



Rocky Mountain Rambler

Rocky Mountain Region
Newsletter

Greetings From Your Director



Happy Summer! What a ride the weather has been. Some people have had hail, lots of rain and of course, most of us have had strong winds. Trying to keep our gardens beautiful this time of year takes lots of water and lots of dead heading. After our hail storm, the only thing I could think to do is replant what I could, but being so late, there wasn't much around. So I trimmed, dead-headed, fertilized and watered hoping for a little bit more color. I hope many of you have beautiful flowers and vegetables that you can participate in your local fairs. Everybody likes to see the beauty that is available around them even if they don't have a green thumb.

I recently visited the Montana Garden Club for their convention and it was so much fun. They had many members attend with educational programs. I learned a whole lot about how to display greenery from flower designers.

Wyoming had their meeting in Chugwater and that little town put on a wonderful educational convention. We learned about dirt and the importance of amending it. We toured a winery and a beautiful yard with a geodesic dome. They had great attendance. You're missing out if you don't go to your state conventions. They're like a weekend of fun fun!!

Shirley Pursel
Rocky Mountain Region Director



September 2026

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*Gratitude turns what
we have into enough,
and more.*

Special points of interest:

- . RMR Award results



RMR Convention

Rocky Mountain region members, it was wonderful to see you all at the Rocky Mountain Region Garden Club meeting in Fargo, North Dakota. There were approximately 58 members present, as well as our National Garden Club President, Donna Donnelly, guests and speakers.

We enjoyed the MOST beautiful gardens and speakers learning 50 tips to help your garden grow. We also toured public Gardens, an Edible Garden and still had time to visit with our friends and neighbors. Many states applied for awards and those award winners will be announced shortly. Certificates will be sent out soon.

I have added some pictures of our wonderful time and hope you can attend the next RMR meeting in Omaha, Nebraska in late August, 2027. Thank you so very much for your time and we enjoyed each and everyone of you.

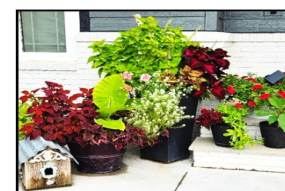
Here's to our next convention!!

Shirley Pursel, RMR Director

Pictures from yard
of Sandra Vigen



NGC President,
Donna Donnelly



Features a series of large metal sculptures created by local artist Gary Greff, with sculptures placed approximately every 4-6 miles along the highway.

Meet Your 2025-2027 RMR Officer Team



Director
Shirley Pursel
Wyoming

Alt. Director
Open



Secretary
Lorraine Patrick
Nebraska

Treasurer
Lynette Jeffres
Wyoming

Mary Lerssen
Parliamentarian
South Dakota



Date to Remember

<i>DATE</i>	<i>WHAT</i>	<i>WHERE</i>
October 1, 2026	Deadline for RMR Articles	rmrrambler@yahoo.com

How to find our Garden Club Websites

Site	Website
RMR Website	Rocky Mountain Region website (includes our newsletters) https://sites.google.com/site/rockymtngardenclubs/home?authuser=0
National Garden Club	https://gardenclub.org/
The National Gardener	https://gardenclub.org/national-gardener It's free to members!

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, view the new banner at the very top and select one of the categories e.g. Home, Awards, More. . It is simple as a few clicks of the keyboard. Ctrl + click Go for it!!

NGC Awards

Several RMR Garden Clubs received awards during the National Convention.

Please click on this link, and take time to see the rewards of all the hard work from our eight states—



[AWARDS](#)

RMR Website:

Each of our eight states 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.



Greetings from Colorado,

We just finished the second hottest July recorded in Colorado with Denver having 28 days of 90°F or hotter during the month. July 2003 was the hottest July in Colorado. The drought and the heat have not been good for my flower gardens.

Some clubs in Colorado take the summer off so club members can be free to travel while other clubs continue to meet. In June, The Greeley Morning Garden Club held a very successful garden tour. The garden tour is open to the public and raises funds for their scholarship program.

In July, the Floral Arts Study Group, CFGC Judges Council, Happy Transplants and the CSU Master Gardeners hosted an NGC Standard Flower Show called, "Liberty in Bloom," at the Adams County Fair. The flower show was a great success and there were many beautiful designs for the public to see. CFGC Judges Council also judged the floriculture and the horticulture entries at the Weld County Fair.



On September 14th, the Pikes Peak Designer's Guild, Floral Arts Study Group CFGC Judges Council will be presenting "Celebrate Good Times" an NGC Small Standard Petite Home Flower Show. This flower show in Colorado Springs is free and open to the public.

I had the opportunity to attend the Wyoming State Conference as well as the Montana State Conference. Both were enlightening and a great way to network, meet other people and see how other states run things.

By the time this article is published, I will have seen many of you at the RMR conference in Fargo, ND. Just a reminder, if you want your state's conferences listed on the RMR website, send me the information and I am happy to post it there.

Patricia Smit

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

President, CFGC



Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Hello Rocky Mountain Region Members.

Montana has had a very busy season. This Sept 1st will find us enjoying approximately 600 members. We are 8 districts with 22 Garden Clubs.

Spring travels included three members attending the National Garden Club convention at Saint Louis. The hotel was a short bus ride from the HQ building and what a great tour it proved to be. Inside we saw extravagant carpeting with state squares and outside lovely gardens showed past national presidents' areas from Montana. We took pictures of areas to feature in our upcoming District meetings to let today's members see how our former National presidents from Montana still contribute today to the National Garden Club. We enjoyed the 250th Red, White, and Blue Petit flower show, business sessions, classes, program meetings and elegant meals filled our time at the hotel. The walk through the Missouri Botanical Garden was a wonderful tour and at awards time Montana received two National Awards for outstanding Flower Shows hosted by Billings Thumb R Green Garden Club, and by Stevensville Garden Club in 2025.

We have several clubs involved in Blue and Gold Star projects and Billings held its Gold Star Dedication in a powerful setting at Veterans Park. It is great to see success when Garden Clubs work with local Veterans Organizations to keep these memorials true to the cause sharing reasonable costs to the community. Five Montana clubs also completed the Plant America 250 grants to enhance our Blue Star Memorials with extra Red, White, and Blue.

In June we went to Anaconda, MT for our 89th State Convention. 83 Montana members and friends from RMR enjoyed preconvention meetings, business sessions, classes on garden sustenance and manipulating leaves for green centerpiece designs.. Montana Scholarships and awards for about \$3,500.00 were given back to the members. The NGC scholarship and National awards were also featured presentations. Meals were enjoyed together and the beautiful historic town was toured with special appreciation of the Vintage Restored Theater. My favorite event was the 75th Anniversary of Montana life members where skits and songs had us rolling in the aisles. From the Great Falls Flower Growers Church lady act and the old miner poet to the Bullhook Blossom rendition of Old MacDonald's garden it was a fun night. We have great talent across our state. Next year we will gather in Bozeman/Belgrade in June for our 90th State Convention and will feature a State Horticulture Flower Show.

Our upcoming state project is to offer Flower Show School courses beginning in 2027. Fund raising to offset the cost of bringing teachers to Montana is underway. We have some marvelous, certified Flower Show judges but no one in Montana is certified to teach the rigorous curriculum. We will advertise seats to RMR as soon as we determine our FSS1 dates and location.

~~ cont'd

Rocky Mountain Rambler — September 2026

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

And finally, we thoroughly enjoyed the RMR meeting in Fargo. It was interesting and beautiful trip, and we certainly enjoyed socializing with our cousins in gardening from the Rocky Mountain Region.

Jeannie Bennet

MFGC President

mfgc.jeanniebennett@gmail.com

North Dakota the Peace Garden State



Hello from North Dakota! First let me introduce myself. I am Joyce Hanna the North Dakota State Garden Club President . This past June I was elected, and it all started with a big bang, since we were hosting the RMR Conference in August. Lots of volunteers from the Fargo Garden Society, put in many hours of planning and prep to create a very successful Conference. A great "Thank You" goes out to Co- Chairmans Linda Anderson and Marilyn Isaacson. We were very pleased that President Donna Donnelly of the National Garden Club was able to attend.

I met so many of you from the RMR and look forward to working with you.

My experience goes back to my mother, who always had a garden on our Minnesota dairy farm. My siblings and I were frequently needed to hoe, plant, harvest and can .Later in life, I had that green thumb and desired to be a Master Gardener. This lead to the Fargo Garden Society and four years later, here I am.

Here in Fargo, we are experiencing a severe drought. Gardening has been challenging but still many beautiful areas around. It is for the farmers that is of great concern. So much is dependent on the agricultural success of North Dakota. We keep praying for rain. Rain seems to go around us.

Fund raising for Fargo Garden Society was a plant sale in June which helped us raise money for our projects and scholarship program. Over 20 club members participated and brought items to sell. A great success, \$1900 of donations were taken in.

We had a potluck picnic and a plant exchange among the members in July.

An invitation was extended to us to tour a private residence on Lake Ida in Minnesota. So about 15 of us carpooled, toured beautiful gardens and then stopped for lunch. It was fun, and all agreed we needed to do it again.

One more plant sale in September and the a Social to end our year.

Each day, when I go outside to walk our garden and look at all the landscaping plants, I can always feel that soft comfort to relaxing comfort!

The Garden is My Happy Place!!!

Joyce Hanna

North Dakota State President

“Conserve Nature and Grow Friends in North Dakota”



Rocky Mountain Rambler — September 2026

The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.



When I held the first convention after becoming UAGC President in the Fall of 2024, the theme was “Celebrating Our History”: -it was the UAGC 90th anniversary, started in 1934! -The Sugar House Garden Center was 60 years old: completed in 1964! Of course, it was Smokey the Bear’s 80th birthday!

Earlier this year, the UAGC lost the management of the SHGC and so we have had to figure out a new “home” and move forward. But, the “Beat Goes On” and we still have 11 clubs with around 400 members.

Since we are able to host our conventions in other places now, our 2026 Spring convention was held in a private home and the revised Bylaws were passed. We are hoping to have our 2026 Fall Convention in northern Utah to include 2 of our clubs that meet up there and haven’t generally come to the meetings in Salt Lake City due to the distance.

In addition to our website, Utahagc.org, the UAGC recruited a new Social Media Chairman to post our individual club’s current information and keep us bonded. Check it out and like on FB and Instagram: Utah Associated Garden Clubs.

We have also tried hosting our UAGC Board meetings through Zoom in the hopes that more of our club Presidents can attend.

The good news is that we will be able to fund our scholarship this year after taking a break last year due to the uncertainty of our situation. We did have one applicant that applied and received the NGC Scholarship.

The UAGC continues to take advantage of the NGC Plant-a-Tree program to honor those deceased members who had contributed to the state club.

My 1st VP, Laurie Hofmann, attended the NGC meeting in St. Louis and there were three of us at the RMR meeting in North Dakota.

Below are some of our individual club’s activities during this period:

The Alternative Garden Club has had several garden tours. **The Artistic Designers Club** continues to hold flower arranging meetings that showcase dried flowers, underwater arrangements, and fruit and vegies. **The Driggs Dragon Junior Garden Club** had Smokey Bear and Woodsey Owl visit the Howard Driggs Elementary School curtesy of the Utah Forest Service. **The Garden Club of Cottonwood** donated money to rebuild the raised beds in the community gardens that the Driggs Dragons participate in. **The Park City Garden Club** has had several interesting speakers including an owl and waterwise landscaping. Members also earned their service requirement hours by weeding a Utah State University demonstration garden. They toured a new lavender garden outside of Heber. **The Utah Dalia Society** held a tuber sale in the Spring and will be hosting a flower show this Fall. The **Utah Iris Society** held a flower show at the USU Extension campus in Kaysville.

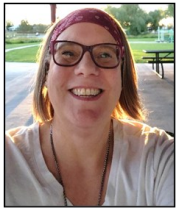
Thank you to all our members that are keeping the Utah Associated Garden Clubs moving forward!

Sue McJames

UAGC State President

“Stewards of the Earth”

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs



Hello from Wyoming! I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Fargo ND soon! I am really excited about seeing the gardens we will be touring. Fargo is so lush and green in the spring and summer compared to the dry grassy plains of Wyoming, but I think the winter makes up for it. I have never been to North Dakota before so it will be an adventure!

Earlier this spring I was able to attend the NGC convention in St. Louis. It was absolutely wonderful to see the National Headquarters and gardens. Those custom rugs in the hallways with every state's NGC emblem was just gorgeous! It is always amazing to connect with other gardeners and learn about things going on where they live.

Next spring the NGC convention will be held in Madison, WI and a new president will be sworn in. I would encourage you to try to attend if you can. It is crazy to see what we do on a small scale, done the same way but on a much larger scale.

It has been a quiet summer here in Wyoming. We have been hot and dry most of the summer. I have plants that came up this spring but a lot of them did not bloom this year. It has just been too hot and I haven't been able to keep up with watering like they need. I'm not sure my water bill would be able to take it! It is raining right now. I am hoping for some good moisture this fall and winter.

We had a very successful state convention hosted by one of the smaller clubs in Wyoming, Chug Creek Cultivators. They pulled out all the stops and everything really came out nicely. It was a lot of fun and well organized.

Next year, Wyoming's newest garden club, Happy Wyo Gardeners, will host our state convention in Cheyenne. One of their members will serve as the new Wyoming State President next year. Even though it is a small group, they have big ideas. I am sure they will host an amazing event.

All in all, Wyoming garden clubs are relatively strong and we should be able to count on them to continue to grow and encourage fellow gardeners around the state!

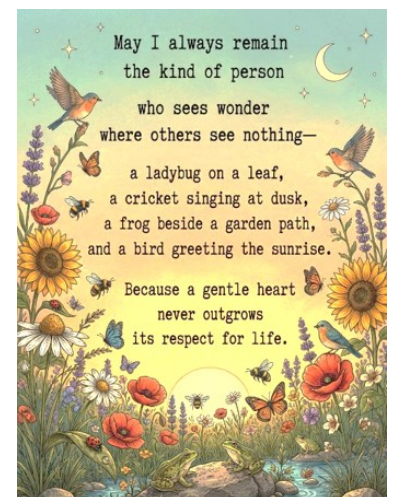
Best Wishes to everyone! Happy Fall!

Susan Pixley

President Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs

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

- Gertrude Jekyll



Awards



Thanks to everyone who submitted award applications. For the photography contest, we had two participants from North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and South Dakota. From Nebraska, we had three participants with a total of 42 photos.



For the awards, we had 51 applications from seven states. I apologize for the lateness of the awards. I recently changed computers, and everything I had done was put in a very safe place, so everything had to be recreated.

Shirley has received all the certificates, including the photography certificates, and she will be mailing those out. I will mail the NE certificates.

I've attached links to the photography contest awards and the awards document.

I hope we have great participation next year.

1C Colorado Award—Garden Therapy

Provides a service to a group of people

Casper Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Maintains a garden at a Hospice Center

1st Place

Provided an opportunity for people in an Acute Rehabilitation Unit

the opportunity to learn how to grow plants

Happy Wy Gardeners Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

1st Place

1 D Colorado Award—Garden Therapy

Provides programs and activities for barrier-free gardening

Dell Rapids Area Garden Club

Federated Garden Clubs of South Dakota

1st Place

3A Montana Award—Writing Garden Club Year Book

Casper Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

1st Place

Chug Creek Cultivators Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

1st Place

Dirt Diggers Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

1st Place

Friendly Federated Garden Club

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.

1st Place

Prairie Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

1st Place

Riverton Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

1st Place



Awards ~~ cont'd



4 C Nebraska Award—Horticulture Excellence

Contributing to horticulture through a project

Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs

Worked with Hi-Line Boys and Girls Club to teach youth the fundamentals of gardening

1st Place

Dirt Diggers Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

Worked with library fundraiser to teach kids how to plant things. They made seed bombs

2nd Place

5 F North Dakota Award—Video/CCD/DVD/Flash Drive/Slide Show

Developing a show that portrays an activity or event

Chug Creek Cultivators Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Developed a PowerPoint about Making your own Garden Amendments with Plants and “Weeds”

1st place

Greeley Morning Garden Club

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs

Developed a PowerPoint about their 70th Anniversary

Honorable Mention

6C South Dakota Award—Birds—Sanctuary Maintenance

Project that designs, installs, and maintains public or private gardens

Dirt Diggers Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Replaced the Bird Sanctuary sign Encampment Bird Sanctuary

1st Place

8A Utah Award—Garden Tours

Garden tour open to the public

Greeley Morning Garden Club

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs

1st Place

8C Utah Award—Garden Tours

Garden tours open to club members only

Chug Creek Cultivators Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

1st Place

10 A,F Civic Development

Project that makes permanent improvements to a community and an outstanding community outreach program

Chug Creek Cultivators Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

They changed a weed-infested area with two raised-bed planters in the town park into something that the town could enjoy.

1st Place

10E Civic Development

Project that has been ongoing for several years

Prairie Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs

They have maintained the rose gardens at the Historical Governors' Mansion

1st Place

10 E& F Civic Development

Project that has been ongoing for several years and an outstanding community outreach program

Dirt Diggers Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs

Expansion of community food pantry

1st Place

Prairie Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Club picked up trash, made greenway enhancements and dispersed wildflower seeds at the Cheyenne's Greenway

2nd Place

10 F Civic Development

Outstanding community outreach program

Riverton Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Grow a Little Extra: addressed hunger in the community

1st Place

Awards



10 F Civic Development ~ cont'd

Neighborhood Garden Club

Utah Associated Garden Club, Inc

Maintain garden at local public school

1st Place

Dell Rapids Area Garden Club

Federated Garden Clubs of South Dakota

Promoted children's reading of books pertaining to gardening, nature and pollinators

2nd Place

Dirt Diggers Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

Bring a Plant—Take a Plant

3rd Place

Riverton Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

Providing fun learning activities at meetings

Honorable Mention

Riverton Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

Choose top yards for the 250th Anniversary Celebration

Honorable Mention

11 D Conservation and Environmental Concerns

Project with the most recycling efforts

Happy Wyo Gardeners Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

Recycled feed tubs to make self-watering planters

1st Place

11 E,F, G Conservation and Environmental Concerns

Supports a project that promotes conservation, promotes an environmental concern and incorporates wildflowers or native plant materials

Fargo Garden Society

North Dakota State Garden Clubs

Four hundred Red River Valley original local ecotype plants and seeds were planted to replicate the native prairie ecosystem outside of the Bison and Prairie dog exhibits at the Red River Zoo.

1st Place

12 E: Butterfly Gardening

Maintaining a Butterfly Garden funded by a Garden Club

Dell Rapids Area Garden Club

Federated Garden Clubs of South Dakota

Red Rock Gardens

1st Place

12F Butterfly Gardening

A butterfly garden that was designed by a garden club

Dig and Dream Garden Club

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs

The club designed and installed a Community Pollinator and Butterfly Garden in 2018 at the Smokey Hill Library and has maintained the garden since the installation

1st Place

13 B Flower Show Awards

Non Standard Flower Show

Utah Orchard Society

Utah Associated Garden Clubs

1st Place

Utah Rose Society

Utah Associated Garden Clubs

1st Place

14 A Landscape Design

Projects that make a significant contribution by providing planning and/or planting in a facility such as a church, park, library, hospital.

Chug Creek Cultivators Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

Provided planning and planting at the Blue Star Memorial

1st Place

Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs

Planted flowers at a local library.

2nd Place

15A Garden Study

An educational program that is open to the public

Happy Wyo Gardeners Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs

Planned and implemented a gardening program, working with people with limited mobility,

1st Place

Awards ~~ cont'd

16 Youth Awards

Outstanding achievement with a youth club project that promotes planting and growing in an outside area

Dig & Dream Garden Club

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs

Established a rose garden at Aurora, Colorado's Pickens Technical College (high school and post-high school trade school) early in the club's history (1960s) and has maintained the garden ever since.

1st Place

Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs

The objectives of this program are to teach youth the fundamentals of gardening for lifelong skills to live a healthy lifestyle and grow vegetables for nutritious food for their table.

2nd Place

Award 17 Fund-Raising

The award is given to clubs for creative and unique fund-raising ideas

Prairie Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Planned a Progressive Plant Party

1st Place

Dirt Diggers Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Sold Christmas Swag

2nd Place

18 Blue Star /Gold Star Highway Memorials

Maintaining the Blue Star Memorial

Jean Tobiason

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc

1st Place

20 B Special Achievement Awards

Outstanding garden club work by a Garden Club

Prairie Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc

Built a star-shaped planter box at the existing Blue Star Memorial Sign for the 250th Anniversary and the Declaration of Independence

1st Place

23 Club Programs

Presented for a garden club program on growing, studying, and the culture of plants or a plant family.

Dig and Dream, Garden Club

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs

Programs were given on various resources and habitat conservation

1st place

24 Youth Gardening

Sponsoring a project that involves either horticulture or design activities for Youth.

Prairie Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Hands-on science booth at St. Mary's Science Fair

1st Place

Chug Creek Cultivators Garden Club

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Hands-on science booth at St. Mary's Science Fair

1st Place

Dig and Dream Garden Club

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs

Maintained the Rose Garden at Picken's College, used for learning about gardening.

2nd Place

25 National Garden Club Project

Award given to a garden club that does an exceptional project to promote and participate in NGC goals with special activities

26 Photography --Camera

This award may be given to a garden club member whose photo or group of photos depict:

26 A Conservation of Flora and Fauna and Wildflowers

Cheryl Maddox

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

1st Place

26C Creating Butterfly Habitats

Pat Klaus

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc

1st Place

216E Birds

Pat Klaus

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc

1st Place

We had two chapters that submitted Website Awards, but that award is no longer an award RMR sponsors.

Awards



**“Thank you” to all members who entered the Photo Contest.
Congratulations to the winners listed below!**

1st place and people’s choice winners in each category are shown. All other winners can be found on the [RMR website](#).

Flower or Vegetable Garden:

1st Place:

Sandra Vigen
North Dakota State Garden Club
Sleepy Head

2nd Place

Sandra Vigen
North Dakota State Garden Club
Bee

2nd Place:

Linsey Duffy
South Dakota Federated Garden Clubs, Inc.
In Flanders’ Field

3rd Place

Donovan Lindsay
Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs
Flower Garden 1

3rd Place:

Bob Martin
Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.
Thistle

Honorable Mention:

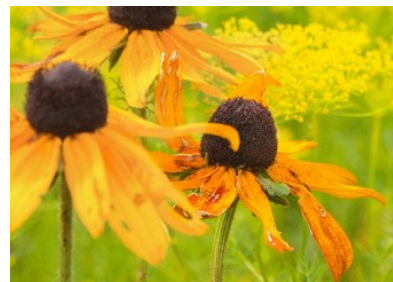
Susie Graves
Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs
Flowers

Honorable Mention:

Chris Martin
Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc
Flower Garden 1

Juror’s Choice

Linsey Duffy
South Dakota Federated Garden Clubs, Inc
Sunny Days



Awards~~ cont'd

Junk Gardens

1st Place

Margaret Straley
South Dakota Federated
Garden Clubs, Inc
Mable's Garden



2nd Place

Cheryl Maddox
Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs
Junk Garden

2nd Place

Sandra Vigen
North Dakota State Garden Club
Peaches and Dreams

3rd Place

Donovan Lindsay
Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs
Junk Garden1

Honorable Mention

Sandra Vigen
North Dakota State Garden Club
Dahlia Delight

Juror's Choice

Donovan Lindsay
Colorado Federation of
Garden Clubs
Junk Garden



Rock or Fairy Garden

1st Place

Beth McNea
North Dakota State
Garden Club
Keeper of the Flowers



2nd Place

Chris Martin
Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.
Water Feature

3rd Place

Sandra Vigen
North Dakota State Garden Club
Cherub Dancing

Honorable Mention

Bob Martin
Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.
Nature's Rock Garden

Juror's Choice

Beth McNea
North Dakota State
Garden Club
Butterfly Kisses



**Sometimes you need the silence of plants
to recover from the noise of humans**



Blue Star



BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR MEMORIALS FEATURING THE STATE OF UTAH



While most Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) states have a designated Blue Star Representative, Utah does not. The Utah Associated Garden Clubs President, Sue McJames, has taken on this extra duty to assist me with this article.

Utah ordered its first Highway Blue Star Memorial in August 1960. Since that time, according to the National Garden Club Records, Utah has ordered 12 highway Blue Star Memorials, two Blue Star Memorials and one Blue Star By-Way Memorial; most were noted as ordered by the Utah Associated Garden Clubs but with no notation of the site of placement.

The National Garden Club Blue Star Memorials also extend across the state. A map indicating locations and planned locations across the state was done in 1982 by Samuel Dean Green. Sue McJames has researched where the present sights are across Utah, and the list is below with date and site.

Utah Blue Star Highway Memorials:

1960 -Highway 91 Lunt Park Rest Stop, which is East of Lunt and five miles North of Paragoned

1961- Bridal Veil Falls in Provo Canyon

1965 Interstate 15 rest stop between Orem and Pleasant Grove

1967-Blue Star Park, 450 South Main St, Fillmore. No longer exists
- replaced with a Blue Star Memorial in 2019.

1971-Interstate 15-mile marker 369 rest stop at Brigham City View Area.

1972 -Roosevelt

1973 -Between Helper and Price was installed by the Garden Club of Tucker

1975 -Parleys Canyon, Kimball Junction- proposed 4-25-1974? current location unknown

1975 -St. George

1976 -Highway 81 Salt Flats Rest Stop near Wendover

1978 -Ordered by Utah Associated Garden Clubs- placement unknown

1979 - Ordered by Utah Associated Garden Clubs- placement unknown

1982 - 1602 East 2100 South, Salt Lake City. Sugar House Garden Center

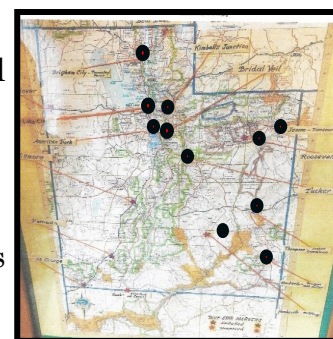
2015 - West Jordan, 7800 South Veterans Memorial Park

2019 - Blue Star Park, 450 South Main St, Fillmore. Replaced the 1967 Blue Star Highway Memorial.

Blue Star By-way Memorial

2022- Park City Miner's Hospital (See photo.)

~~ cont'd



Blue Star ~~ cont'd

Sue is working with Candice Wells, the National Garden Club Blue Star Representative, who keeps the record of all memorials ordered. It is hoped that the memorials ordered in 1978 and 1979, and the proposed 1974/75 Parleys Canyon, Kimball Junction memorial can be located.

There are no National Garden Club Gold Star Memorials in Utah. However, the state has five Hershal Woody Williams Foundation Gold Star Memorials, one planned for installation in November 2026, and another being planned. These memorials extend across the state. They are large India black granite, made up of four panels, which are engraved on the front with a tribute to Gold Star families. The back depicts homeland family, patriot and sacrifice. Each memorial measures about 16 feet long and 7 feet high. The cost begins at \$100,000 to order the memorial with additional costs of creating a base and installing benches. The money for these memorials is made possible by donations from organizations such as the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and others.



The first Hershal Woody Williams Gold Star Memorial, installed in 2020, is located in North Ogden. Others include South Jordan and St. George 2022, Draper City 2024, and Orem 2026. In November 2026, one is to be installed in Brigham City, and another is planned for Layton, Utah.

As you drive through Utah, perhaps you can solve the mystery of the missing memorials. Also, take time to note the condition of all the Blue Star Memorials, Highway Memorials, and By-way Memorials, and report any issues/problems to Sue McJames. Sue values your assistance in keeping track of the memorials. When memorials need to be refurbished, Tom Stelling from Florida spends his summer restoring memorials across the nation. He has developed special paint and takes the old paint off down to the metal and applies his specially made green and gold paints. It takes him about eight hours to do a restoration, which is cheaper than replacing the memorial. Seven restorations have been done in Nebraska.

Also, are there special places in Utah where a National Garden Club Gold Star Memorial or Gold Star By-way Memorial would fit? Let Sue know.

Mary Carlson
Blue Star Chairman



Information is like compost; it does no good unless you spread it around.

~~ Eliot Coleman, Four Seasons Gardening

Submitted by Becky Elder, Manitou Springs, CO

Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl



Greetings from Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl

The photo to the right, was taken last May when Smokey and Woodsy came to give out certificates of appreciation in the poster contest at our local school.

This particular Smokey and Woodsy reside with a local forest Ranger from KAMAS, Utah. There are a select number of Rangers in each state who have access to Smokey and Woodsy .

They are ready and willing to come and visit the schools if invited.

This is one of the perks we offer to encourage participation in the poster contest. A visit from Smokey and/or Woodsy -- a much anticipated event for the children.

Thank you to all who participated in the 2026 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest . Hopefully any information we can get out to the children concerning fire prevention and cleaning up the planet will influence the public in general and reduce the number of water occurrences and pollution on our planet.

I attended the Rocky Mountain regional meeting in Fargo North Dakota last week. While there, I gave a packet of previously submitted, posters and miscellaneous goodies from the Forest Service to the president or representative from each state. The card that was enclosed provides a person to contact if you would like similar goodies to share or packets of official appreciation certificates.

Connie McKay, Chairman



L to r: Forest Ranger, Woodsy Owl, Alison Jueschke, Connie MacKay, Smokey Bear



Treasurers Report—Two Cents Worth



Our Edward Jones funds continue to grow at a solid rate of just over 3.5% for the past 12 months. Our initial investment of \$10,000 in 2018 has grown to over \$16,200 as of July 31, 2026. After the bills have all been paid and the funds all sorted out from this past conference, I will move our excess funds from the checking account at Wells Fargo and add them to our investment account!

Thank you for all you do for Garden Club! Our clubs are stronger because of members like you!

Lynette Jeffres
RMR Treasurer
ljeffres@gardenclub.org

Wild Flowers and Native Plants



I want to add this last episode, about the Wildflower and Native plants reported by our “Corps of Discovery” troop traveling into our countries new lands. It was an amazing undertaking and if you have not read or studied anything about it, I recommend that you should do so. My articles are just a tiny bit of the exciting experience that they lived on their journey of Discovery.



Meriwether Lewis arrived at the Missouri River above the Great Falls on July 1, 1806. He waited there to rest and then portage around the falls. He collected there the Gumbo Evening Primrose “*Oenothera cespitosa*”. The fragrant white flower can change to pale pink with age and can sometimes be 4 inches across. It opens in the evening and is pollinated by night flying moths. The soil it grows in is a fine silty soil heavy with clay, called gumbo till. The grandeur of the falls impressed him and he made several sketches of them. He

reported in his journal that the Buffalo covered the plains in numbers that he estimated to be ten thousand within a two-mile area.



Lewis and Clark recorded Bear Grass, “*Xerophyllum tenax*”, a number of times when it was often seen in the Bitterroot Mountains, growing from sea level to 7,000 feet. The Indians used its’ fiber and cedar bark to create a conical type of hat that repelled water very well. They also used it for making very tough baskets and Lewis took one of the hats back to the East. Bear Grass does not bloom every year and may not bloom sometimes for 10 years and is not really a grass but in the lily family.



Lewis encountered at least four of the Lupine species; these are of the pea family. One, the Silky Lupine, “*Lupinus sericeus*”, had distinctly different upper and lower petals and was unknown to western science and was not found in the eastern part of the continent. He also collected 2 other species of Lupine. They were Silvery Lupine, “*Lupinus argenteus*” and Rusty Lupine, “*Lupinus pusillus*”, both western natives that were new to science. The name Lupine comes from the Latin for wolf. At one time Lupines

were thought to rob the soil of minerals; instead, being a member of the legume family, they have the ability to fix nitrogen, thus improving soil, fertility.



Snowberry, “*Symphoricarpos albus*”, belongs to the honeysuckle family and is native to the western mountains. Lewis referred to it a number of times simply as the white-berried honeysuckle and noted other members of this family as well, including wolfberry, which is commonly found on the Plains while he was traveling up the Missouri River.

~~ cont’d

Wild Flowers and Native Plants ~~ cont'd

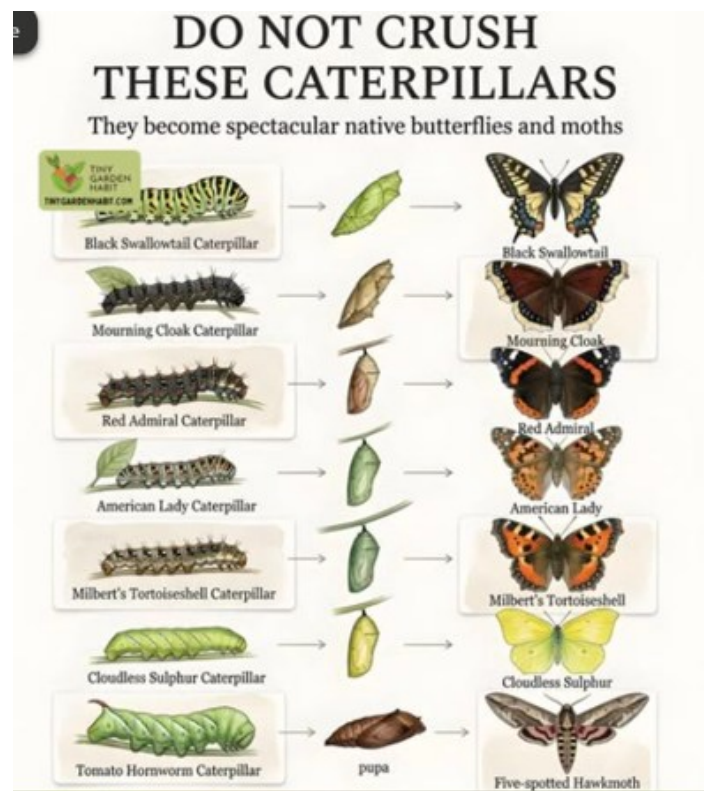


1812, six years after their return, Jefferson in correspondence mentioned growing the shrub at Monticello and his granddaughter Cornelia Randolph wrote about her favorite snowberry berries looking so beautiful and pure on the plant from which seed had been brought back by the Expedition.

The botanical prizes of the Corps of Discovery are housed in the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The 226 pressed and dried specimens or seeds represent Lewis's efforts to fulfill President Jefferson's request to bring back plants, *"especially those not known in the present U.S."*.

The story of Lewis and Clark is one of America's greatest episodes as they discovered a whole new world of botany. Many of the specimens they sent back were unknown to Western science. I hope you have enjoyed our trip with them as much as I have enjoyed researching and writing about these wonderful plants that they reported on.

RMR Wildflower and Native Plants Chairman
Audrey Coyle, Colorado





Gardening

WORD SEARCH

Solve the following puzzle by finding all the hidden words!



GARDENING
VEGETABLES
HARVEST
MULCH
WEEDING
FERTILIZER
TRANSPLANT

SHOVEL
PERENNIALS
WATERING
SEEDS
ANNUALS
COMPOST
GARDEN TOOLS

TROWEL
SUNLIGHT
RAKE
POTTING
FLOWERS
PRUNING
POLLINATION



Rocky Mountain Region Officers 2025-2027

Office	Officer	E-mail
Region Director	Shirley Pursel "Many Hands Make All Work Light," PO Box 6105 Riverton, WY 82501	307-851-2966 shirleypursel@yahoo.com
Alternate Director	~~	~~
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Historian	Open	

RMR State Presidents 2025-2027

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Pat Smit <i>"PLANT AMERICA, plant native, plant for pollinators."</i> pat.smit@live.com	North Dakota State Garden Clubs Joyce Hanna <i>"Conserve Nature and Grow Friends in North Dakota"</i> Fargo, ND 58103 701-541-4590 jhanna4354@gmail.com
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Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Jeannie Bennett <i>"Theme"</i> jeanniebennett@gmail.com	The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc. Sue McJames <i>"Stewards of the Earth"</i> 1669 Redstone Ave., A-2, Park City, UT 84098 435-901-2707 susanmcjames@hotmail.com
Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska <i>"Theme"</i> Rod Ruzanic ruzanicrod@gmail.com	Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc <i>"the love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies..."</i> - Gertrude Jekyll Susan Pixley sannpixley@gmail.com

Rocky Mountain Region Chairman* 2025-2027

Project	Chairman	E-mail
Awards	Chris Martin	dzrcc8@yahoo.com
Birds	~~	~~
Blue Star Marker	Mary L. Carlson, NE	marylcarlson5@gmail.com
Butterfly	Margaret Straley, Sioux Falls, SD	zebrabread@gmail.com
Chaplin	Linda Anderson. Fargo, ND	rwandljanderson@gmail.com
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Gardening School Liaison to RMR	~~	~~
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Membership	Barb Yates	Barb.yates@me.com
NGC President's Projects	Robbie Kupper	kupperro@gmail.com
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Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl	Connie McKay, Holladay, UT	mcm31@icloud.com
Wildflowers & Native Plants	Audrey Coyle, Colorado Springs, CO	afloris@stratisiq.com
Xeriscape Gardens	Doris Duckworth, Monument, CO	dorisduckworth@yahoo.com

* If you need an address or phone number please let me know at rmrrambler@yahoo.com