

Rocky Mountain Rambler

Darlene Skari

**Rocky Mountain Region Director
2015-2017**

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Special points of interest:

- RMR Convention- September 9-10
- Award of Excellence reports due



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.



Like much of the country here in Northern Montana harvest is getting a good start. Like many, we are hoping to get the wheat and barley in the bin and safe from storms. Unlike areas where there are multiple crops, here with mostly wheat and barley grown, harvest begins and there is a crazed month of hard work and long hours. Especially in the smaller rural towns, the schedules for everything centers around harvest. Garden club meetings are planned to accommodate that busy time.

The county fairs are going on with 4-H kids busy with last minute grooming of their animals, getting exhibits ready to go, and making sure interview judging goes well. I have been promoting garden clubs being active in those fairs as a way to advertise and share their knowledge. Perhaps a state organization could use a person whose job it is to promote fair entries in gardening classes and to find ways to cooperative with the objectives of both groups. There are many folks who come to the fair for various reasons and have time to look around and learn.

Remember the **Region meeting in Riverton**, and emphasize that **any member of the Region may attend**. We will take a formal vote on becoming a 501 (c) (3) at that meeting. Each state has agreed it is a good idea so we can continue as a Region, and Lynette Jeffres is ready to finalize the request as soon as we have a formal vote.

cont'd

**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.](#)**



RMR Director's Message - (cont'd)

Donna Rouch has done an excellent job of reorganizing the awards, which have been sent to state presidents to pass on and which are also on our website. Each state should be sending Sandy Dennis their report for the Region Report on activities that reflect my theme. Just one page to your state chairman with a picture or two is what is needed.

My husband and I are moving from the farmhouse where we have lived since 1972 to the small town of Chester this fall. My yard and garden will of necessity shrink a lot, the job of deciding what perennials to move (and cleaning out the basement), is daunting but I will use what I have learned in Landscape design classes. There will be some real advantages to a short walk to activities, versus half an hour of driving on a bad gravel road!

I hope to see many of you in Riverton!

Darlene Skari
Rocky Mountain Region Director

**"Advancing Our Horizons -- New
Thoughts, Ways and Ideas"**

The person who said it couldn't be done should not interrupt the person doing it.
Chinese proverb



~~ Save the Dates—Mark your Calendars ~~

Up Coming Calendar Events

- **September 9-10, 2016 - RMR Fall Meeting in Riverton, Wyoming**
- September 2016, RMR Award #25 information due to your state chairman.
(See Director's Award Section on NGC website.)
- September 19-25, 2016 - NGC Fall Board meeting in Portland, Maine
- May 18 - 20 , 2017— NGC Convention, Richmond, VA (Installation Year)
- 2017 — Fall Board Meeting — St. Louis, Missouri
- 2018 — NGC Convention — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- September 25-30, 2018 — Fall Board Meeting — Orlando, Florida



Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs

We are in mid-summer in Colorado and we're hot. There have been many days in the 90s and the plants and shrubs are feeling it. Thankfully, we have no watering restrictions due to a healthy snowfall last winter.

I attended a very special garden club celebration last week. The Greeley Morning Garden Club (Greeley, CO) celebrated its 60th year! The club laid out scrapbooks that dated back to their beginning. Do any of you remember when club members were expected to wear hats and white gloves to meetings? Fortunately, that era of attire has passed.

I also attended a meeting of the Dig and Dream Garden Club in Centennial, CO. They have just finished designing, planting and dedicating a butterfly garden at a local library. The garden is now registered with Monarch Watch. It is beautiful and certainly adds to the library grounds.

Colorado garden clubs are looking forward to a standard flower show in Brighton, CO. The title of the show is "The Printed Page" and class titles feature the classic books of various authors. I am always amazed by the creative minds of our garden club members!

Louise Niekerk, President

Theme: *"We're Better Together"*



Kansas Associated Garden Clubs

At the end of May, May 20 and May 21st, we had our 89th Annual KAGC Convention at Hays, Kansas. Before I go any further, I must tell you what a spectacular convention it was, in fact it was one of the best I have been to in several years. The West district did an awesome job led by Brenda Slaughter. We had the honor of having the RMR director, Darlene Skari attend also. Why did I think it was so spectacular? Well, one thing was the trip to Bethesda Place, which I will expand on below, another the Mayor, Eber Phelps, welcoming speech was very informative about Hays, Cindy Boehler from Alma, Neb. who sang at the luncheon on Saturday (what a wonderful voice) and for me, just seeing all the people I have become friends with over the last few years.

This is taken from the brochure that was handed out at the Garden Tea Party that we attended at Bethesda Place.

BETHESDA PLACE

cont'd



Kansas Associated Garden Clubs — cont'd

BETHESDA PLACE

A Christian Home for Men with Mental Disabilities

Living Working Playing Praying *Together*

The Mission

Bethesda Place is a Christian home for men with mental disabilities that exist to provide these individuals with a loving family atmosphere and safe working environment in which they can reach their full potential. Since 1976, the men of Bethesda Place have been contributing to their community and beautifying the land of Western Kansas.

The Home

Bethesda is located 2 miles west of Hays, Kansas. The 30-acre farm includes the underground home which is staffed 24 hours a day and two apartments for men who live more independently.

The Beginning

In the late 1970's Tom and Shelley Stafford opened their hearts and home to Randy, a twenty year old with developmental disabilities who was soon to be institutionalized due to unruly behavior. The stability of their home, as well as the skills and opportunities that Randy gained allowed home to become content in his productivity and he is still enjoyed his active and social life at Bethesda Place. When people tour Bethesda Place, they are often equally surprised at the landscape and the men's abilities. Through the grace of God, anything is possible. A parched and empty pasture has as much potential as a person with mental limitations, but both need their potential to be cultivated.

I really can't say enough about how wonderful this visit was and a special thank. If anyone is every in that area, please call and go and visit ***BETHESDA PLACE***.

As for the month of June and July, I think everyone in Kansas is suffering with everyone else with the heat. Look forward to seeing you all in September.

Jackie Watts, President

Kansas Associated Garden Clubs

Theme: "*Cultivate—Nurture—Flourish*"

Kansas—Did you know—Kansas inventors include Almon Stowger of El Dorado who invented the dial telephone in 1889; William Purvis and Charles Wilson of Goodland who invented the helicopter in 1909; and Omar Knedlik of Coffeyville who invented the first frozen carbonated drink machine in 1961.

Smith County is the geographical center of the 48 contiguous states.

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The blooms of summer have been beautiful. I have enjoyed my mornings sitting with Jim by the pond and watching our white pigeons take their daily bath. The bathing process is quite a ritual and ends with the birds on the roof of the dove cote fluffing their feathers in the sun. It is amazing how the different breeds of birds in our yard all share the garden gleanings.



Watching the birds reminds me of the great friendships made in our garden clubs and how each person has a talent to contribute to the Montana Federation. Convention is a time of renewing friendships with our fellow gardeners. We "leaped into action" this year by learning new skills to help our clubs become more open with ideas to develop and nurture leaders. Our guest speaker Robin Pokorski inspired us in many ways with great ideas to develop club leadership.



Joyce Hendricks, 1st VP, Linda Sadler, President, Sherry Corneliusen, 3rd VP

Our state convention was held in Missoula. Robin Pokorski was our guest speaker. Greg Pokorski did a workshop on beginning parliamentary procedure. Their enthusiasm was inspiring. At our Fall board, Pat Biggs will continue with leadership skills. Our convention also had a small flower show and a tour of four Missoula members' gardens. Each garden was uniquely different. The gardens were those of Jim Sadler, Gary Clark, Cheryl Carroll and Fred Frey. We also had a talent show at our Life Members banquet. The winners were the three state officers. Our Garden Member of the year was Sue Leferink of Helena.



Garden Club member of the year. Sue Leferink from Helena

Lots of activity is happening among our clubs. Great Falls and Billings are having flower shows. Belgrade is having a flower show and school. County fairs are happening using MFGC flower judges for judging. "Leap into action" and be adventurous. Participate by entering in one of these activities. Try something new.

As the days become shorter, stop and enjoy the beauty of flowers and the savory taste of vegetables and fruit. Live each day in enjoyment and wonder of all things given to us.

Ramblings from Montana

Linda Sadler, President

Theme: "Thumbs Up for Gardening"



Sadler Garden on tour

Montana—Did you know—Montana boasts the largest breeding population of trumpeter swans in the lower United States.

At the Rocky Mountain Front Eagle Migration Area west of Great Falls more golden eagles have been seen in a single day than anywhere else in the country.

Forty-six out of Montana's 56 counties are considered "frontier counties" with an average population of 6 or fewer people per square mile

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska



Our four districts usually meet in the merry month of June, giving me opportunity to visit each region of our wide state in the pleasant air of early summer. Each district has a flavor all its own and it is a pleasure to sample each one. On the eastern edge I got to meet Dr. Lee Simmons, Director Emeritus of the Henry Doorly Zoo who has served decades there and has an amazing cache of animal photos from Africa. Seeing a dozen lionesses relaxing in a single tree has a permanent spot in my mind's eye. On the western edge I got to enjoy an indoor picnic in the garden and gaze upon monarchs on the video screen and bring home daylily tips as well as a sample to add to my garden. In between those edges are two other middle parts, each of which had a wonderful program—"Every Thing is Coming Up Roses" which was a useful powerpoint on raising roses and the other "Wooden Treasures, Wooden Pleasures"—a fascinating look into petrified wood art and artifacts at a nearby gallery specializing in such. As I listened to club reports and reviewed them I was impressed with the wide range of activities and projects.

I summarize below and hope some of the ideas spark an interest. If you wish for more information on any of them, please contact me and I will forward your interest to the club's president.

- ◆ Host a "Build your own bee hotel" at the public library with educational handouts and leave samples of bee hotels on display at the library
- ◆ Send a delegate to each monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Supply judges for 4-H exhibits at the county fair
- ◆ Challenge each other to commit to a garden for wildlife
- ◆ Become a Tree City USA board member
- ◆ Participate in a youth environmental fair with a booth, making seedballs, showing the benefits of plants/flowers to 300 students
- ◆ Host a pumpkin painting contest for grade schoolers and give tips about saving the monarch and make wildflower seedballs
- ◆ Take care of landscaping around a historical museum
- ◆ Invite a grim reaper outfitted with a black hooded robe to teach on scythes and how to use them
- ◆ Proclaim a "Save the Butterfly Day" and celebrate with posters to display at the library and bank
- ◆ Reward the "yard of the month" winner with a gift certificate or invite them to the club's harvest dinner
- ◆ Sponsor a Christmas Tree Lighting contest and reward the winners monetarily
- ◆ Sponsor the fourth-graders in the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl contest for 20 years
- ◆ Invite a beekeeper to speak and then tour her yard
- ◆ Provide each member with the same plant and then report on it at a dinner at the end of the season
- ◆ Do a Christmas Home Tour as a bit of PR for your club
- ◆ Set aside two meetings per year as an official "Bring a Guest" as a membership-boosting activity
- ◆ Visit a public garden, a rose garden, an arboretum, a nature preserve, and/or each other's gardens
- ◆ Apply for a grant to refurbish a Blue Star Marker

Among the awards that the clubs garnered this past year, I would like to at least highlight a few: Dundee Garden Club member Anita Eckley and her husband won the top two awards at the Omaha

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Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska cont'd

Rose Society; the Friendly Federated Garden Club saw their city of Friend win a Tree City USA award for their 32 years of commitment to the management and enhancement of community tree resources and the Plattsmouth Garden Club's youngest member Lara Thompson won the NGC's top award in poetry as a 5th grader last year and the NGC's top award this year in sculpture as a 6th grader! I nominate her as a future president of FGCN!



Smelling the roses and pulling weeds, Charlotte Swanson, swannson@daltontel.net, (308)249-2168

North Dakota State Garden Club

"As many of you may have heard, our State President, Angie Maetzold Mapes, was married last fall and this winter moved to Georgia with her new husband. At our State Meeting in June a special election was held and yes, I was elected to complete Angie's term, since we did not have a first or second vice president. I guess it's a good idea to have those offices filled! Linda Anderson was elected 2nd Vice President. No one accepted the 1st Vice President at that time.



Local club president, ND Scholarship winner, and NGC President, Sandra Robinson

We were honored and thrilled to host NGC President Sandra Robinson at our state meeting. Also attending was our NGC scholarship recipient.

My three major goals are:

1. Appoint a 1st Vice President
2. Organize hosting the 2017 RMR Meeting
3. Seek new clubs and increase membership of existing clubs

Our clubs are all enjoying the recent rainfall after an abnormally dry spring. Three clubs are holding standard flower shows in the next week so our NGC Judges are busy.

We will announce dates and location for the RMR in 2017 in Riverton looking to see all our regional friends there!

Les Westgard

NDSGC President

Theme: "Leaping into action"

NGC President, Sandra Robinson, Ronald and Pat Westgard enjoying the moment



Nebraska—Did you know— Nebraska has the U.S.'s largest aquifer (underground lake/water supply), the Ogallala aquifer.

North Dakota—Did you know— This name Roughrider State originated in a state-supported tourism promotion of the 1960s and 70s. It refers to the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry that Theodore Roosevelt organized to fight in the Spanish-American War.

South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs



We are in the heat of the summer at this point and waiting impatiently for the first tomatoes to ripen! We seem to always be looking for more rain but I hate to say that too loud for fear of getting the flooding rains found in some areas. The peonies are gone but the lilies and hydrangeas are blossoming as are many other late spring/summer flowers. I still have one iris that continues to bloom!!! I made my second jar of dill pickles yesterday and canned 19 pints of apricots from my first apricot tree to ripen this week. Now I am picking from the second tree and almost look like an apricot!

We had a successful state convention in Milbank in June. It included interesting speakers, a unique garden tour, good food and lots of beautiful floral decorations. Unfortunately I was there but had to leave to take my husband to the emergency room due to a twisted bowel. He has since had surgery and is doing well! However, they did fine without me under the leadership of Delwyn Cross, the convention organizer and state treasurer, Judy Welbig, state secretary, Beverly Heidelberger, former state president and RMR Director who took my place to lead the meeting and many others who contributed their assistance. Thankfully I am a strong believer in a written agenda so I had everything written out to follow. It is always good to know that others are there for you and no one is indispensable.

Our clubs are busy with garden tours, planting/weeding public flower beds, teaching youth classes, holding fund raisers for Blue Star markers, hosting speakers, etc. We have three clubs who are at various stages of getting new Blue Star markers to honor our veterans.

Some of us are excited to be planning our trip to Riverton, WY for our RMR Convention. It sounds like they have lots of things planned for us to enjoy and stay entertained. I hope to see many of you in Riverton!

Earlier I had some health issues that limited my gardening but I am back at it and enjoying all the joys of the season. There is something about pulling a weed that is very satisfying and healing! I hope you are finding joy in your gardening as well.

Sincerely,

Mary Lerssen

SDFGC President

Theme: *"Growing Greener with Choices by Leaps!"*

South Dakota—Did you know— Belle Fourche is the geographical center of the United States of America, designated in 1959 and noted by an official marker and sheepherder's monument called a "Stone Johnnie".

The Flaming Fountain on South Dakota State Capitol Lake is fed by an artesian well with natural gas content so high that it can be lit. The fountain glows perpetually as a memorial to all veterans.

Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.

Our Utah gardens are struggling through a hot, dry summer, and many of my plants seem to be wilting or burnt to a crisp, but our garden clubs have been active and thriving. The Utah Rose Society held its annual Rose Show on June 11, and attendance was the best it's been in several years. In May, the Alternative Garden Club participated in a tour of historic homes and gardens in Spring City, a charmingly well-preserved Mormon village in central Utah. In June, the club attended the Urban Gardens Tour and a private farm tour in Salt Lake City, both of them showcasing properties that are producing fruit, vegetables, and even poultry right in the middle of the city.



On July 9, members of several garden clubs gathered at Paul Genho's daylily farm in Payson, Utah to see firsthand the beautiful products of his hybridization program. He has been not only breeding new colors and forms but also developing daylilies better suited to Utah, with a higher tolerance for alkaline soils and hot temperatures. Some of his creations have sold for as much as \$700 per plant, but he gave away some samples that day to the delighted tour participants.

We're pleased to announce that Utah's own Joy Bossi received an Award of Excellence from the National Garden Clubs at the spring convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. For more than 20 years, she has hosted a Saturday morning gardening show called "Joy in Your Garden." She is beloved for her folksy gardening advice and ability to connect with listeners.

We continue to make progress on the Garden Center in Salt Lake City's Sugar House Park, where many of our garden clubs meet. The landscaping in front of the building was too complicated to maintain, and it all went to weeds last year, so we decided to simplify the design and consolidate the flower beds. We held a work party in May, and Murphy's Law was in full force as weeks of cool, rainy weather gave way to record heat that day. The Rudbeckia and other flowers that we transplanted were pitifully wilted. Nevertheless, most of them have survived, the sprinkling system was turned on, and the park authority has planted hundreds of begonias to beautify the front entrance. We're looking forward to a home that we can be proud of!

Sincerely,

Geoff Ellis, President, UAGC

(Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.)

Theme—"Staying Green While Saving Water"

Garden club members and guests enjoying the Urban Gardens Tour

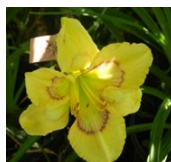


Wild poppies in historic Spring City, Utah



European grapevines on a private farm in Salt Lake City

One of the daylilies featured on the tour



A tour of the daylily farm in Payson, Utah



A typical Spring City pioneer home, built of hand-cut limestone

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Greetings from my garden! I'm "enjoying" this unending heat! The shade is a welcome reprieve for not only me and the dogs but also my plants. I try to make sure that most of my plants get a little shade every day. It's my hope that each of you take advantage of the shade for some rest and enjoyment of your garden.



While you're relaxing in the shade, take a moment to complete the registration form for the upcoming RMR meeting/conference here in Riverton. Early September will be great weather and it'll be a fun weekend. Don't miss out! Let's have a strong showing of all Rocky Mountain members! Garden club is far reaching and this is your chance to expand your garden club footprint.

I'm so pleased that every club was represented at our annual meeting last month in Casper. Our guest speaker Robin Pokorski, NGC Leap into Leadership Co-Chair, was a trooper! She presented her information in hyper-speed after a miscommunication on my part on the time. It is unfortunate that her presentation was cut short but she had lots of good information for each member there to incorporate into their garden club experience. Thank you to Laurel & Heidi of the Casper Garden Club for helping to arrange for our meeting location.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! Time flies by so fast. Harvest time will be here before you know it.

Remember...August 10th is the registration deadline for RMR! September 9-10
Don't miss out....you'll be disappointed if you do!

Lynette Jeffres, President

"Hop on Board"



Wyoming—Did you know—The Wind River actually changes its name in the middle of the stream becoming the Big Horn River at a site at the north end of the Wind River Canyon, where each year the Native Americans hold a ceremony depicting the "Wedding of the Waters."

The Red Desert in south central Wyoming drains neither to the east nor to the west. The continental divide splits and goes around the desert on all sides leaving the basin without normal drainage.

Wyoming has the lowest population of all 50 United States.

Utah—Did you know— Completion of the world's first transcontinental railroad was celebrated at Promontory where the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads met on May 10, 1869. It is now known as Golden Spike National Historic Site

Utah has six national forests: Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-LaSal, Uinta, and Wasatch-Cache.

Environmental Concerns: Energy, Land and Water

This is the last segment on the issue of water pollution. I hope that the material presented raised your awareness to our water issues that will continue into the future. Many agencies address water issues and your input into how to correct or help with our concerns are always appreciated by the water agencies. Get involved and make a change if it is needed in your area.

What are the effects of water pollution?

Some people believe pollution is an inescapable result of human activity: they argue that if we want to have factories, cities, ships, cars, oil, and coastal resorts, some degree of pollution is almost certain to result. In other words, pollution is a necessary evil that people must put up with if they want to make progress. Fortunately, not everyone agrees with this view. One reason people have woken up to the problem of pollution is that it brings costs of its own that undermine any economic benefits that come about by polluting.

Take oil spills, for example. They can happen if tankers are too poorly built to survive accidents at sea. But the economic benefit of compromising on tanker quality brings an economic cost when an oil spill occurs. The oil can wash up on nearby beaches, devastate the ecosystem, and severely affect tourism. The main problem is that the people who bear the cost of the spill (typically a small coastal community) are not the people who caused the problem in the first place (the people who operate the tanker). Yet, arguably, everyone who puts gasoline (petrol) into their car—or uses almost any kind of petroleum-fueled transport—contributes to the problem in some way. So oil spills are a problem for everyone, not just people who live by the coast and tanker operates.

Sewage is another good example of how pollution can affect us all. Sewage discharged into coastal waters can wash up on beaches and cause a health hazard. People who bathe or surf in the water can fall ill if they swallow polluted water—yet sewage can have other harmful effects too: it can poison shellfish (such as cockles and mussels) that grow near the shore. People who eat poisoned shellfish risk suffering from an acute—and sometimes fatal—illness called paralytic shellfish poisoning. Shellfish is no longer caught along many shores because it is simply too polluted with sewage or toxic chemical wastes that have discharged from the land nearby.

Pollution matters because it harms the environment on which people depend. The environment is not something distant and separate from our lives. It's not a pretty shoreline hundreds of miles from our homes or a wilderness landscape that we see only on TV. The environment is everything that surrounds us that gives us life and health. Destroying the environment ultimately reduces the quality of our own lives—and that, most selfishly, is why pollution should matter to all of us.

How can we stop water pollution?

There is no easy way to solve water pollution; if there were, it wouldn't be so much of a problem. Broadly speaking, there are three different things that can help to tackle the problem—education, laws, and economics—and they work together as a team.

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Environmental Concerns: Energy, Land and Water cont'd

Education

Making people aware of the problem is the first step to solving it. In the early 1990s, when surfers in Britain grew tired of catching illnesses from water polluted with sewage, they formed a group called Surfers Against Sewage to force governments and water companies to clean up their act. People who've grown tired of walking the world's polluted beaches often band together to organize community beach-cleaning sessions. Anglers who no longer catch so many fish have campaigned for tougher penalties against factories that pour pollution into our rivers. Greater public awareness can make a positive difference.

Laws

One of the biggest problems with water pollution is its transboundary nature. Many rivers cross countries, while seas span whole continents. Pollution discharged by factories in one country with poor environmental standards can cause problems in neighboring nations, even when they have tougher laws and higher standards. Environmental laws can make it tougher for people to pollute, but to be really effective they have to operate across national and international borders. This is why we have international laws governing the oceans, such as the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (signed by over 120 nations), the 1972 London (Dumping) Convention, the 1978 MARPOL International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, and the 1998 OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic. The European Union has water-protection laws (known as directives) that apply to all of its member states. They include the 1976 Bathing Water Directive (updated 2006), which seeks to ensure the quality of the waters that people use for recreation. Most countries also have their own water pollution laws. In the United States, for example, there is the 1972 Clean Water Act and the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act.

Economics

Most environmental experts agree that the best way to tackle pollution is through something called the polluter pays principle. This means that whoever causes pollution should have to pay to clean it up, one way or another. Polluter pays can operate in all kinds of ways. It could mean that tanker owners should have to take out insurance that covers the cost of oil spill cleanups, for example. It could also mean that shoppers should have to pay for their plastic grocery bags, as is now common in Ireland, to encourage recycling and minimize waste. Or it could mean that factories that use rivers must have their water inlet pipes downstream of their effluent outflow pipes, so if they cause pollution they themselves are the first people to suffer. Ultimately, the polluter pays principle is designed to deter people from polluting by making it less expensive for them to behave in an environmentally responsible way.

Our clean future

Life is ultimately about choices—and so is pollution. We can live with sewage-strewn beaches, dead rivers, and fish that are too poisonous to eat. Or we can work together to keep the —cont'd

Environmental Concerns: Energy, Land and Water cont'd

environment clean so the plants, animals, and people who depend on it remain healthy. We can take individual action to help reduce water pollution, for example, by using environmentally friendly detergents, not pouring oil down drains, reducing pesticides, and so on. We can take community action too, by helping out on beach cleans or litter picks to keep our rivers and seas that little bit cleaner. And we can take action as countries and continents to pass laws that will make pollution harder and the world less polluted. Working together, we can make pollution less of a problem—and the world a better place.

* ref: Chris_Woodford provided the material for these series of articles.

Personal side notes: In Nebraska, our concern is about the TransCanada Oil Pipeline that is proposed to traverse across the northeastern part of the State close to the underground water that provides agricultural and domestic water supplies to the residents. There are high nitrate levels in some areas of the State due to fertilization, some lakes have toxic algae levels at various times of the year and some areas have to rely on transporting water several miles to have safe water supply for domestic uses.

Del Hemsath

Environmental Concerns Chairman

September Gardening Guides



- * Save seeds from favorite self-pollinating, non-hybrid flowers such as marigolds by allowing the flower heads to mature. Lay seeds on newspaper and turn them often to dry. Store the dry seeds in glass jars or envelopes in a cool, dry, dark place.
- * Hot peppers will keep best if stored after they are dry. Thread the peppers on a string to dry. Hang in a cool, dry place.
- * Pot up chives, parsley and other herbs to extend the growing season in the house.
- * Pears should be picked at the hard ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.
- * Do not wait for frost warnings to move your plants indoors. Temperatures of 45 degrees Fahrenheit or lower can damage many tropical house plants.
- * Before the first frost dig up caladiums. Allow them to dry and store them in a dry place for the winter.
- * Perennial phlox can be divided about every third or fourth year. Divide big clumps of perennial phlox into thirds. Early fall or early spring are the best times to plant or transplant them.

Penny Pines

OUR FORESTS NEED YOU! It's not too late to be recognized for planting Penny Pines Plantations. States as well as individual clubs may donate. Necessary forms are available on the NGC website. Local clubs can send the form to your state's Penny Pines Chairperson along with your check payable to NGC-Penny Pines for \$68/plantation. If your state doesn't have a chairman, mail your form and check directly to National Garden Clubs, Inc., National Headquarters, 4401 Magnolia Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110-3406. .

At the Rocky Mountain Regional Annual Meeting in September I hope to be able to recognize our RMR states for their donations to Penny Pines. I would like to know:

1. the number of plantations each state was able to plant,
2. to which forest you designated your monies
3. how you raised money for this project.

Please send your information to me prior to the RMR meeting in September at tcearley@siouxvalley.net or by mail to:

Connie Earley,
302 E. 10th St.
Dell Rapids, SD 57022

Connie Earley
Chairman



R M R 2016



"Cowboy Up" and Garden with Us

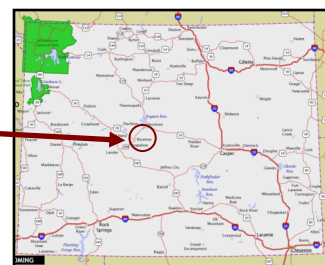
While our gardens are beginning to grow and fulfill our hopes for a bumper crop, the Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs is busy finalizing plans for the 2016 RMR Meeting/Convention to be held in **Riverton, WY, September 9-10, 2016**. We have a great, fun filled weekend planned!

Detailed information will be published in a special edition and the August Rambler. Please plan on joining us. We look forward to seeing all of you — So —

"Cowboy Up" and Garden with us in Riverton — September 9-10, 2016!

Lynette Jeffres, President
Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Registration form pg. 22

Riverton—you
can get here
from anywhere!



Registration form on last two pages.

Invasive Species

This is the perfect time of year to identify the invasive species flowering in your yard and make sure they don't make seeds to spread. **Purple loosestrife** is appearing all over the State, look it up and start destroying it.

I have a real conflict with butterfly weed, *Asclepias*. It is essential to the Monarch butterfly whose numbers have dropped by 70 percent since the 1990's. It is a native—but a real pest in ranch land! So my solution was to allow it to grow and flower but once the plant makes seed pods, I harvest them so it does not spread. Then I send the seeds to the seed bank. I have a beautiful version in my yard that is solid white. I have already had four Monarchs visiting them plus many other Butterflies.

Remember that the pesticides with nicotine have been linked to the decline in pollinators, so spray as little as possible and check your list of ingredients. Hand pulling is always best and good for the waistline.



I also have had some Bull Thistle (pix on left) and Water Hemlock (shown on right) coming down the canal. Water Hemlock is the deadliest plant in North America. Two percent of the animals weight ingested will be deadly and it's one of the earliest spring greens.— — So find it and eradicate it.



Encourage your club to have a program on Noxious Weeds. Many weed supervisors are happy to come and talk. It would be a great program to invite the community to.

The stems of Water Hemlock are hollow. This tempting aspect has led to poisonings of children who find the stems appealing as pea shooters

Happy gardening and keep your yard healthy and beautiful.

Denise Fink

Invasive Species Chairman

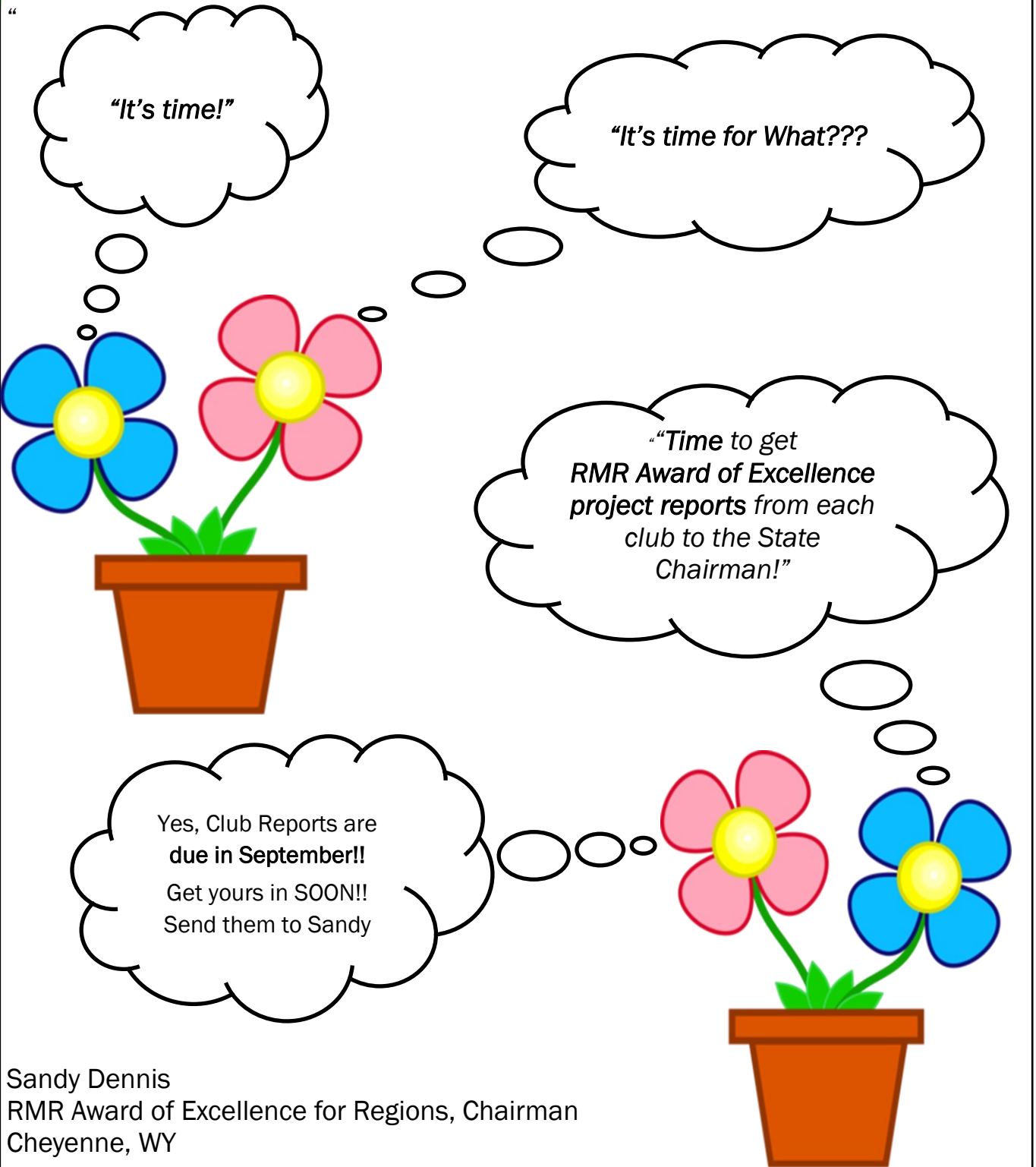
What a Wonderful World!

"May God grant you always...
 A sunbeam to warm you,
 a moonbeam to charm you,
 a sheltering Angel so nothing can harm you,
 Laughter to cheer you.
 Faithful friends near you.
 And whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you."
 — An Irish Blessing

Parrot Flower (*Impatiens Psittacina*)



RMR Director's Project — #25 Awards of Excellence for Regions —



2015-2017 RMR State Presidents

Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Louise Niekerk

"We're Better Together"

lniekerk@comcast.net

ColoradoGardenClubs.org

Kansas Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.

Jackie G. Watts

"Cultivate—Nurture—Flourish"

jackiejewelry@kc.rr.com

KSGardenClub.com

Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Linda H. Sadler

"Thumbs Up for Gardening"

lindahillsadler@gmail.com

MTFGC.org

Federated Garden Clubs of Nebraska

Charlotte A. Swanson

*"Doing Good in the Neighborhood—
Befriending our Bees & Butterflies"*

swannson@daltontel.net

North Dakota State Garden Clubs

Les Westgard

lwestgard@aol.com

South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs

Mary K. Lerssen

"Growing Greener with Choices by Leaps"

lerssenm@sio.midco.net

sdgardenclubs.org

The Utah Associated Garden Clubs, Inc.

Geoff Ellis

"Staying Green While Saving Water"

Aloysius2412@live.com

utahagc.org

Wyoming Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

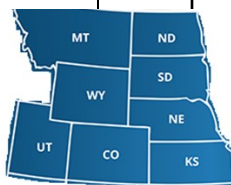
Lynette Jeffres

"Hop on Board"

lynJeffres@gmail.com

www.wyominggardenclubs.com

**Rocky Mountain
Region**



**National Garden
Club**

2015-2017 RMR Officer Team

Director — Darlene Skari, Chester, MT
dskari@3riversdbbs.net

Alt. Director— Phyllis White, Bozeman, MT

Secretary— Terry Kroke, Moorhead, MN

Treasurer— Linda Sadler, Missoula, MT

Webmaster— Phyllis White, , gardens@bresnan.net

Parliamentarian— Lynette Jeffres, Riverton WY
lynjeffres@gmail.com

Historian— Darlene Pearson, Mitchell, SD

Advisory Council Chairman— Beverly Heidelberger,
Spencer, SD

Newsletter Editor— Joanne Jeffres, —
rmrrambler@yahoo.com

RMR Director: Darlene Skari



Theme: "Advancing Our Horizons —
New Thoughts, Ways and Ideas"

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

Email Address: dskari@3riversdbbs.net

NGC President: Sandra H. Robinson



Administration Theme: ["Leap Into Action!"](#)

President's Special

Two Year Project: [Service in Action](#)

4401 Magnolia Ave
St. Louis, MO 63110-3492
314-776-7574 — 800-550-6007

Website: <http://gardenclub.org/>

E-mail: headquarters@gardenclub.org

Rocky Mountain Region Chairman 2015-2017

Project	Chairman	E-mail
Awards	Donna Rouch, Omaha, NE	donna@rouchpartners.com
Birds	Audrey Coyle, Colorado Springs, CO	afloris@q.com
Blue Star Marker	Margaret Straley, Sioux Falls, SD	zebrabread@gmail.com
Butterfly	Linda Bellemere, Fargo, ND	dibellemare42@yahoo.com
Chaplin	Caroline Wittman, Topeka, KS	Caroline.wittman@cox.net
Environmental Concerns; Energy, Land, Water	Delroy Hemsath, Kearney, NE	dhemsath@charter.net
Flower Show Schools and Symposiums	Jim Sadler, Missoula, MT	jimsadler@bresnan.net
Invasive Plant Species	Denise Fink, Cody, WY	fink52daf@gmail.com
Judges Council	Pat Westgard, Fargo, ND	lwestgard@aol.com
Life Memberships—NGC and RMR	Lynette Jeffres, Riverton, WY	lynjeffres@gmail.com
Membership	Jean Tinberg, Overland Park, KS	jeananntinberg@gmail.com
NGC President's Projects	Barb Yates, Riverton, WY	barb.yates@me.com
Penny Pines	Connie Early, Dell Rapids, SD	tcearley@siouxvalley.net
Personnel	Darla Anderson, West Jordan, UT	anderson2889@comcast.net
Protocol, Courtesy Resolution	Marjorie Koerner, Parker, CO	margekoerner@yahoo.com
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RMR Newsletter Editor (RAMBLER)	Joanne Jeffres, Riverton, WY	rmrrambler@yahoo.com or jjeffres@bresnan.net
RMR Webmaster	Phyllis White, Bozeman, MT	gardens@bresnan.net
Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl Posters	Brenda Slaughter, Ellis, KS	bj7slaughter@hotmail.com
Wildflowers and Native Plants	Beth Babcock, Cheyenne, WY	307-514-9201
Xeriscape Gardens	Doris Duckworth, Monument, CO	dorisduckworth@yahoo.com

Keeping In Touch

NGC Newsletter

gardens@bresnan.net

National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Remember our
RMR website link!

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

Phyllis White, Editor
<http://gardenclub.org/>

RMR Rambler Deadlines

Deadline
Dates

Issue
Released

October 15, 2016 → November

January 15, 2017 → February 2017

Suggestions and comments are
always welcome! Email me at —

rmrrambler@yahoo.com

Thank you!
Joanne Jeffres

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
81st ANNUAL REGION MEETING— RIVERTON, WYOMING
SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2016**

“COWBOY UP GARDEN WITH US”

Return date: Registrations must be postmarked by **August 10, 2016**

Name: _____
(First) (Last)

Address

City, State & Zip

Phone No. _____ e-mail address: _____

Please check all that apply:

___ NGC Officer	___ NGC Chairman	___ NCG Committee Member
___ NGC Life Member	___ Flower Show Judge	___ Garden Club Member
___ RMR Director	___ RMR Officer	___ RMR Chairman
___ Past RMR Director	___ RMR Life Member	___ Garden Studies Consultant
___ ESS Consultant	___ LDS Consultant	___ State President
(Environmental Studies)	(Landscape Design)	
___ Club President	___ First Time Attendee	___ State Life Member
Guest		

Registration fee	\$25.....
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Includes—yard tours on Friday & Sunday & Sunday Breakfast
Late registration fee (after August 10th)

Late registration fee (after August 10th) **\$30.....**

Registration 12 to 2:00 p.m. (Friday Afternoon Tours 1 pm-4 pm—leave from REACH Bldg.)

Friday Night, Evening Meal— **\$20**.....

Pulled Pork Dinner

Saturday Luncheon **\$15.....**

Turkey Pesto Panini w/ Roasted Red Bell Pepper & Smoked Gouda Soup

Saturday Evening Banquet and Awards \$40.....

Please indicate choice: _____ Frenched Pork Chop w/ Sweet Raspberry Jalapeno Sauce
 _____ Slow Roasted Prime Rib

Sunday Morning Yard Tours & tailgate breakfast (complimentary)

Total included (entire package \$100) \$ _____

Make checks payable to: NGC/RMR Meeting/WY2016

Mail Check & Form to: Lynette Jeffres 877 North 8th West, Suite 3 Riverton, WY 82501
307-851-1972 lynjeffres@gmail.com

****Breakfast on your own.**

****Please indicate any special diet requirements:**

**Please indicate if you need a table for: (a) educational display (b) floral display for state president

“COWBOY UP AND GARDEN WITH US”

We are excited to be the host state for the 81st Annual Rocky Mountain Region Meeting!

Plans have been made for great garden tours and speakers. Our speakers include a local floral designer, a presentation by an aquaponics gardener and more! It'll be great fun!

For your fishing spouses, we will have a great fishing trip planned. If your spouse is interested in a fishing trip, please let me know ASAP so I can send the information to you! We have lake fish-
ing options or fly fishing options! We have abundant fishing for both styles.

We all look forward to seeing you in September! Travel safely!

Lynette Jeffres, WFGC President



CONFERENCE LOCATION: REACH Foundation

622 North 8th West
Riverton, WY 82501

From North Federal Blvd., turn WEST on East Sunset Drive. Continue WEST on Sunset to the 2nd
4-way stop sign at North 8th West. Turn LEFT (south) on North 8th West and travel approx. 1/3 mile to con-
ference site (it will be on the right and marked with a Riverton Garden Club sign)

Lodging Information: Room blocks available at the following:

Sundowner Station 307-856-6503

www.sundownerstation.com

1616 N. Federal Blvd.

Riverton, WY 82501

Rate: **\$79/night** plus taxes (2 Double Beds w/ Double Occupancy)

Room Reservation Deadline: 9/1/16

Hampton Inn 307-856-3500

2500 N. Federal Blvd.

Riverton, WY 82501

Rate: \$109/night plus taxes (double occupancy)

Room Reservation Deadline: 8/26/2016

Pool, Hot Tub and Full Hot Breakfast

Holiday Inn & Convention Center 307-856-8100

900 E Sunset Drive (corner of E Sunset & N. Federal)

Riverton, WY 82501

Rate: **\$125/night** plus taxes (double occupancy)

Room Reservation Deadline: 8/19/16

