**



## Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs sold their headquarters near downtown Denver earlier this year. This decision was bittersweet, but a necessary step in the right direction. Emerson House had been their headquarters since 1965. However, the building was aging, and the maintenance was getting too expensive. The sale of the building put the federation in a great financial position. CFGC held their state convention in the beautiful mountain community of Vail, CO, June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. We toured the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens.

Emily Griffoul, Conservation Scientist from the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens spoke about, "The Sky IS the Limit: Alpine Plant Conservation in a Changing World." We also had the opportunity to learn how to fly cast. Other workshops included "Printing with Nature" and making pinecone centerpieces.



We were honored to have Rocky Mountain Regional Director, Shirley Pursel join us for the festivities in Vail. Our Floral Arts Study Group and Colorado Judges Council along with Happy Transplants Garden Club and CSU Master Gardeners held an NGC Standard Flower Show at the Adams County Fair in Brighton, CO. The theme was "The Wonders of Weather." I even entered several designs for the



very first time. It was a fun learning experience. Pikes Peak Designers Guild will be hosting another NGC flower show titled "Fire Wise" in September. Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs had a booth at the Colorado Home Show held in



August at the Denver Convention Center. Handouts included topics on "Putting your garden to bed," "Fall planting," and "Why plant native in Colorado." The Greeley Morning Garden Club is busy making plans to celebrate



their 70th anniversary. The club has one charter member who will be honored at the celebration next April. CFGC lost one garden club this

year; however, we gained a new very enthusiastic garden club too. I look forward to the challenge of being Colorado's State President for the next two years and hope to meet many of the Rocky Mountain Region Garden Club members along the way.

**Patricia Smit**

***"PLANT AMERICA, plant native, plant for pollinators."***

**President, CFGC**



## Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.



News from Kansas: The Kansas Associated Garden Club held their 97th Annual State Convention at Botanica in Wichita, Kansas in June. “Wild and Rooted” was a wonderful theme for this year’s convention, and was attended by 25 Kansas Garden Club Members.

A judged Flower Show brightened up what started as a stormy downpour that Saturday morning. Big thanks goes out to the Suburban Garden Club who hosted this year’s event. Two new officers were installed during the meeting. Margaret Endecott is continuing her duties as Treasurer, and Carolyn Hartman is the new Secretary. It was also brought to the attention of the membership that there is a Blue Star marker sitting in storage at Botanica that needs to be refurbished and installed somewhere in Kansas.

More news to come later on that new project for KAGC. The Clubs of Kansas have been busy this year with their projects and gardens. The intermittent rainstorms this summer have been just enough to keep everything green and growing.

**Penny Morgan**  
KAGC Presiden



Margaret Endecott  
Treasurer



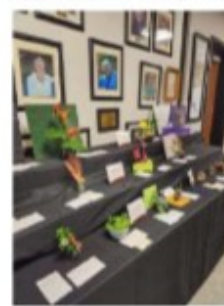
Carol , Secretary

### KAGC Convention 2025 Pictures

#### Flower Show on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> – Secret Garden

##### NGC Small-Standard Flower Show

Presented by the Suburban Garden Club and KAGC Council of Flower Show Judges



#### Thanks to the Show Committee for a wonder flower show!

Sue Racchini – General Chairman  
Floanna Crowley – Entries and Staging  
Sherryl Fitzpatrick – Classification and Placement  
Denise Mabe – Clerk

#### Remembrances



#### Smokey Bear Recognition



#### Installation of Officers



## Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Hello fellow Rocky Mountain Garden Clubs!

Montana is off to a great 2025/2026. We just completed our annual convention in Helena where we visited our remodeled capitol and learned more about native plants and xeriscaping. We enjoyed over 80 members at the convention and a productive Silent Auction of Wreaths. Everything you could imagine was available from amazing live succulents to festive Christmas decorations. We took pictures and bid on live, dried, and silk wreaths. And, of course, the ways and means table proved very beneficial.

We also enjoyed a western themed petite design flower show full of incredible designs all under the guidance of Jim Sadler of Missoula Garden Club. Many RMR members know Jim well as the RMR Design Chair. We are fortunate to have many awesome flower designers in Montana and enjoyed Honor Designs and Floral displays that were stunning.

We presented a few major updates to our policies and procedures for the state. Voting went well and I remain grateful to the clubs for caring enough to continue to support President and to a degree 1VP attendance at the Regional and National conventions despite tightened budgets, higher expenses, and as we all know, long distances.

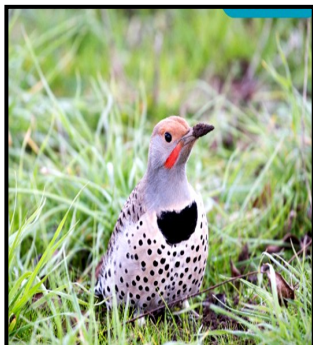
We are hosting our Flower Show Symposium the first week of September in Missoula and are eager to keep as many flower show judges current as we possibly can.

On Sept 13<sup>th</sup> our tour will begin at district meetings throughout the state, a few very long drives are ahead of us but always prove it worthwhile to meet and greet the club members and shop at the terrific host club ways and means. I was surprised to realize we are in the top 3 membership clubs in the RMR and realize it is not to be taken for granted.

We are going to add a few sponsors to our Federation this year. We are trying to have garden and flower patrons that subsidize conventions, awards, our wonderful publication (The Gardens) and maybe officer travel. This is a big step for us and already proving to be a tough challenge, but we will get there. We welcome your ideas if you care to share!

**Jeannie Bennet**  
**MFGC President**

[mfgc.jeanniebennett@gmail.com](mailto:mfgc.jeanniebennett@gmail.com)

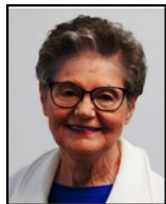


Northern Flickers love ants and will drill into the ground to find them, targeting ant hills and nests. If a larger nest is found, it is estimated the flicker can eat up to 5,000 ants in a single day.





## North Dakota State Garden Clubs



### North Dakota the Peace Garden State

Summer is coming to an end, and I am looking forward to traveling to Wyoming to our Regional Annual Meeting. To see all the friends, I have made during my term as President has been a wonderful gift. Looking forward to my final trip of the year.

Who doesn't love to go see other people's yards during the summer. I have a few pictures from garden tours in the Fargo area, and I would love to share them with you. So nice to get new ideas on what we maybe could do in our own gardens next year



The yard of Shirley McCaslin and John Pederson



Shirley's Clematis



The second place visited by the Fargo Garden Society Member tour in July was the Community Gardens. Lorraine Hanna is a volunteer at these gardens which brings much needed fresh fruits and vegetables to members of our community.



The third garden visited by the Fargo Garden Society belonged to Jenifer Swetland



Jenifer made this mosaic ball out of a bowling ball.



ND delegation to RMR Convention" NGC Pres., **Donna Donnelly**, Jim & Pat Westgard, ND President, Linda Anderson.





The South Dakota Association of Garden Clubs, Inc. ~~ cont'd



The fourth yard visited belonged to Nancy McKinnon (left).

Nancy has this wonderful fountain that she plants with succulent plants every year.



Nancy also grows a very nice vegetable garden in her back yard on the right.



Picture from screened in porch area.



Memories of my trip to Alaska. First picture on left was on a glacier in Denali National Park and the second was of planters in Anchorage. Always looking for flower planter ideas



Bounty in my garden until the rabbits moved in and stripped the plants.

**"Conserve Nature and Grow Friendships in North Dakota"**

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





## The South Dakota Association of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Our state currently has four active nationally federated garden clubs on the eastern side of the state. The clubs are in Sioux Falls, Dell Rapids, Andover and Mitchell. I am also president of the Mitchell Club.

The Dell Rapids club hosted our state meeting on April 10, 2025. The state's convention had speakers teaching about matching trees to the right environment and garden design focusing on ecological impact and sustainability. They also displayed a tree themed *Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Smokey Bear* which was donated to the Dell Rapids Museum. Besides regular meetings, the club donated a garden basket for a fund-raising auction, funded the President's fund, the Scholarship fund and the fire department for watering the Red Rock Garden and contributed both food and money to the food pantry. They also participated in the city's Arbor Day tree planting.

Andover is a small group that focuses mostly on gardening, bird watching and floral design. One member is in charge of the geraniums on Main Street. They do review the National Gardener, Messenger (state newsletter) and Rocky Mountain Rambler together.

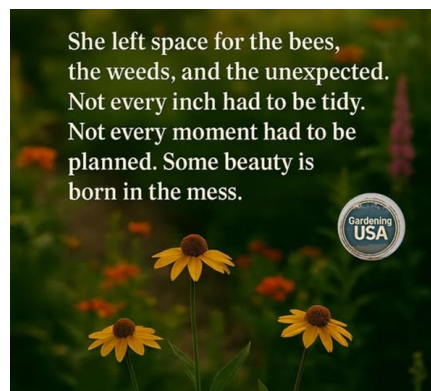
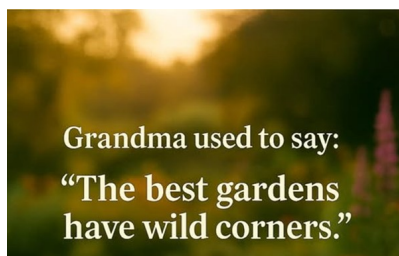
The Sioux Falls club helped with landscape the Crooks Community Center and did garden tours.

The Mitchell club has a number of yearly activities including the maintenance of the Veterans Memorial and Carnegie Library gardens, decorating 26 main street lamp post flower pots for the winter months, a May plant sale, garden tours, a potluck garden party and a Christmas party and monthly meetings during the cold months where we plan for the summer activities and have educational programs. Additional activities this year include: the club had a make and take pot planting for kids, decorated some downtown planters, and created an auction item for Habitat for Humanity.

As president, I would like emphasis the importance of native plants not only as food for pollinators but also as a breeding place since many insects depend on one kind of plant to reproduce.

**Pam Catalano**  
**SDFGC, Inc.**

*"Planting Native Plants Benefits Everyone"*



## The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.



The good news is that we have a great group of clubs in the Utah Associated Garden Clubs AND have added three new clubs! We are close to 700 members at this point! We celebrated 90 years as a state club this year!

The UAGC held an Arbor Day activity which included putting tree rings around two memorial trees in the back of our Sugar House Garden Center.

The Utah Rose and Iris Societies held their Annual Flower Shows, check out some of these beautiful Irises.



Leslie Moss, UAGC VP and  
Geoff Ellis, UAGC Superhero



There were three of us that attended the National Garden Club Convention in Charleston. It was lots of fun.

RMR attendees: l to r: Pat Westgard, SD; Barb Yates, WY; Lynette Jeffres, WY; Susan Pixley, WY **Sue McJames, UT**. Center row, Doris Duckworth, CO; **Darla Anderson UT; Connie MacKay, UT**; Shirley Pursel, WY' bottom row: Linda Anderson, ND; Les Westgard

Five of us will be attending the RMR Convention in Cheyenne and looking forward to it.

UAGC's next Fall Convention will be held Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at the Sugar House Garden Center, please plan on attending.

**Sue McJames**

UAGC State President

*"Stewards of the Earth"*



## Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Hello my fellow gardeners in the Rocky Mountain Region -

This has been a difficult growing season for my garden this year. We had less snow than usual this spring, and more rain. It sounds like that would be a wonderful trade off, but my garden started out really dry without all that heavy, wet snow. Then it seemed our summer was off to a slow start with lower temperatures. But finally, everything started to grow and produce. I had some tomatoes and flowers were blooming....

Then my yard was struck by hail and all of my gardens and flower beds were in the path of destruction. Many of my flowers have recovered. My milkweed suffered the most damage. But my poor garden. My tomatoes were hit hard. They are trying to recover but it might be too late for them. My peppers were surprisingly resilient this year and I have been able to harvest several varieties.

I want to send a shout out to the Prairie Garden Club in Cheyenne, Wyoming. They have hosted both the Wyoming state convention and the Regional convention this summer. Members have worked really hard to create two beautiful and memorable events for us. I want to encourage everyone to plan to attend these events in the future. There are business meetings that go on, but there is alot more offered as well. And we have to include the added bonus of making more gardening friends!

For the next two years and even beyond, the Garden Clubs of the state of Wyoming will be looking into creative ideas to inspire gardeners as well as improve our communities. We might even consider a statewide project. As always there will be more to come....

My best to all of you!

**Susan Pixley**

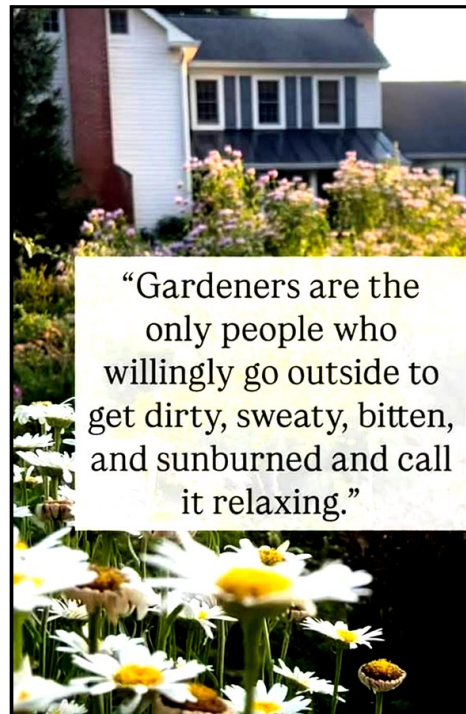
**President Wyoming Federation of Garden Club**

*The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies....*

- Gertrude Jekyll



*In case you're wondering  
what happens after you're  
done having kids and  
adopting pets, it's plants.  
You adopt plants!!*



## Awards



### Congratulations to all award winners!!

The complete listing of our 2025 Awards that were presented at our 2025 RMR Conference can be found on the RMR website. There are numerous awards so I thought that it would be best to include all winners and put it in a separate file. A PDF file is also attached in this email. .

The Photo Contest 1st place winners are attached in this issue, but all photo winners will be listed on our website.. Both files will be available very shortly. Just click on the link below and you will find a section for Awards.

**Chris Martin, Awards Chairman**  
**402-540-2241**  
**Dzrcc8@yahoo.com**

**Coming soon!**

[Link to complete list of Awards:](#)

[Link to Photo Contest winners:](#)



Hello Everyone! Hope you have had a good summer! I have just returned from the Rocky Mountain Region meeting held this past weekend in Cheyenne, WY. It was good to meet our neighbors to the north from the Prairie Garden Club in Cheyenne who hosted a great meeting!

We did Colorado proud at the Awards Luncheon. I will be putting the actual certificates in the mail but wanted to let you know how our clubs in the state fared!

Award	Club	Award Name
1st Place	Queens of Spades	3A-Montana Award Yearbook
1st Place	Queens of Spades	3E-Montana Award-Lynn Cleveland Article on Emerson House
1st Place	Queens of Spades	11E,F,G Conservation and Environmental Concerns-2nd year Pollinator Project
1st Place	Top o'the World Garden Club	3A-Montana Award Yearbook
1st Place	Dig and Dream Garden Club	25 National Garden Club Programs-Ronald McDonald House garden
1st Place	Dig and Dream Garden Club	3A-Montana Award Yearbook
1st Place	Greeley Morning Garden Club	24 Kansas Award- Conservation- Newly Planted Native and Plant Select gardens
1st Place	Greeley Morning Garden Club	5E North Dakota Award- Slideshow- Community Garden Slide Show
1st Place	Greeley Morning Garden Club	8a Utah Award-Garden Yours -Open to the Public-

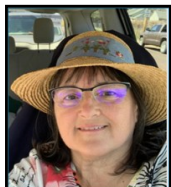
Thanks to Queens of Spades, Dig and Dream Garden Club, Greeley Morning Garden Club and Top o'the World Garden Club for helping Colorado represent during the awards section of the meeting! You ROCK!

**Deb Martinez**

**Awards Chair- Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs**  
**970-397-1415**



## Butterflies



Migration of the **monarchs** is passing us over as I write this report.

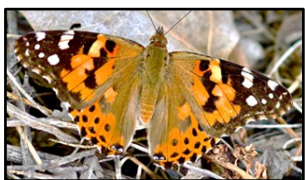
So let's say you are going to identify the monarchs despite the fact there are at least **three other butterflies** with similar markings (larvae and adult butterflies).

**Viceroy butterflies** are usually smaller than monarchs and are distinguished by the black stripe that runs across the open hindwings. They are widespread in the midsection of southern and the US except for parts of the far West.

Viceroy



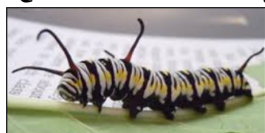
**Painted Ladies** have the same colors but different patterns on the wings. They fly like a 'nervous Nellie'. They continue to bat their wings even when feeding and drinking. Monarchs have a 'flit and float' type of pattern. Usually they are slightly bigger overall. Female monarchs often are mistaken for a painted lady due to size. The painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*) has quite a different pattern than the Monarch. It has scalloped orange wings with black patches with black patches. The tips of its forewings are black with white splotches. It's underside is a mottled grey, brown, and black with four eyespots. The painted lady is also called the thistle butterfly because it likes thistles and the cosmopolitan butterfly because it is found all over the world.



**Swallowtail butterflies** have a distinct yellow and black color but the caterpillars are able to mimic the monarch. Swallowtail caterpillars are predominately green with yellow dots compared to the yellow, white and black stripes found on the monarch caterpillars. Swallowtails are commonly found on parsley and dill whereas monarchs will ONLY be found on milkweed.



**Queen butterfly caterpillars** look similar to monarch cats! The biggest difference helping to identify them is the 3<sup>rd</sup> pair of tentacles found on the thorax of the queen caterpillar. Adult queen butterflies can be distinguished from adult monarchs by the presence of white dots found on the orange pattern of the forewings. The white dots on the monarch are contained to the black edge of the wings and do not come in contact with the orange wing cells.



Queen caterpillar



Adult Queen butterfly

If you watch the wind direction, follow the angle of the sun and understand that the cooler weather will force the monarchs to move to warmer areas, you may possibly see a cloud of monarch hover over and land in a shelterbelt for a rest. If you have nectar producing flowers, you will more likely attract the migrating monarchs. They do follow the water sources and always looking for a free ride in the wind that is known as the jet stream.

Many times I have heard people say "oh yeah, I saw them 15 years ago but haven't hardly seen a butterfly since." I recall one time we were tagging monarchs for a research project and collected 40 in the net in one swoop! Have never seen that since either.

**Margaret Stralley**  
**Butterfly Chairman.**

Monarch Butterfly



Monarch Caterpillar



## Facebook



The Rocky Mountain Region Facebook page was established in 2017 to enhance communication among member states and provide an effective platform for informing and educating members of the Region.

**Each state** within the region is encouraged to **appoint a Facebook administrator** to help manage and contribute content on the platform. If

you are a state president and know of someone in your state who is active on Facebook and interested in serving in this role, please have them contact me via email at [gardens@bresnan.net](mailto:gardens@bresnan.net). Once I receive their information, I will provide the necessary access and support.

State Facebook administrators are invited to post updates to the Rocky Mountain Region Facebook page. Suggested content includes state meetings, flower shows, award recognitions, special programs, and project highlights—anything that helps keep members informed and engaged.

As of now, the page has **490 likes** and **501 followers**, reflecting steady engagement and interest from members across the region.

**Phyllis White**  
**Facebook Facilitator**

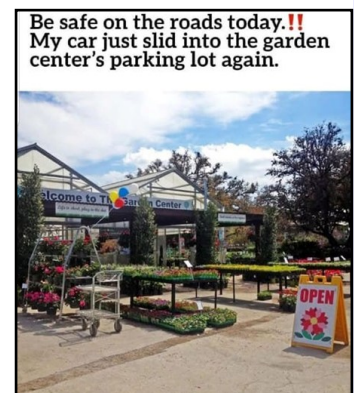
## Treasurers Report—Two Cents Worth



Here are some highlights from the Treasurer's Report presented in Cheyenne. As a region, our expenses were low last year so our net income was positive. We also had proceeds from two RMR meetings recorded last fiscal year. The funds invested with Edward Jones are growing at a steady rate of 5.22% over the last 5 years. While it may seem low for a growth rate if you are looking at it vs. your personal accounts, we invest at a more conservative rate than many people do with their personal money. Mick Pryor, our investment advisor, and I meet regularly to review the performance and discuss strategy.

Please reach out if you have any questions. I'm happy to answer.

**Lynette Jeffres**  
**RMR Treasurer**  
[ljeffres!@gardenclub.org](mailto:ljeffres!@gardenclub.org)





## Flower Symposium



### The Art and Impact of Exhibition Tables in Flower Shows Exploring Design, Purpose, and Inspiration

Within the world of flower shows, creativity flourishes not only in the blooms themselves but in the myriad ways they are displayed. One of the most captivating and purposeful forms of presentation is the **Exhibition table design** category that invites innovation. For the flower show exhibitor, let us delve into the heart of Exhibition tables: what they are, how they are constructed, and why they are popular.

Exhibition tables are a specialized category in flower shows, distinct from traditional arrangements. An Exhibition table is typically set up to interpret a theme, illustrate a concept, flower arranging, or garden culture. Unlike standard competition tables, which are evaluated chiefly on technical skill and aesthetic harmony, Exhibition tables are also scored for their originality, and ability to communicate ideas effectively.

The origin of the design type is in the grand department stores of the 1950's. Stores like Macy's in New York or The Paris if Montana in Great Falls, Montana. The purpose was to exhibit fine China by presenting it in interesting and innovative ways. I remember as a newly engaged person being escorted to the China department to pick out the wedding dishes. It was there that I would look at various patterns and wonder why it was so important. Looking back now it did not hurt me. I am still eating off those dishes.

What **distinguishes an Exhibition table** from other forms of display is its careful integration of multiple components. These may include:

- **Floral Designs:** Arrangements are often central but may be augmented by foliage, dried materials, or even non-floral objects to illustrate the theme. A completed floral design is not required.
- **Props and Accessories:** These are chosen to support the story or concept. For example, historical artifacts might accompany a table themed around Victorian gardens, or scientific instruments might appear in an exhibit about pollination.
- **Visual Presentation:** Tablecloths, backdrop panels, and clever lighting help create a cohesive and inviting display

Dishes are placed without regard for service of food. They are placed for impact.

The process of designing an Exhibition table is both structured and imaginative. Here are the key steps:

#### 1. Research and Planning

The designer researches the topic thoroughly. What are the key messages or facts to communicate? Which flowers and plants are most appropriate? What props or materials will best illustrate the concept? Sketching a layout and making a list of items needed are wise first steps.

~~ cont'd

## Flower Symposium ~~ cont'd

### 2. Gathering Materials

This stage involves sourcing flowers, props, containers, and any decorative elements. Many designers incorporate sustainable or locally sourced materials, which not only support the environment but also add authenticity to the exhibit.

### 3. Assembly and Arrangement

Setting up the table can be a delightful puzzle. The designer arranges flowers and objects to create visual balance. Attention is given to color harmony, scale, and theme interpretation. The components are artistically placed to suggest the service of food with no requirements as to the type or number of table appointments. Plant material must be used as needed for the overall design.

### 4. Finishing Touches

Effective Exhibition tables pay attention to details—clean lines, well-ironed linens, polished props, and a card of intent all contribute to the overall impression. Many designers step back and view their table from different angles, ensuring it captivates visitors from any approach.

#### Judges look for several qualities:

- Interpretation of Theme: Is the concept clear and well-articulated?
- Creativity and Innovation: Are materials used in a fresh and imaginative way?
- Visual Impact: Is the presentation attractive and cohesive?
- Technical Skill: Are the floral designs well-executed and harmonious?

#### Are there any impairments of the principles of design?

Exhibition tables are a dynamic and rewarding way to share knowledge, celebrate floral artistry, and engage communities at flower shows. For participants, they offer a unique platform for creativity and education, turning every show into an opportunity for discovery and delight. Whether you are planning your first table or looking to refine your technique, remember that the heart of every Exhibition table lies not only in its flowers but in the stories, they help us tell.

**Jim Sadler**  
Chairman



## Smokey Bear

Greetings from Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl!

Can you believe that summer is past and the children are back in school already? This is a Great Time Of the Year to get in touch with your local schools and arrange to talk to classes about fire safety, cleaning up the planet and the Poster Contest sponsored by the Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs.

Many people have commented to me about how hard it is to get into the public schools. That is true. Maybe we are approaching the information about fire safety and cleaning up the planet the wrong way. Have you considered approaching a library, or local garden group and proposed having a family night dedicated to Fire Safety. We could offer to help get Smokey to show up, and provide lots of freebies for the children and information for the parents on how to prevent WILDFIRES!

If you are interested in trying this approach and would like more ideas about ways to “pull it off”, please feel free to contact me @ [mcm31@icloud.com](mailto:mcm31@icloud.com).

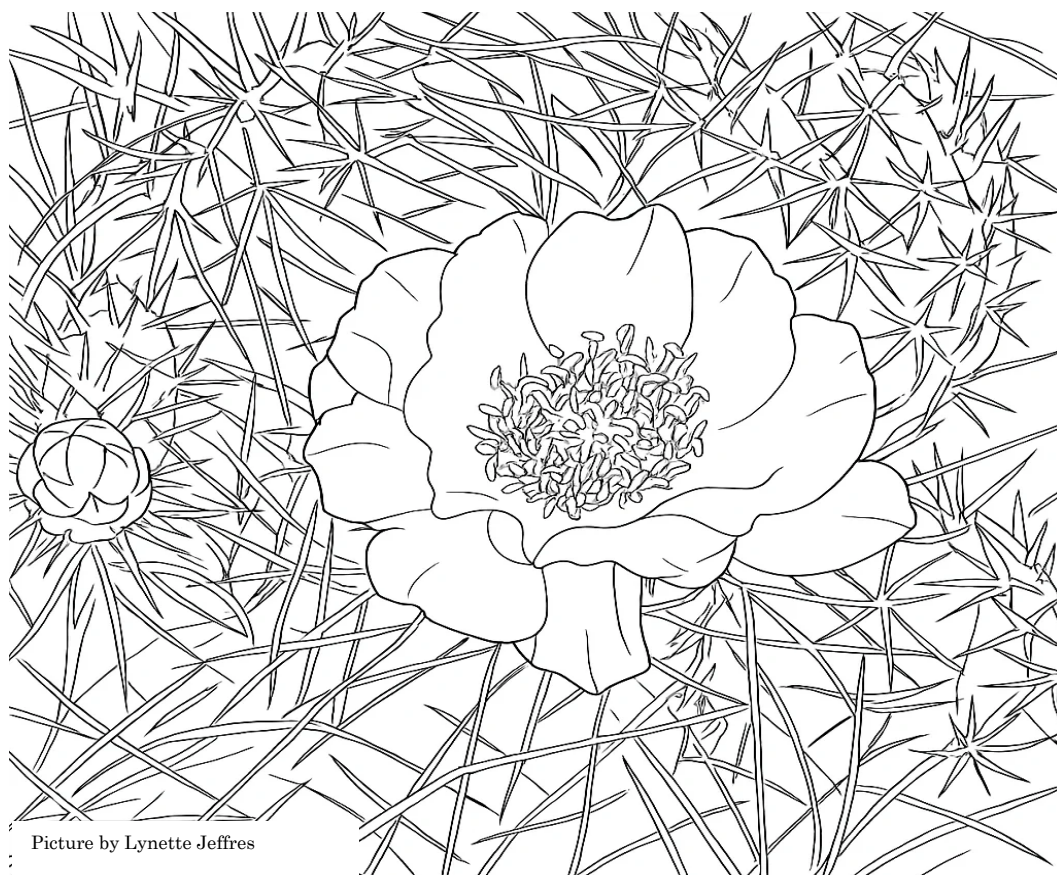
Thanks to everyone who has been participating in the poster contest. The children posters are wonderful.

**Connie MacKay**

**Regional Chairman for Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest**



Grab some colors  
and enjoy a few  
moments of  
peace and quiet





## Veterans Memorial, Plattsmouth, NE

### Going Native at The Veterans Memorial Garden

Garfield Park in Plattsmouth, NE

July 2025

In the small town of Plattsmouth, Nebraska in the Eastern District, the Plattsmouth Garden Club (PGC) has chosen to “go native” at The Veterans Memorial Garden at Garfield Park. The garden was built in 2007 to honor current and past Veterans from Plattsmouth area. It is maintained by dedicated Plattsmouth Garden Club volunteers who are passionate about keeping this garden maintained for all to enjoy.

The garden contains many plants native to the Midwest area, as well as plants that have been donated since the garden was established in 2007. The plants and grasses attract pollinators, such as Monarch and Fritillary butterflies, as well as wildlife, such as birds and squirrels. The birds that have been seen or heard at this park include: A Blue Bunting, House Finch, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Barn Swallow, House Sparrow, European Starling, a Northern Cardinal and an Eastern Wood-Pewee.

The PGC was a fortunate recipient of a grant from the Plattsmouth Community Foundation in 2024 and used this grant to improve and maintain the garden. PGC members have donated many hours of labor and love to the garden, including re-airing and upgrading the sprinkler system, designing a heart-shaped border with the recycled bricks from the area, and adding more gravel to the existing path. New signage is available for visitors indicating that native plants planted there have been received from the Nebraska Monarch Organization.

There are also 5 new trees planted in Garfield Park by the Plattsmouth Garden Club in 2023. The trees include *Cercis canadensis* or Eastern Redbud, American Sycamore or *Platanus Occidentalis*, which is native to the Midwest, Butternut Hickory or *Carya Cordiform*, a Linden or Tilla tree and a Chestnut Oak or *Quercus Montana*. These trees join the massive oak trees already present in Garfield Park and will continue to add structure and beauty to the area.

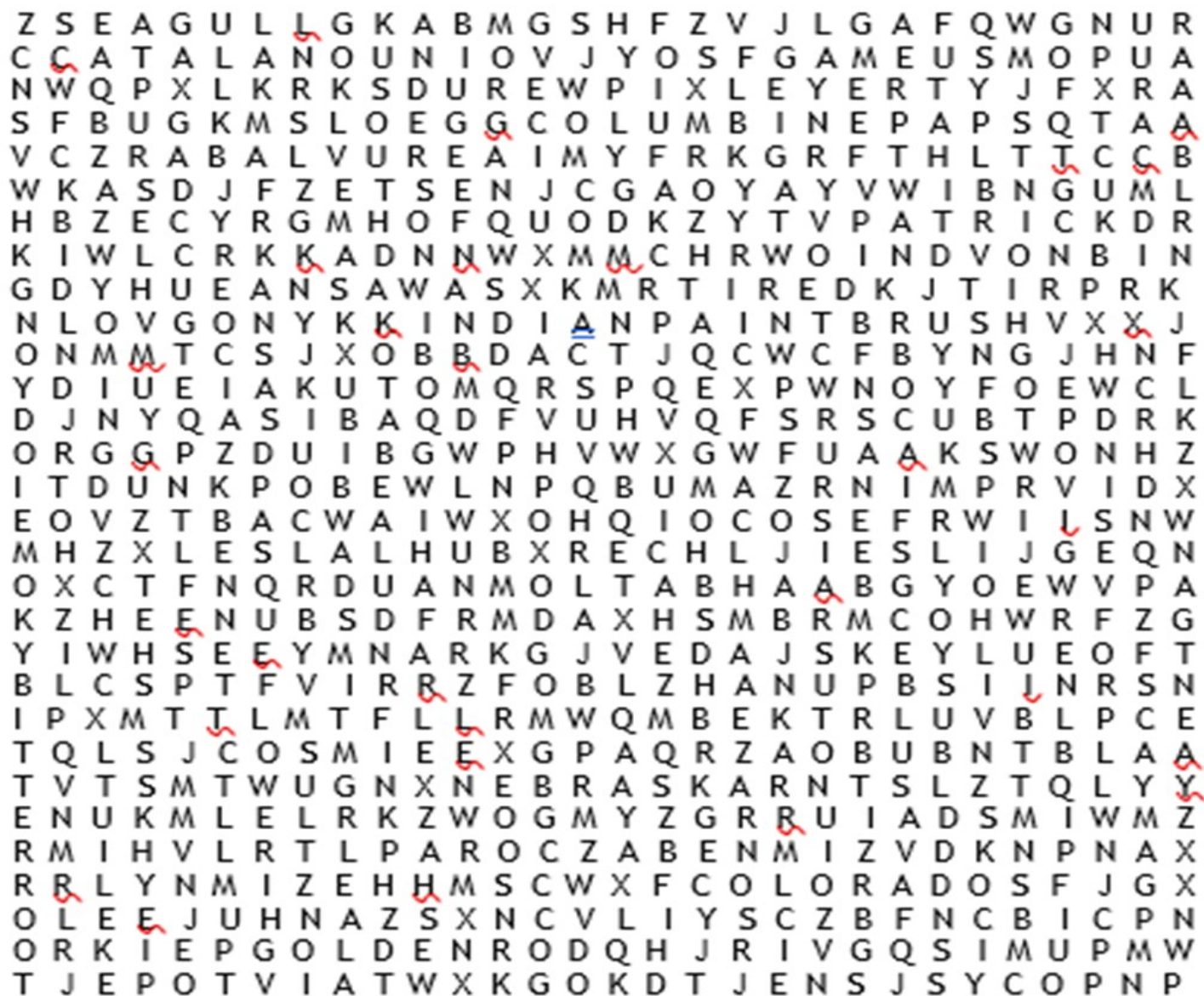
Should you be passing through the quaint City of Plattsmouth, we encourage you to stop by to enjoy the Veterans Memorial Garden at Garfield Park, located at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> St. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

**Lorraine Patrick**

**Plattsmouth Garden Club**



## Rock Mountain Region



Indian Paintbrush

South Dakota

Meadowlark

Columbine

Goldenrod

Catalano

Bennett

Patrick

Kansas

Morgan

Pasque flower

Prairie rose

Sego Lilly

Nebraska

Colorado

Wyoming

Ruzanic

Jeffres

Pixley

North Dakota

Lark Bunting

Bitterroot

Sunflower

Anderson

Pheasant

McJames

Seagull

Pursel

Utah

Smit

Fink

All words are members  
of garden club  
NGC, RMR, WFGC  
state flowers and birds  
The word can be found  
horizontally, vertically,  
and sideways.  
**Have fun!**



## Rocky Mountain Region Officers 2025-2027

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