



# Rocky Mountain Rambler

Rocky Mountain Region  
Newsletter

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

September 2024



I am hoping that all of you have had a great summer so far. It is already August, and our annual RMR meeting is almost here. I hope to see quite a few of you in Sioux Falls South Dakota. I heard the National Convention was quite a success this year in Colorado. Congratulations to all who worked or helped with that endeavor.

It's been scorching hot in Nebraska lately. I'm sure many of you can relate to the anticipation of waiting for your tomatoes to ripen, only to have them stalled by the heat. It reminds me of a similar situation two years ago when I had a surplus of green tomatoes, but a sudden freeze prevented many from ripening.



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Next Deadline to submit to  
Rambler: October 20<sup>th</sup>



**Director's Message cont.**

I am looking forward to hearing from your State and all of the things that you have been doing. My hope is that as President of your state, you will bring an interesting report to read at the RMR meeting. It is always great to hear what you are doing, and each of us comes away with at least one great idea to bring back to our state.

Don't forget to bring a basket from your state for the ways and means. I think it would be fun if you added at least one item that is representative of your state. Let's show off our state this year!!!!

Have a great rest of your summer, and again, I hope to see a lot of you in Sioux Falls, South Dakota August 30 and 31.

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

**Next Deadline to  
submit to Rambler:  
October 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Dates to Remember:**

September 19, 2024	NGC Fall Board Meeting	St. Louis, MO
May 18-22, 2025	NGC National Convention	N. Charleston, SC Embassy Suites by Hilton
August 22-23, 2025	RMR Annual Meeting	Cheyenne, WY









Rocky Mountain Rambler

September 2024

## RMR Treasurer's Report


**Edward Jones**  
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

 Account Holder(s) Rocky Mountain Region Garden  
 Account Number [REDACTED]  
 Financial Advisor Mick Pryor, 307-856-6116  
 109 S 6th St E, Riverton, WY 82501

Statement Date Jun 29 - Jul 26, 2024

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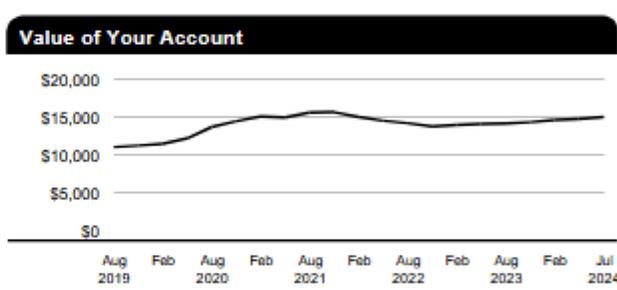
 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION GARDEN  
 CLUB  
 915 E ROOSEVELT  
 RIVERTON WY 82501-2937
**Tap into your borrowing power**

Moving, planning a renovation, taking a trip, planning for college? We offer flexible borrowing options to meet a variety of financing needs, while allowing your investment portfolio to remain intact. Your financial advisor can help create a strategy to address your unique needs.

**Association - Select**

Portfolio Objective - Account: Preservation of Principal

Account Value	
<b>\$14,887.02</b>	
1 Month Ago	\$14,754.79
1 Year Ago	\$14,043.97
3 Years Ago	\$15,318.82
5 Years Ago	\$11,014.92



Value Summary		
	This Period	This Year
Beginning Value	\$14,754.79	\$14,511.98
Assets Added to Account	0.00	0.00
Assets Withdrawn from Account	0.00	0.00
Fees and Charges	0.00	0.00
Change In Value	132.23	375.04
<b>Ending Value</b>	<b>\$14,887.02</b>	

 For more information regarding the Value Summary section, please visit [www.edwardjones.com/mystatementguide](http://www.edwardjones.com/mystatementguide).

Rate of Return					
Your Personal Rate of Return for Assets Held at Edward Jones	This Quarter	Year to Date	Last 12 Months	3 Years Annualized	5 Years Annualized
	0.90%	2.58%	6.00%	-0.77%	6.20%

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## RMR Treasurer's Report



Account Holder(s) Rocky Mountain Region Garden  
 Account Number [REDACTED]  
 Financial Advisor Mick Pryor, 307-856-6116  
 109 S 6th St E, Riverton, WY 82501

Statement Date Jun 29 - Jul 26, 2024

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**Rate of Return (continued)**

**Your Personal Rate of Return:** Your Personal Rate of Return measures the investment performance of your account. It incorporates the timing of your additions and withdrawals and reflects commissions and fees paid. Reviewing Your Personal Rate of Return is important to help ensure you're on track to achieving your financial goals.

The performance of your investments is tracked since they have been held in the current account, but no earlier than Jan. 1, 2009. This also includes investments you owned during this time period but have since sold. Certain events, including a transfer of an investment between accounts, share class conversion, or change in an investment's identification code (CUSIP) caused by a corporate action, will impact the time frame over which the investment's rate of return is calculated.

Rate of Return information on account statements uses the dollar-weighted calculation. Time-weighted Rate of Return numbers for Advisory Solutions Fund and UMA accounts can be found on your Quarterly Performance Report through Online Account Access. If you are not an Online Access user, visit [edwardjones.com/access](http://edwardjones.com/access) to sign up.

Information used to calculate performance may have been obtained from third parties and Edward Jones cannot guarantee the accuracy of such information.

For the most current information, contact your financial advisor or visit [edwardjones.com/performance](http://edwardjones.com/performance).

**Asset Details (as of Jul 26, 2024)**additional details at [www.edwardjones.com/access](http://www.edwardjones.com/access)**Assets Held At Edward Jones**

				Balance
Cash				\$3.20
<b>Mutual Funds</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Rate of Return*</b>
Pgim Short Dur Multi-Str BD A	8.84	612.624	5,415.60	5.17%
WA Short-Term Bond A	3.66	2,588.946	9,468.22	3.51%
<b>Total Account Value</b>			<b>\$14,887.02</b>	

\*Your Rate of Return for each individual asset above is as of July 26, 2024. Returns greater than 12 months are annualized.

Your Rate of Return in the Asset Details section above measures the investment performance of each of your individual assets. It incorporates the timing of your additions and withdrawals and reflects commissions and fees paid. Reviewing your Rate of Return is important to help ensure you're on track to achieving your financial goals.

The performance of your investments is tracked since they have been held in the current account, but no earlier than Jan. 1, 2009. Certain events, including a transfer of an investment between accounts, share class conversion, or change in an investment's identification code (CUSIP) caused by a corporate action, will impact the time frame over which the investment's rate of return is calculated.

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## RMR Treasurer's Report

 <b>Edward Jones</b> <sup>®</sup> MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING	Account Holder(s) Rocky Mountain Region Garden Account Number [REDACTED] Financial Advisor Mick Pryor, 307-856-8118 109 S 6th St E, Riverton, WY 82501
	Statement Date Jun 29 - Jul 26, 2024 <span style="float: right;">Page 3 of 4</span>

**Investment and Other Activity by Date**

Date	Description	Quantity	Amount
7/01	Dividend on WA Short-Term Bond A on 2,579.004 Shares at Daily Accrual Rate		\$28.91
7/01	Reinvestment into WA Short-Term Bond A @ 3.64	7.942	-28.91
7/01	Dividend on Pgim Short Dur Multi-Str BD A on 610.938 Shares at Daily Accrual Rate		14.82
7/01	Reinvestment into Pgim Short Dur Multi-Str BD A @ 8.78	1.688	-14.82

**Your Relationship and Mailing Group(s)**

**Relationship Group** - You've directed us to share information about these accounts with the individual(s) listed below. This means information about your financial accounts, goals and objectives may be shared with and accessible by each owner, authorized party, and any other individual in the Relationship Group, including through Edward Jones Online Access and Edward Jones reports.

Without any additional notification to you, the individual(s) below will also be able to share any information available to the Relationship Group with people outside your Relationship Group through Edward Jones Online Access, or by contacting the Edward Jones branch responsible for your accounts. You may revoke this direction at any time, but until such revocation, we'll share information as directed by any member of the Relationship Group.

**Individuals in this Relationship Group**

First Name	Last Name
Rocky Mountain Region Garden C	

**Mailing Group** - You have also asked us to combine certain information about the accounts listed below into the mailing group(s) below for delivery purposes. Information for accounts within the same mailing group may be included in one envelope and mailed to the mailing group address. We may still send certain information directly to the account owners, as we believe appropriate.

Account Number	Account Owner(s)	Account Type	Mailing Group Address
XXX-XX164-1-0	Rocky Mountain Region Garden	Association Account Select	ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION GARDEN CLUB 915 E ROOSEVELT RIVERTON WY 82501-2937

For more information on this relationship or mailing group(s), please visit [www.edwardjones.com/disclosures](http://www.edwardjones.com/disclosures). If you wish to make changes to either the relationship(s) or mailing group(s), please contact your financial advisor.

## RMR Treasurer's Report

	<b>Account Holder(s)</b> Rocky Mountain Region Garden <b>Account Number</b> ██████████ <b>Financial Advisor</b> Mick Pryor, 307-856-8118 109 S 6th St E, Riverton, WY 82501
	<b>Statement Date</b> Jun 29 - Jul 26, 2024 <span style="float: right;"><b>Page 4 of 4</b></span>

**About Edward Jones**

Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P., is dually registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a broker-dealer and an investment adviser. Edward Jones is also a member of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA).

**Statement of Financial Condition** — Edward Jones' Statement of Financial Condition is available at [edwardjones.com/about/financial-reports.html](http://edwardjones.com/about/financial-reports.html), your local office or by mail upon written request.

**About Your Account**

**Account Information** — Your account agreement(s) contain the conditions that govern your account. Contact your financial advisor if you have any changes to your financial situation, contact information or investment objectives.

**Account Accuracy** — If you believe there are errors on your account, promptly notify your financial advisor or Client Relations. To further protect your rights, including rights under the Securities Investor Protection Act (SIPA), re-confirm any oral communication by sending us a letter within 30 days. If you think there is an error with, or you have a question about, your electronic transfers, contact Client Relations.

**Complaints about Your Account** — If you have a complaint, call Client Relations or send a letter to Edward Jones, Attn: Complaints Investigations, 12555 Manchester Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131 or send an email to [complaints@edwardjones.com](mailto:complaints@edwardjones.com).

**Pricing** — For the most current prices of your investments, contact your financial advisor or visit Online Access. While we believe our pricing information is reliable, some information is provided by third parties and we cannot guarantee its accuracy.

**Systematic and Money Market Transactions** — Additional transaction details may be available upon written request to Edward Jones, Attn: Trade Operations Dept.

**Fair Market Value for Individual Retirement Accounts** — Your account's fair market value as of Dec. 31 will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as required by law.

**Withholding on Distributions or Withdrawals** — Federal law requires Edward Jones to withhold income tax on distribution(s) from your retirement accounts and other plans, unless you elect not to have withholding apply by completing the appropriate form and returning it to the address specified on the form. Your election will remain in effect until you change or revoke it by completing and returning a new form. If you elect not to have withholding or do not have enough income tax withheld from your distributions, or if payments of estimated taxes are not sufficient, you may be responsible for payments of estimated taxes and/or incur penalties as a result. State withholding, if applicable, is subject to the state's withholding requirements.

**Fees and Charges** — The "Fees and Charges" amount shown in your Value Summary includes the following:

- Account fees (e.g., advisory program asset-based fees and retirement account fees);
- Fees and charges for services (e.g., check reorders and wire transfers); and
- Margin loan interest

This amount does not include transaction-based fees and charges on the purchase or sale of a security or other product (e.g., systematic investing fees, commissions, sales charges, and markups/ markdowns). These fees and charges are shown in the activity section(s) of your statement or on your trade confirmations. For more information, contact your financial advisor.

**Rights to Your Money Market Fund, Bank Deposit and Free Credit Balances** — The uninvested cash in your account ("Free Credit Balance") is payable on demand. You may instruct us to liquidate your Insured Bank Deposit or Money Market fund balance(s). We will disburse the proceeds to you or place them in your accounts. Your instructions must be made during normal business hours and are subject to the terms and conditions of the account agreement(s).

To learn more about fees and costs, revenue sharing, and the compensation received by Edward Jones and your financial advisor, please talk with your financial advisor or visit [edwardjones.com/disclosures](http://edwardjones.com/disclosures).

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Client Relations		Online Access	Other Contacts
 Toll Free Phone 800-441-2357	For hours, visit <a href="http://edwardjones.com">edwardjones.com</a>	 <a href="http://edwardjones.com/access">edwardjones.com/access</a>	 Edward Jones Personal MasterCard® 866-874-6711
 201 Progress Parkway Maryland Heights, MO 63043		 Edward Jones Online Support 800-441-5203	 Edward Jones Business MasterCard® 866-874-6712
			 Edward Jones VISA® Debit Card 888-289-6835

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## Rocky Mountain Rambler

September 2024

## RMR Treasurer's Report

Budget vs. Actual

RMR Garden Clubs Inc.  
Budget 6/1/2023 – 5/31/2024BUDGET APPROVED AT  
Colorado Springs, CO

General Funds		Budgeted	Actual	Difference	
<b>Revenues</b>					
Dues	\$100/state/year	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -	
Meetings	60% RMR Conference (prior year) UTAH	\$ 500.00	\$ 386.44	\$ (113.56)	
Meetings	RMR Conference Annual Meeting Room Deposit	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ (400.00)	
Misc.	RMR Pins (6 @ \$10)	\$ 60.00	\$ 10.00	\$ (50.00)	
	<b>Total General Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,196.44</b>	<b>\$ (563.56)</b>	
	Pulled from Reserves	\$ 765.00	\$ -	\$ (765.00)	
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,525.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,196.44</b>	<b>\$ (1,328.56)</b>	
Administration					
	Director Travel/Expenses	\$ 1,000	\$ 699.16	\$ (300.84)	
	Directory Printing & Shipping	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ (300.00)	
	Annual Corporate Filing Fee	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ (25.00)	donated by Ljeffres
	<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 1,325.00</b>	<b>\$ 699.16</b>	<b>\$ (625.84)</b>	
Meetings					
	RMR Meeting @ NGC Meeting Misc. Exp	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ (50.00)	
	RMR Annual Meeting Room Deposits	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ (500.00)	
	<b>Total RMR Meetings</b>	<b>\$ 550.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (550.00)</b>	
Miscellaneous					
	Postage	\$ 50	\$ 14.20	\$ (35.80)	
	Supplies (Printing/Bank Fee/Etc)	\$ 200	\$ 75.00	\$ (125.00)	
	Awards	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ (400.00)	
	<b>Total Misc.</b>	<b>\$ 650.00</b>	<b>\$ 89.20</b>	<b>\$ (560.80)</b>	
	<b>Total General Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 2,525.00</b>	<b>\$ 788.36</b>	<b>\$ 1,736.64</b>	
	<b>Budgeted General Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,196.44</b>	<b>\$ (563.56)</b>	
	Pulled from Reserves	\$ 765.00	\$ -	\$ (765.00)	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,525.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,196.44</b>	<b>\$ (1,328.56)</b>	
	<b>Budgeted General Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 2,525.00</b>	<b>\$ 788.36</b>	<b>\$ (1,736.64)</b>	
	<b>Net Income vs Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 408.08</b>	<b>\$ 408.08</b>	

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**RMR Proposed Budget 2024-25**

RMR Garden Clubs Inc.  
Proposed Budget 6/1/2024-5/31/2025

PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL  
AUG, 2024 (SOUTH DAKOTA)

General Funds			
<b>Revenues</b>			
Dues	\$100/state/year		\$ 800.00
Meetings	60% RMR Conference		\$ 500.00
Meetings	RMR Conference Annual Meeting Room Deposit		\$ 500.00
Misc.	RMR Pins (6 @ \$10)		\$ 60.00
	<b>Revenue Received</b>		\$ 1,860.00
	Pulled from Reserves		\$ 317.00
	<b>Total Income</b>		\$ 2,177.00
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Administration			
	Director Travel	\$ 1,000	
	Directory Printing & Shipping (odd years only)	\$ -	
	Annual Corporate Filing Fee	\$ 27	
	Total Administration		\$ 1,027.00
Meetings			
	RMR Meeting @ NGC Meeting Misc. Exp	\$ -	
	RMR Annual Meeting Room Deposits	\$ 500	
	Total RMR Meetings		\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous			
	Postage	\$ 50	
	Supplies, Etc.	\$ 100	
	Awards	\$ 400	
	Photo Contest	\$ 100	
	Total Misc.		\$ 650.00
	Total General Expenditures		\$ 2,177.00
	Budgeted General Income		\$ 1,860.00
	Budgeted General Expenditures		\$ 2,177.00
	Net Income vs Expenditures (pulled from reserves)		\$ (317.00)
	General Funds Available 6/1/24 in checking		\$ 6,948.71
	Proposed Income		\$ 1,860.00
	Proposed Budgeted Expenditure		\$ (2,177.00)
	Estimated General Funds 5/31/23 in checking		\$ 6,631.71
<b>Page 1</b>			



**Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.****Colorado's RMR Annual Report****2024**

The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs has had a very busy year! We not only had our annual District meetings and state convention, but we also hosted the 2024 NGC Convention this year. We had a good turnout, and the tours were all filled to capacity and beyond! The workshops were well received, and the speakers did a fantastic job.



CFGFC created a “benefits of belonging to CFGFC and NGC” document. Victoria and Margie visited several clubs to talk about the benefits of belonging to the state and national organizations. Victoria and Pat (our new 1<sup>st</sup> VP) are continuing to visit clubs throughout the rest of the year. The “benefits” program has brought renewed energy to clubs and provided much needed information on why clubs should be part of the state and national organizations. We’ve found that this document helps clubs see what is available through the state and national organizations such as grants, awards, programs, projects, etc.

One of our new programs that is part of our “benefits of belonging to CFGFC” is to provide funds from the state to help Clubs and Districts pay for educational speakers. Many clubs and districts have already taken advantage of that new program. This program is paid for through an annual grant the state gets from the Colorado Garden Foundation who hosts the annual Garden and Home Show in Denver, which we also participate in each year.

Our Districts and Clubs have been busy. Our clubs worked with Ronald McDonald House Charities creating a new Veggie and Herb Garden for the Residents and staff, the Ft. Logan Cemetery, the Pickens Technical College Rose Garden, acted as docents to led garden tours for community and pollinator gardens in the area as well as many more projects. GMGC participated in the national Wreaths Across America program, purchasing 10 wreaths and helping to distribute 2000 wreaths to honor fallen service members at Linn Grove Cemetery, a regional Blue and Gold Star cemetery for Northern Colorado.

**Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. cont.**

Our clubs and districts have had many programs on topics ranging from how climate change is affecting our area, to Plant Select offerings for our region, prairie soil health, building and maintaining blue bird houses, Vegetable Container Gardening, Edible flowers, floral arts, general horticulture, to plant propagation. Our clubs also donate (and plant) trees to help the environment, as well as one club that donated \$250 to their local library to buy seeds for their Seed Library where their patrons can get seeds when they would not otherwise be able to afford. That same club also donated \$500.00 to a local High School's FFA students to be able to compete at the FFA National. They are required to wear a specific uniform not paid for by the school. 80% of the students are economically disadvantaged.

Many of our clubs do Plant Sales for their main fundraisers. These are usually very successful. Some of our clubs hosted the Garden Tours and sell tickets as a fundraiser. GMGC participated in the Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional and Volunteer Fair. They introduced the club to a new population of community members! Many of our clubs received grants and awards to include GMGC receiving 2 major grants this year - *The Giving Works Grant* from Campus Works for \$1,200 and the *Plant America - Feeding America Grant* for \$1,000 from NGC. Both are used in conjunction with club funds, to support gardens in the community with plants and supplies.

And finally, we are creating a new state website and renewing our commitment to using Social Media channels to get the word out about our clubs.

Happy Gardening!

**Victoria Schmidt**

CFGF President 2023-2025

“Growing our knowledge through education, experience, experimentation, and sharing.”

### Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc. (KAGC)



The Kansas Associated Garden Clubs (KAGC) held their State Convention June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> on the grounds of the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs, KS.

The 3 clubs of the East Central District hosting the event. The picturesque barn and surrounding were a wonderful backdrop for the weekend that started off with a certified Flower Show coordinated by the Judges Council.

The lovely designs and horticulture brightened up the room. A tour of the grounds and the Agricultural Museum were part of the afternoon's activity.

Folk Singer, Joy Zimmerman provided entertainment Friday evening at the beginning of the banquet and Donna

Rouch, NGC Vice President provided an update on the state of National Garden Clubs.

Donna is from Nebraska so it was nice to have a National Officer so close and available to attend the Conference.

Saturday morning brought a much-needed rainfall to the area. The Business meeting included State Awards presentations, installation of the new State Officers presented by Donna Rouch, discussions on growing membership, A report of the digitization of the Judges Council books and the Rose Garden book of Friendship project, The use of Zoom for District and State meetings to make it possible for less travel and more participation of members as they age.

Penny Morgan was installed as the new KAGC President and her theme for the year is "Bee a Guardian of the Galaxy, a Protector of Pollinators." 3 Musketeer Bars were handed out to the attendees by Donna Rouch, as the motto "All for one, and one for all", to remind us to carry on the promotion, good deeds, and work of the garden clubs.

The clubs have carried on the promotion & participation in the National Smokey Bear Project, Installation of a Blue/Gold Star in Pilsen, Kansas, visiting gardens, and putting on workshops on floral design and holding flower shows.

KAGC is now 2 districts: The Sunflower District – represented by 4 clubs and the East Central District which is represented by 3 clubs. There are 149 members in the KAGC.

The attendance of the conference was around 30 people.

Respectfully submitted

**Penny Morgan**, President of Kansas Associated Garden Clubs (KAGC)

**Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.****Greetings from Montana!**

Our days in the 70's and 80's has now risen to the 90's!! We are in for a hot summer. The good thing about Montana summers is the evenings and early mornings are cool. I get outside to water my plants around 6am. By 10 or beautiful 11, the sun's up and heating everything around me. This spring was short and cool so I didn't even plant my vegetable garden till the middle of June! We'll see what comes up.

Montana just had a 2024 State Convention in Malta. Malta is in the north-eastern part of the state. It was well attended, considering the distance some folks had to travel. Myself, it took 7 hours to get there from my town of Whitehall. NGC Scholarship, MFGC Murphy Scholarship and MFGC Life Members Scholarship were awarded to 3 very deserving young people. Awards were given to clubs for outstanding projects and we crowned, with a sparkling tierra and sash, Phyllis White as Garden Club Member of the Year. Congratulations to everyone. The Convention was attended by the NGC President, Brenda Moore who gave an excellent informative program titled "50 Shades of Green". The power-point presented 50 benefits of belonging to National Garden Clubs and the opportunities offered to our members.

Malta Dirt Daubers had a beautiful dedication of their Gold Star Memorial. Boy Scout Troop 1429 presented colors and a veteran with a lovely voice sang the "Star Spangled Banner." A Gold Star family was honored and I gave a history of the Gold Star. The unveiling was done by 2 military veterans and garden club members, Joyce Hendricks and Jeannie Bennett.

**Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. cont.**

Montana is divided into 8 Districts with anywhere of 2 to 4 clubs in each district. The MFGC officers visit each District beginning the last week of September and finishing the first week in October. This is an opportunity for meeting the club members in a more informal atmosphere. Conventions are great but I really enjoy the District Meetings and being able to spend time one-on-one with our members. I learn about new projects they are working on and sometimes hear about issues that need some advice or guidance on. Because Montana is such a large state, the travel is extensive, putting almost 2000 miles on the car. Oh, but what a great road trip it is, seeing the landscape changing from mountains to the prairies! (that sounds like a song I know!)

I have made my reservations to attend the RMR Convention this year in Sioux Falls, SD. It will be nice to see everyone again.

With the heat of summer upon us, we can only dream that fall is just weeks away. Enjoy these lazy crazy days of summer – have a cookout or take a dip to stay cool.

**Diane Ward**

MFGC President



## Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska, Inc.



### Hello from Nebraska,

The hot weather and lack of moisture in most of the state have made gardening a little challenging this summer, but that hasn't stopped us from enjoying our gardens. In June 2024, FGCN celebrated its 90th anniversary at our annual meeting in Kearney NE. The event was a joyous occasion, marked by the presence of our special guest, Ryleigh Grove, FGCN, and NGC 2024 Scholarship Winner. Members were excited about the milestone and the day of learning and fellowship that awaited them.

Our 13 clubs have had a busy summer. Many clubs still struggle to attract members, but that doesn't stop them from accomplishing many goals. Most clubs meet in person, but at one district meeting, a good discussion was held on trying to do some Zoom activities, especially when there are speakers other clubs might be interested in joining. Several chapters have had very successful plant sales, and the Plattsmouth Garden Club will again hold its annual flower show.

One of the most significant accomplishments for our state was the continuation of the Blue Star and Gold Star Memorials. This past year, Mary Carlson and her committee have received permission to install a Blue Star Memorial at Ft. McPherson National Cemetery, will install a Blue Star By-pass Memorial into Omaha Memorial Park, and have moved the first Blue Star

Memorial dedicated in 1950 in Plattsmouth, NE to the Nebraska Military Vehicle Museum in Lexington, NE. She and her committee have continued to fundraise for those projects. We are so appreciative of Mary's dedication and giving her talents and treasures. She is an inspiration to all of us.

Several members have taken the opportunity to do various schools through Zoom. I continue to encourage our members to take advantage of these opportunities. Eight members of FGCN enjoyed RMR held in South Dakota. It was a fun and interesting meeting. South Dakota did an amazing job. I have also enjoyed attending district meetings. I look forward to attending the NGC Fall Board meeting via Zoom. I will have been able to attend 2 out of 3 district meetings which I always enjoy. We are planning the FGCN Fall Board meeting, and districts are now beginning to plan for their upcoming district meetings for 2025. It's hard to believe that we will now start the process of putting our gardens "to bed". I look forward to fall as I love the changing seasons and all the beautiful colors that fall brings.

### Chris Martin

FGCN President

Plant Nebraska Native Plants: Preserve our Wildlife's Habitats

## North Dakota State Garden Clubs

### North Dakota the Peace Garden State



North Dakota State Garden Clubs had its 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on June 1 at a local restaurant. Thirteen members attended and we welcomed our new Treasurer Mark Blonigen and Acting Secretary Jenifer Swetland took minutes.

A \$1000 Travel Scholarship from former President Les Westgard to be used by the State President for travel to the National Garden Convention to be used annually was passed by members. The scholarship will be shared with other North Dakota clubs if they join the NDSGC. These funds will be held by the Fargo Garden Society's Treasury.

President Marilyn Isaacson gave a report from the Fargo Garden Society stating it was a great year. Last year (2023) the club celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and membership also increased last year.



These wonderful smiling faces are: Front Row: Joel Simons, Patricia Simons, Linda Bellemare, Linda Anderson, Sandra Vigen, DJ Hetland, Back Row: Nancy McKinnon, Mark Blonigen, Marilyn Isaacson, Jenifer Swetland, Jackie Cox, Barb Sherburne, and Becky Goetz

### North Dakota State Garden Clubs, cont.

In April the Cass County Soil Conservation Director gave a program on Prairie Pocket Program and Gardening with Native Plants for the Fargo Garden Society. After hearing this program, we determined that one of our projects, the YWCA Women's Shelter could benefit from their 60 percent cost share for a fence that we have been wanting for the five years we have been doing this project. Thank you to Carol Fairfield and Barb Sherburne for being volunteers in this garden for the women and children at the YWCA Women's Shelter.



In May a company called Living Things Horticulture gave a program on Unique and Less Familiar Shrubs and Perennials for Landscape and Foundation Planting. Personally I found this program very interesting because I had quite a few of the plantings that were on the powerpoint in my yard.

The program in June was a Beekeeping Seminar by the President of the local Beekeeping Club. North Dakota is the top honey producer in the United States and one of our members has a new hive in her garden this year. She shared information with us about her bees.

**North Dakota State Garden Clubs, cont.**

The first plant sale of the year was held at the West Acres Shopping Mall parking lot and earned \$1,785 for the Fargo Garden Society. The event was held on a beautiful sunny day, and we sold out of almost all the plants and garden decorations that our club members brought to the event.

**“Conserve Nature and Grow Friendships in North Dakota”**

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



### South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs



We did it! We hosted the RMR Convention/Meeting! It was fun and with the cooperation of the four clubs/individuals in South Dakota, we did it successfully. Each club and/or individual took responsibility for something - we believed they could/would do it and they did. It was awesome! We did run into issues with our speakers. One called two weeks before saying he had a family commitment and could not present. We were fortunate to find an excellent speaker in Michell Erpenbach who spoke on "Creating a Sustainable Community Food System". Another speaker called on Friday and said she had Covid but our own Thelma Busk filled in with her presentation on "Watts of Light". Both speakers were very

interesting and good response from the audience. We had a nice group with 55 attendees. I hope you were there and if not, make an effort to come to our next meeting in Wyoming. As a side benefit, we made some money for RMR and our state!

Beyond that event, we have kept busy with our monthly meetings, garden tours, picnics, flower planting/watering, harvesting/sharing our garden produce, etc. We have plans for more Blue Star Markers. We did get donations to pay for the state brick for the "Path of Success" at the NGC Headquarters in St. Louis.

Our biggest concern is finding members who will fill leadership roles. The roles do not require "rocket scientists". They do require some time but any position is what you put into it so it is the person's choice as to how much time and effort they choose to do. As someone who has been a state president, the most important roles are to plan and lead the state meetings and to share communications from NGC to the club presidents for them to share with members. Some folks do not like to stand up in front of others but we are all friends so we will be thankful and helpful if you are willing to do it!

Soon we will be putting our gardens to bed for the winter. Sad but can't wait to implement my gardening plans for next year!

Submitted by,

**Mary Lerssen**, SDFGC, Inc. President

**South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs**

**Thank you, Mary Lerssen, and the members of the South Dakota Garden Clubs** for the wonderful RMR Annual Meeting! The locations and tours were beautiful. The butterfly emerging, catching, and releasing was so much fun. The food was delicious, especially all of those homemade salads and treats. You had the biggest, most interesting ways and means sales/auction I have ever seen! But most of all, **the company was joyful!**

*Julie*

**South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs, cont.**



**Photos Submitted by Mary Lerssen**

**The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**Hello. My name is Sue McJames and I am the new President of the Utah Associated Garden Clubs. I have been to several Rocky Mountain Region and 2 National Garden Club Conventions, so hopefully, everyone is becoming familiar with me 😊 Many thanks to Mary Holley, our past President.**

**There were 4 representatives from Utah at the National Garden Club Convention in Denver: Sue McJames, Darla Anderson (nominating committee), Mary Holley (past President) and Connie MacKay (best Smokey Bear cheerleader ever!). Mary arranged flowers for Brenda Moore, NGC President (see picture). Darla and Sue got their pictures taken with Smokey Bear for his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration (see picture).**

The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc. cont.



-rose society flower show:

**The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc. cont.**

**The Rose Society hosted their annual flower show on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sugar House Garden Center. It is a large undertaking and was deemed a success. The Begonia and Iris Societies also held tuber sales at the Garden Center to raise funds for their individual clubs.**

Last month, the Neighborhood Garden Club visited the Monte Vista Ranch in Payson, UT. Paul Genho, who is the owner and operator of the ranch plus past president of the Daylily Society, hosts an annual gathering that showcases his hybridized daylilies. Everyone who attends receives a free daylily plus a delicious lunch!

The Utah Associated Garden Clubs will be hosting their Fall Convention on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Center. It is free and open to all members. Please plan on attending!

**Sue McJames**

President Utah Associated Garden Clubs.



**Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

We had a wonderful WFGC state convention in Riverton, Wyoming June 21 -23. As Co-President I presided over the meeting and thank everyone present so much for their support. The theme of the conference was “Friends are the Sunshine of Life”. Wyoming First Lady Jenny Gordon gave a very interesting talk on the Wyoming Hunger Initiative “Grow a Little Extra”. Brenda Moore, the National Garden Club president, gave a talk about the Path of Success which is being done at the NGC grounds in St. Louis. The Path of Success will feature pavers from states across the country. We also toured the beautiful gardens of two Riverton Garden Club members, along with a tour of Lakeview Gardens, which has over 20 greenhouses. Thank you to all the members of the Riverton Garden club for putting on a great conference.

Enjoy the summer!

“Garden for Hope”  
**Connie Wallace**  
WFGC, Co-President



## 2024 RMR Annual Awards

### 1C Colorado Award: Garden Therapy

**Bullhook Blossoms**, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs

Provides a service to a group of People (Valentine Floral Workshop)

1<sup>st</sup> place

**Fargo Garden Society & YMCA Women's Shelter**, North Dakota State Garden Club

Provides a service to a group of people (Vegetable Garden)

2<sup>nd</sup> place

**Fargo Garden Society & Ronald McDonald's House**, North Dakota State Garden Club

Provides a service to a group of people (Planting plants)

3<sup>rd</sup> place

### 1B Colorado Award—Garden Therapy

**Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club**, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs

Teaches Gardeners of Different Abilities. Worked with residents of the Gallatine Rest Home to stimulate their sight, hearing and touch.

1<sup>st</sup> Place

### 2A Kansas Award--Conservation

**Dell Rapids Area Garden Club**, South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Educational activity or program (presentation given at the local library to educate public on successful gardening practices)

1<sup>st</sup> place

**2024 RMR Annual Awards, cont.****3A Montana Awards—Writing Yearbook****Friendly Federated Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of NE**1<sup>st</sup> place**Linda Mortimore, Mitchell Area Garden Club, South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**2<sup>nd</sup> place**Boulder Garden Club, Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc**3<sup>rd</sup> place**3B Montana Award—Writing—Scrapbook****Friendly Federated Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of NE**1<sup>st</sup> place**3D Montana Award—Writing, State Publication****Phyllis White and Norman DeNeal, co-editors, Montana Garden, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs**1<sup>st</sup> place

- [https://mtfgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/MTGardens5.2024\\_compressed-1.pdf](https://mtfgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/MTGardens5.2024_compressed-1.pdf)
- <https://mtfgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/MT-Gardens-Winter-2023-24-Final.pdf>
- <https://mtfgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Montana-Gardens-Fall-2023.pdf>

**3H Montana Award—Writing Any Design Publication****Darla Anderson, Utah Associated Garden Club**

Ring Around the Rosey in the NGC Calendar

1<sup>st</sup> place

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**2024 RMR Annual Awards, cont.****4A Nebraska Award—Horticulture Excellence****Paul Genho, Utah Associated Garden Club**

Contributions to horticulture through research (developed a variety of daylilies that can thrive in RMR)

1<sup>st</sup> place**4C Nebraska Award—Horticulture Excellence****Bullhook Blossoms, Montana Federation of Garden Club**

Contributions to horticulture through project (extended peony roots at the Hill County Courthouse)

1<sup>st</sup> place**5 F North Dakota Award: Video/CD/DVD/Flash Drive, slide shows****Plattsmouth Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of NE**

Program: Each one Plant one

Honorable Mention

**Award 7 Wyoming Award—Trees****Dell Rapids Area Garden Club, South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs,**  
Planting the Greatest Number of Trees (Planted 13 Trees)1<sup>st</sup> Place**Plattsmouth Garden Club, Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska**  
Planting the Greatest Number of Trees (Planted 5 Native Trees in Garfield Park)

Honorable Mention

**Award 8 Utah Award- Garden Tours****8A Bullhook Blossoms, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs**

Garden tours open to the public (Monthly selection of yards including a Halloween Yard. Signs are placed in the yard and an article appears in the paper.

1<sup>st</sup> place

**2024 RMR Annual Awards, cont.**

**8C Diane Peterson, Park City Garden Club**, Utah Associated Garden Clubs  
Garden tours are open to members only (Member Dian Peterson and her husband host a Harvest Dinner and then members tour their garden)

1<sup>st</sup> place

**Award 10 Civic Development**

**10 A Dell Rapids Area Garden Club**, South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs  
The project must make permanent improvements to the community. (Installed concrete planters for Dell Rapids downtown area)

1<sup>st</sup> place

**10A Plattsmouth Garden Club**, Federated Garden Clubs of NE

The project must make permanent improvements to the community (planted bushes at the entrance of Rhylander Park)

Honorable Mention

**10E Dell Rapids Area Garden Club**, South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (Red Rock Garden was designed to focus on annual and perennial pollinator plants) Project that has been ongoing for several years

1<sup>st</sup> place

**10E Fargo Garden Society**, North Dakota State Garden Clubs

Project that has been ongoing for several years (planting red, white and blue flowers at the Blue Star Marker)

2<sup>nd</sup> place

**10E Utah Dahlia Society**, Utah Associated Garden Clubs

Project that has been ongoing for several years

3<sup>rd</sup> place

**10F Kristy Kennedy**, Utah Associated Garden Clubs

Outstanding community outreach program (Food Farmacy...which increases access to fresh produce to those experiencing food insecurity)

1<sup>st</sup> place

**2024 RMR Annual Awards, cont.****Award 11 Conservation and Environmental Concerns**

11G Bullhook Blossoms, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs,  
 Project that incorporates wildflowers or native plant materials  
 Members gathered at Marilyn Grannels cabin in Beaver Creek Park where  
 they toured the meadow in front of her cabin that was filled with wild flowers

1<sup>st</sup> Place**Award 12 Butterfly Gardening**

12 A, B, E Fargo Garden Club and Red River Zoo, North Dakota State  
 Garden Clubs  
 Members worked with the Red River Zoo to plant pollinator beds on both  
 sides of the main entrance of the Zoo.

1<sup>st</sup> Place**Award 13 Flower Show Awards**

13 B Utah Rose Society, Utah Associated Garden Clubs  
 Non-NGC Flower Show

1<sup>st</sup> Place**Award 14 Landscape Design**

14A Bullhook Blossoms, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs  
 Project making a significant contribution to a facility  
 Members extended the Peony roots at the Hill County Courthouse

1<sup>st</sup> place**Award 16 Youth Awards**

16 C Sugar House Garden Center, Utah Associated Garden Clubs  
 Youth Club project that promotes planting & growing in an outside area  
 (teaching garden at an elementary school)

1<sup>st</sup> place

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**2024 RMR Annual Awards, cont.**

**Award 17 Fund Raising**

**Fargo Garden Society**, North Dakota State Garden Clubs  
Creative and unique fundraising idea (Pop-up plant sale)

1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Award 18 Blue Star/Gold Star Highway Memorials**

**Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club**, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs  
(Established a Gold Star Memorial in Harve Community)

1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Blue Star Committee, Mary Carlson**, Chair, Federated Garden Clubs of NE  
(Fund raised to install Blue Star Memorials at three sites, restored 7 Blue Star Memorials across NE)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

**Bullhook Blossoms Garden Club**, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs  
(Established a Blue star Highway Marker, By-Way Marker and Gold Star Memorial Marker in Harve.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

**AWARD 20 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Queens of Spades**, Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc  
Club: Supporting Pollinators by using the booklet: Growing Our Pollinator Population with Passion!

**Fargo Garden Society**, North Dakota State Garden Clubs  
Fargo Garden Society Centennial Celebration

**Special Achievement Award: Individual: Megan Badger**, Utah Associated Garden Clubs. Megan has worked diligently to strengthen and grow the Utah Dahlia Society

**Award 26 Photography—Camera**

**26B Wildflowers Juanita Hockett**, Montana Federation of Garden Clubs

1<sup>st</sup> Place

**RMR 2024 Photography Contest**

**NATURE**

**SPOTTED DEER—BOB MARTIN, NE  
1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE and Juror's Choice**



**BUTTERFLIES –CHRIS MARTIN, NE  
1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE and Juror's Choice**



**RMR 2024 Photography Contest**

**NATURE**

**FLOWERING ALMOND—LINSEY DUFFY –SD  
3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**



**GOD AND COUNTRY—BOB MARTIN, NE  
HONORABLE MENTION**



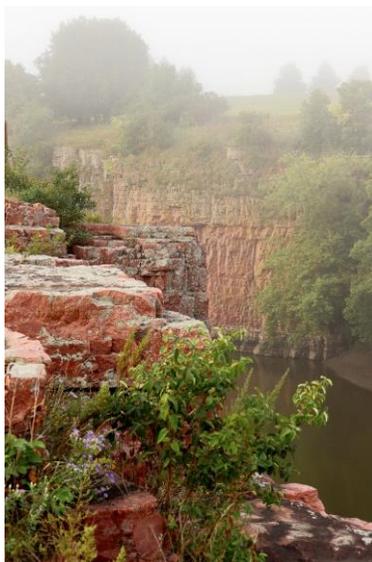
**RMR 2024 Photography Contest**

**LANDSCAPE**

**STUDY IN PURPLE—LINSEY DUFFY, SD  
1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE and Juror's Choice**



**DELLS OF BIG SIOUX—LINSEY DUFFY, SD  
2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**



**RMR 2024 Photography Contest**

**LANDSCAPE**

**PEAK AT THE POND—LORRAINE PATRICK,  
NE  
3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**



**MONET GARDENS—LORRAINE PATRICK, NE  
HONORABLE MENTION**



**RMR 2024 Photography Contest**

**STATE SYMBOL**

**PRAIRIE WIND—LINSEY DUFFY, SD  
1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE and Juror's Choice**



**WAGON OF FLOWERS—LORRAINE PATRICK  
NE  
3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**



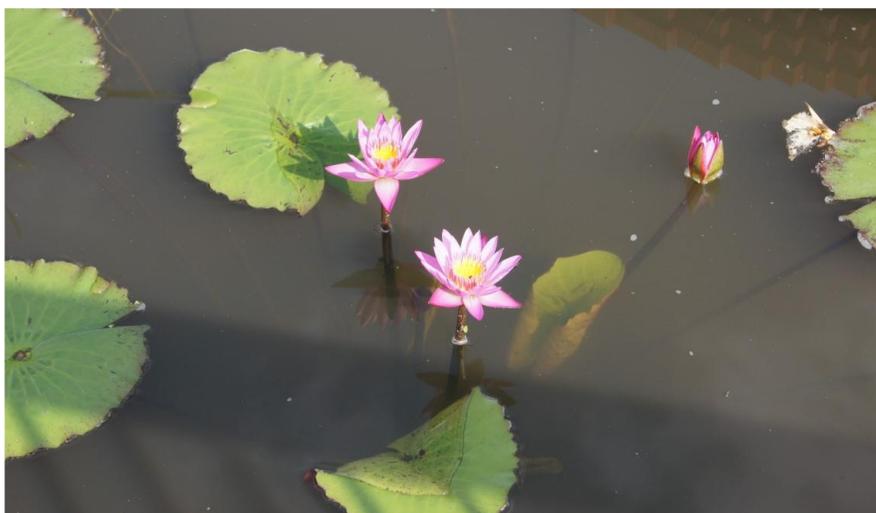
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**RMR 2024 Photography Contest**

**STATE SYMBOL**

**SUNKEN GARDENS—CHRIS MARTIN, NE  
HONORABLE MENTION**



**Chris Martin**  
RMR Awards Chair  
PO Box 86  
Friend, NE 68359  
402-540-2241

## RMR Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

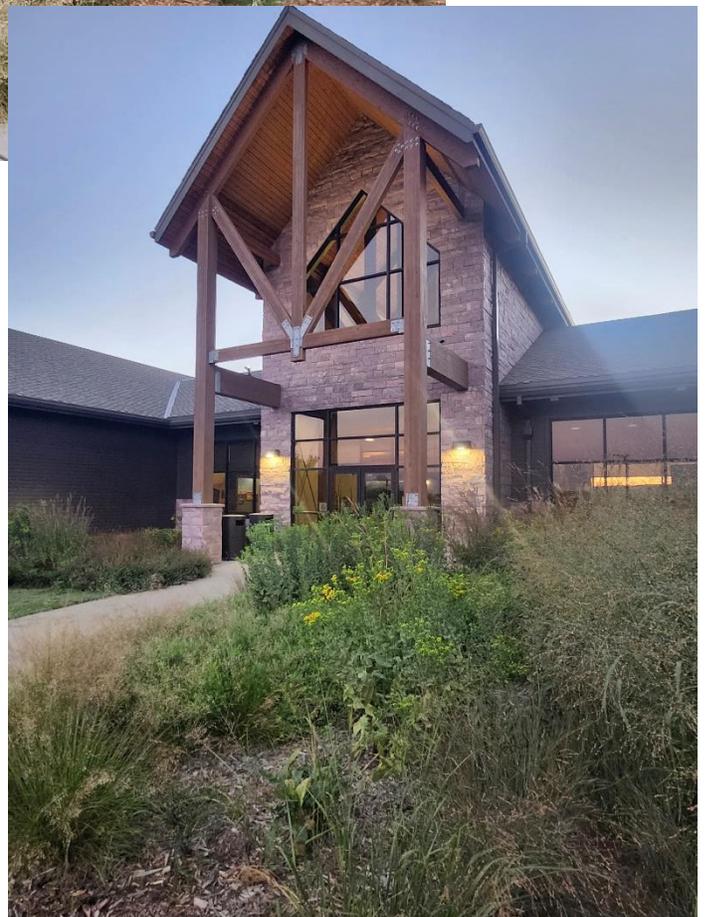
With the advent of Smokey's 80th Birthday, he has received more media coverage than usual. I have taken advantage of this trend and reached out to various agencies offering free materials (flying discs, pencils, and stickers) and presentations on fire prevention. This gesture has been well received by our local libraries, Red Butte Gardens, the local Cub Scouts. Whenever age appropriate, I have told them about the Smokey Bear and Woodsey Owl poster contest.

Alot of flying discs and pencils were distributed at the Regional Garden Club Meeting in Sioux Falls, S.D. over Labor Day weekend. I hope that you will have fun distributing these materials and talking about **fire prevention** and **cleaning up the planet**.

PS. **The Frightened Frog** book provides great opportunities for discussions on cleaning up the planet. It is available from the National Garden Club.



RMR Annual Meeting Photos



Rocky Mountain Rambler

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RMR Annual Meeting Photos



RMR Annual Meeting Photos



RMR Annual Meeting Photos



RMR Annual Meeting Photos



North Dakota State  
Garden Clubs  
Linda Anderson, President



Utah Associated  
Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Sue McJames, President



Federated Garden Clubs  
of  
Nebraska, Inc.  
Chris Martin, President

RMR Annual Meeting Photos



The Monarch loves Robbie's shirt.



RMR Annual Meeting Photos



Catching and tagging Monarchs in the park



**New Beginnings: Gardens and Organizations**  
**Rocky Mountain Region Speech**  
**August 30-31, 2024**

It was a beautiful drive through the states of Missouri and Nebraska to South Dakota. Summer is transitioning into fall, and we are starting to see a change in the countryside. I love the changing seasons. With each change of the seasons, a new beginning is emerging just around the corner, reminding us of the enduring message of renewal.

Gertrude Jekyll stated, "A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all, it teaches entire trust. Organizations are like gardens; they must be cared for to prevent stagnation and decay. Nurturing our organization requires recognizing signs of change and being vigilant about instituting innovative improvement methods.

We all know one of the constants in this world is "Change." Change is inevitable, and therefore, we cannot ignore it. We never know when change will happen. Sometimes, it happens so slowly



that it isn't easily recognizable. It is one thing to be aware of challenging problems that change may bring; it is another matter to resolve them. The resolution usually requires teamwork, adapting to change, innovation, collaboration, and transparency, with inspiring and motivating leadership.

Abraham Maslow states, "In any given moment, we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety."

Ignoring the need for change can have devastating effects, as organizations such as Xerox, Blockbuster, Nokia, Polaroid, Toys "R" Us, and many more have experienced. According to the Center for Charitable Statistics, approximately 30% of non-profits do not survive. Mismanagement and the failure to adapt to changing market conditions caused many of these companies to fail.

## New Beginnings: Gardens and Organizations, cont.

For example, Kodak dominated the photographic film market during the 20th century. It developed the world's first digital camera but remained so focused on photographic film that it missed the digital revolution. It failed to keep innovating, failed to change, and filed for bankruptcy in 2012.

Winston Churchill stated, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

We cannot go forever living in the past or being satisfied with the present. Sometimes, we think what makes us strong is holding on to the past but, in reality, letting go moves us forward. We must be watchful of the changing environment and plant the "seeds of innovation" to keep our clubs vibrant and blooming, or we will flounder and die. Even though we may not have achieved all the goals we hoped for initially, we can always start anew at any moment. But there are no guarantees that we will continue to survive unless we adapt.

The first step in solving any problem is recognizing there is one. When we realize that we need to change, we must move out of our comfort zones to resolve the issues and move our organization toward the future.

We must not fear failure. Learning through failure is a part of being human. We must evaluate what went wrong and not run away from the problem. Running away only increases the distance from the solution. Problems are very stubborn and will wait forever for us unless we try to resolve them. Think of problems as opportunities for growth!

Albert Einstein made a very good observation: "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

The following are examples of people who did not allow failure to interfere in their quest for success!

Henry Ford's first two automotive companies failed. Today, Ford's company is still going strong in the automotive industry.

Warren Buffett made several unsuccessful investments and lost significant money early in his career. Today, Warren Buffet's net worth is \$150 billion. He is the sixth richest man in the world. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska!

Thomas Edison's experiments failed one thousand times before perfecting the light bulb.

## New Beginnings: Gardens and Organizations, cont.

Einstein was turned down by many universities and even expelled from his first school.

Michael Jordan: It is difficult to believe that the great Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team. But he was!

Michael Jordan stated, "I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying."

Based on the studies of Yang Wang, an associate professor of Management and Organizations at The Kellogg School, failure can paradoxically lead to success. Knowledge from mistakes and feedback from colleagues gives an individual a greater chance for success. Actually, your brain creates new neural pathways to help you become more resilient. Failure can fuel your determination past that critical tipping point toward success.

Winston Churchill stated, "Success is not final, and failure is not fatal. It's the courage to continue that counts."

Leadership: An effective leader guides the team by sharing ideas, accepting advice, and feedback, and improving communication. If a leader makes all the decisions without input from others on the team, the results may be unproductive and cause discord. The lack of collaboration is a loss of brain power and may result in less-than-optimal decisions.

Bob Chapman stated, "Management is about telling people what to do, and leadership is about allowing people to do what they're capable of doing."

An organization is like a garden. It may have some "weeds," resulting in less-than-optimal growth. Whether we grow organically or use herbicides, we must take control of the "weeds" and "plant the seeds of change" for a successful organization.

The following organizational standards may be considered. Your organization may have already put them into practice.

Strategic Planning is crucial. To prepare for the future, we must start planning now. We must stop operating in two-year presidential terms and consider where we want our clubs to be in one, five, ten, or twenty years from now. We must work together no matter what the term is. We must have an overall plan for the future and review the plan annually.

## New Beginnings: Gardens and Organizations, cont.

An organization should have a Mission Statement that contains the guiding principles that help with decision-making and provide clear direction for the organization. The mission statement defines the organization's purpose and goals, who we are, and why we exist.

So, map out your organization's future, but do it in pencil!

We must work together - local clubs, states, and our region to help fortify our respective organizations. We must market and promote our clubs' accomplishments in their communities and beyond. If we don't blow our own horn, who will?

Henry Ford declared, "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success."

To resolve issues, we need all parties involved in the decision-making process, which may include officers, committees, and members. Committee chairpersons and their members are intrinsically involved in the program delivery but may be left out of the decision-making process. Who knows better than the people who are in the trenches working? Their advice is important to consider.

We must explore all types of fundraising to increase revenue to prevent financial problems and to support more significant awards, scholarships, and project funding. Raising membership dues is just a band-aid and will not solve our financial cash flow problems. Many of RMR local clubs and states have financial issues. A total of eighteen states in the NGC organization have financial problems. We are not alone!

We may have contacted our membership for donations in the past. We must now pivot and contact other individuals and organizations from the outside to invest in and support our local clubs, States, and Region. Easier said than done. Right! But it has been done.

For example, James "MrBeast" Donaldson is an American YouTuber, internet personality and businessman. He's known for high-production videos featuring elaborate challenges and lucrative giveaways. He earns roughly \$3,000,000 per month. MrBeast was challenged by the online community to plant 20 million trees to commemorate reaching 20 million subscribers on his YouTube channel. He collaborated with Mark Rober, a fellow YouTuber. They collaborated with the Arbor Day Foundation, raising over \$24,000,000 to plant trees.

## New Beginnings: Gardens and Organizations, cont.

Ideas are the “seeds of growth.” Please, please, please don’t keep ideas to yourselves. You may think your idea is silly, but it could be the key to success!

For example, Bozell and Jacobs, a marketing firm, was trying to create an advertising pitch to capture the National Pork Producers account. Team members, including Jim’s sister, Kathy, met with the Bozell CEO to explore ideas. The floor became littered with scraps of paper containing “silly” ideas. No idea seemed to be good or made sense.

Desperate, the Bozell CEO went around the room, picking up bits of paper, rereading them, and throwing them to the floor. Finally, as he read one more, he asked, “is pork a white meat?” After researching the idea, Bozell and Jacobs submitted the pitch and won a huge marketing account with the slogan –“Pork. The Other White Meat,” with just a silly idea!

The Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota, Inc.: Its members create floral head garlands to sell at the annual Medieval Renaissance Fair. Last year, they made \$36,000 for their clubs.

Can we do something similar? What events take place in your communities...rodeos, fairs, festivals? What about the online communities and social fundraising platforms like GoFundMe and Givebutter?

Possibilities?

Membership: Membership is crucial to the continuing existence of an organization like ours. It is essential to recruit new members, retain current members, and revitalize the organization to be a fresh, inviting environment that meets the needs of all members.

The Plattsmouth Garden Club is gaining membership by holding seminars open to the public on all aspects of gardening. The first seminar was on “How to Plant a Plant.”

This seminar may seem juvenile, but many younger people are not knowledgeable about gardening but are anxious to learn.

Anyone may utilize this seminar project idea. Our members could volunteer to develop a series of seminars to increase membership for their state or the rest of the Rocky Mountain Region.

## New Beginnings: Gardens and Organizations, cont.

If we wish to make a garden or an organization grow, we must understand it and its “weeds” and “plant the seeds of success.” We must understand that we must be vigilant, recognize the urgent need to innovate, move judiciously to adapt to change to meet our members' “needs,” and be a “force for good” in our communities and beyond.

As Charles Darwin stated, "It is not the strongest that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one who is the most adaptable to change."

Thank you.

### Donna Rouch



### Editor's Note

I'm sorry Rambler readers that this newsletter has taken so long. Our landline has not worked for weeks, the internet just started working this week, and my cell phone is spotty. I wasn't able to download your articles and photos, and I couldn't upload the Rambler.

Well, fall is coming up fast, but here in Omaha we still have 80s with the driest September ever. Our vegetable garden was mostly a salad bar for wildlife. But we are finally getting a lot of ripe tomatoes, peppers, carrots, and potatoes. Deer, woodchucks, and rabbits ate the greens, melons, cucumbers, squash, and strawberries. Next...get houseplants ready to come inside.

The chickens and ducks are molting. The first day I went out to the pen and it looked like a massacre with all the white feathers, but all was fine. I have a broody hen that won't get off a nest unless I take her off to eat and drink. On the other hand, I have chickens that are eating the eggs for the protein? I'm learning more about chickens than I ever wanted to.

I added several photos that I took at the RMR meeting in Sioux Falls, but if any of you have other good pictures send them for the next issue. I even took my first selfie with Lorraine Patrick at the Good Earth State Park! We had a really good time!

The next deadline to submit reports and photos to the Rambler is **October 20<sup>th</sup>**. Send everything to the Rambler email: [rmrrambler@yahoo.com](mailto:rmrrambler@yahoo.com)

Enjoy the changing seasons!

Happy harvest,

#### Julie Lester

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**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](mailto:rockymtnregiongardenclubs@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** Rocky Mountain Region Garden Clubs

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

#### 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.

**Next Deadline  
to submit to  
Rambler:  
October 20<sup>th</sup>**

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.