



The

MESSENGER

Summer 2022

Happy Summer my gardening friends,

Summer has hit us in a hot way. It is becoming a struggle to keep everything watered in the heat and that wind we have here in South Dakota.

First off I want to say a big thanks to the Mitchell Garden Club for hosting our state convention in June. It was a great time of fellowship and learning some floral design and how to grow a cutting garden. I wish I was younger and had less body aches to start a flower farm. It was totally inspiring!! It was a very successful event and everyone left with a smile on their face.

What is growing in your garden? Some of my favorite flowers are blooming this time of year. I have lilies, cone flowers, liatris and who can't forget the stunning clematis. I'm more of a flower gardener than a veggie gardener but the few plants that I have planted are starting to produce some veggies. My daughter has an amazing veggie garden so I just steal from hers.

It was asked at the convention what are the benefits of belonging to the National Garden Club.

There are so many reasons but I just wanted to list a few of my top reasons.

- Opportunity to meet fellow gardeners and share ideas and make new friendships across the country
- Opportunity to serve others in leadership positions at various levels: local, district, state, region or national
- Youth Gardening Programs
- Scholarships available for students in fields related to horticulture
- Educational seminars

We are still looking for someone who will be willing to be our state president in the spring. It has been a great experience and I have learned so much. There is always so much help if needed from present and past officers.

Please reach out if you are interested or have any questions.



I am looking forward to traveling to the RMR (Rocky Mountain Region) in Utah next month, and the NGC fall board meeting in Missouri in September. I will share all the things from UT in the next issue.

Happy Gardening my friends!!
Thelma Busk
SDFGC, Inc. President

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DATES TO REMEMBER

August 1, 2022

RMR Awards applications are due to state awards chairman Linda Witt (contact information is on last page)
 List of categories were in spring MESSENGER

NEW RMR web site design link.

August 26-27, 2022
Rocky Mountain Region Conference
 Park City UT

September 2022

NGC fall board meeting
 St. Louis MO

SDFGC, Inc. fall board meeting
 Date and place yet to be determined

Fall 2022

Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl fire safety promotion and poster contest

November 1, 2022

Deadline for articles for *The MESSENGER*



RMR Woodsy Owl Poster winner 2022
 Gabby Potter, 3rd grade, Mitchell, SD
 Her poster was then sent on to NGC

EDITOR NEEDED:

The time has come for someone else to take over putting together our newsletter "The MESSENGER". I have been honored to be one of the editors of our newsletter for 10 years. We have a lot of talent in our group and I want to pass it on to one of you. Margaret Straley said she would continue to co-edit and proofread. I will help you with the March issue. Please contact me with questions: Linda Mortimore mortimore@mit.midco.net 605 933 0425

THANK YOU

SDFGC, Inc MEMBERSHIP as of July 15, 2022

| Fiscal Year | 2022-2023 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | Inc or Dec |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|
| | | 10/22/2021 | 07/15/2022 | from 10/2021 |
| Andover Friendship Garden Club | | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Mobridge Garden Club | | 22 | 0 | -22 |
| Dell Rapids Area Garden Club | | 24 | 27 | 3 |
| Mitchell Area Garden Club | | 30 | 32 | 2 |
| Sioux Falls Garden Club | | 56 | 45 | -11 |
| Members At Large | | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| TOTALS | | 142 | 115 | -27 |

Are you confused by GC acronyms?

- GC = Garden Club
- NGC = National Garden Clubs
- SDFGC, Inc = South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
- RMR = Rocky Mountain Region: GC clubs in the 8 states of: CO-KS-MT-ND-SD-UT-WY
- MAGC = Mitchell Area Garden Club
- DRAGC = Dell Rapids Area Garden Club
- SFAGC = Sioux Falls Area Garden Club

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention

Orlando, FL - May 15-20, 2022

NGC tried a paperless business meeting with information sent out previously. The Bylaws were read and amended, and reports were given.

Gay Austin was honored as the Covid president, Ellen Fitzpatrick of South Dakota received a scholarship of \$4,000, and **SDFGC, Inc. won \$100** for the high percent of lifetime memberships. ----->



"Plant A Tree" (PAT) reported that 25,837 trees were planted by members of the NGC in 2019-2021. The next National Garden Clubs convention will be "Almost Heaven" May 2-5, 2023, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

The NGC convention for 2024 will be in Denver, Colorado and the 2024 will be in Omaha, Nebraska. Many members from the Rocky Mountain Region should be able to attend.

At the Presidents meeting, club presidents were encouraged to be active and read "KIT" (Keeping In Touch newsletter) for information. Linda Mortimore has submitted all SDFGC, Inc. members emails to *The National Gardener* publication. You should receive an email with a link to read this online only NGC publication when it is issued.

State presidents should only ask leaders to attend their state meeting if there is a problem that they could help solve and try to keep travels limited and flexible.

Please send to Brenda Moore the name of your new state president as soon as you know.

ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER?

There were a few new items presented at this convention.

**"PittMoss" is an upcycled product made from recycled newspaper that is peat free, requires 2/3 less water, light weight, grows bigger and stronger plants. The presenter brought enough samples for about 500 attendees but only 282 attended so members received the extras.

**"Flora Boost" a soil amending ingredient to enhance bioavailability of nutrients in soils for plants.

**An invention to move heavy pots easily is the "Butterfly Mover".

**Many other vendors were selling clothes, jewelry, plants, design setups, USA grown tea, and giving away Smokey Bear items.

The **Ames** tool grant of \$250 for qualified projects has a deadline of March 1st each year. The Espoma Organic grant of \$250 receives applications between October -May 31.

There were 9 different workshops available to attend, Beverly attended Children's Garden, Fun with Flowers, Digging it. It is important to help children with special needs to learn gardening and cooking to become proud of themselves and become entrepreneurs.

Submitted by Beverly Heidelberger

2022-2023 National Garden Clubs Scholarship Recipient

Ellen Fitzpatrick, Brookings, SD, was the recipient of the **NGC Geraldine Dean Scholarship** in the amount of **\$4000.00** for the **2022-2023 school year**.

Ellen will be a junior at South Dakota State University majoring in Agronomy and Horticulture and minoring in Soils and Spanish. As a senior in high school, she went to a National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. One of the speakers was

from NASA who talked about growing food in space aboard the International Space Station and eventually, on the moon and Mars. This was her inspiration and "it was at that moment that I knew exactly what I wanted to do".

"I wanted to work at NASA and grow food in space." Ellen will pursue her Master's Degree after receiving her undergraduate degree in May 2024.

Submitted by Connie Earley

SDFGC, INC. STATE CONVENTION

June 14, 2022—Mitchell, SD

The theme for the SDFGC, Inc. State Convention was "Flowers and Flags". It was held Tuesday June 14, 2022 at the Wild Oak Golf Course near Mitchell, SD.

Registration began at 8:30 A. Breakfast items were provided. During this time the display table, contest entries, silent auction items and raffle items were set up and available for viewing.

A pre-convention Central District meeting was held. Those in attendance included: Thelma Busk, Mary Lerssen, Beverly Heidelberger, Connie Earley, Margaret Straley, Linda Mortimore, Connie Bormann and Judy Welbig. The meeting was called to order by Margaret Straley, District Chair. She stated that we needed to discuss what is required to dissolve districts. Mary Lerssen said that we just need to vote on whether or not to dissolve. Thelma Busk asked the question: "Is it the state that decides?" Mobridge Garden Club dissolved themselves. Mary Lerssen made a motion to dissolve the Central District. It was seconded by Connie Bormann. Vote taken. Motion carried.

The funds of the district treasury will be transferred to the SDFGC, Inc. General Fund. Connie Earley recommended that we put a notice in the Messenger regarding the Central District being dissolved.

The Handbook has been reviewed and several changes presented. Mary Lerssen made a motion that the changes in the handbook be approved unanimously. Motion was seconded and carried.

An announcement was made that the RMR (Rocky Mountain Region) meeting will be held in South Dakota in 2025. Margaret Straley called for adjournment of the pre-convention meeting. Meeting adjourned.

* * * * *



The SDFGC Inc. State Convention was opened by Connie Bormann, president of the Mitchell Area Garden Club (MAGC). She welcomed everyone to Mitchell for the scheduled activities. She stated that the day provided an opportunity to share our gardening ideas along with the various business items.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present. Connie Bormann read the Official Collect of the SDFGC, Inc. The Conservation Pledge was recited by the garden club members. Connie pointed out that

the small plant favors on the table were ornamental egg plant.

Linda Mortimore, state treasurer and MAGC member, gave a historical review of the Mitchell Garden Club. Their club started in 1952 and is celebrating 70 years in 2022. In 1952 they had a slogan--Make Mitchell the City of Flowering Crab Apple Trees. Hopa Crab-apple trees were planted at several locations in Mitchell and a tree was given to each new member. In 1955 the group was a women's club. They had flower shows and in the early days offered educational programs. As new members joined they brought their knowledge and expertise with them. Over the years many community activities were carried out by the members. In 1983 the club was donating trees to other parks in the community. In 1987 the garden club became federated with the National Garden Clubs, Inc. In 2013 the name was changed to Mitchell Area Garden Club to attract members from outside Mitchell. They dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker for the Veterans Park in 2018 and planted the flowers beds in this park. A More detailed history was published in the March 2022 issue of The Messenger.

Thelma Busk, state president, called the business meeting to order. She distributed copies of the day's agenda. Mary Lerssen, parliamentarian, reported that we had a quorum so we could proceed. The secretary's minutes from the fall board meeting were read by Judy Welbig, secretary, from the Fall 2021 Messenger. The motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Mortimore, state treasurer, passed out copies of the Treasurer's Report. She stated that the name of the bank has been changed from Great Western to First Interstate Bank. State membership has dropped 35 members. Currently there are 106 federated members.

Linda reported transferring funds from the General Funds to cover costs for 2021 scholarship. The Messenger will need approximately \$100 for printing and mailing through March 2023. The Scholarship Fund will need money transferred into it to cover our 2022 scholarship commitment. The President's Fund currently has \$700.00. The



Thelma Busk—Judy Welbig

SDFGC Inc. budget is 2 years and runs from June 1, 2021 to May 30, 2023.

The National Garden Club convention was held May 15-20, 2022 in Orlando, Florida. Thelma Busk was unable to attend. Beverly Heidelberger traveled to FL in her place. Beverly stated that it is getting very expensive to attend the National Convention. There were only 250 people at the convention this year. Beverly is on the Nominating Committee for both National and State. She also had a meeting for the Nominating Committee during this trip. She submitted a bill for \$1872.09 for her expenses. Mary Lerssen made a motion to pay for all of Beverly's expenses. The motion was seconded and carried.

Virginia Sandmeier sent a letter from Moberge reporting their garden club made the decision to leave the SDFGC, Inc. Moberge will continue to have a local garden club.

This question was presented: Why should we belong to the National Garden Clubs? It only costs \$1.00 per member. Margaret Straley, member at large, responded, "Numbers speak volumes. Through legislation garden clubs have promoted clean air and clean water. They honor our veterans. They promote our forests. As garden club members we are able to tour some arboreta at a reduced cost. 'Garden clubs are the 'worker bees'. There is also a monetary benefit in the form of college scholarships. Several students from SD have received the \$4000 National Garden Club scholarship over the years".

MEMORIAL: Myrleen Palmer & Lorna Peterson presented the memorial for members who we have lost in the last year.

Richard (Rick) Mayko, Donald & Fern Swearingen of the Sioux Falls Area GC, Valerie Sandmeier, Wayne Schmidt of the Moberge GC



The speaker for the morning session was Bonnie Kor. She's the owner and operator of Bonnie's décor—a wholesale and retail home decor store located in downtown Mitchell. She is decorating 29 Christmas trees for her annual Tour of Trees in November 2021. During the month of November they have seminars on the 2nd Thursdays when she demonstrates: decorating table tops, making ribbons and wreaths. Today she demonstrated how to do a summer wreath using a theme of "Red, White and Blue". www.bonniesdekor.com

Club reports were given: Mitchell Area Garden Club-Connie Bormann, Dell Rapids Area Garden Club-Linsey Duffy, Sioux Falls Area Garden Club-Mary Lerssen, and Andover Friendship Garden Club-Linda Witt. All reports are listed in the Mes-

senger.

The question was presented: What to do with all the scrapbooks? The answer given: Keep them local or send them to Pierre.

Our afternoon speaker was Mrs. Sienna Wegehaupt from 'Stems Floral Farm' rural Mitchell, SD. She presented a slide show on how her and husband Cory created plots, plant flowers/bulbs, and harvest on their one acre. Flowers are sold on subscription or at farmers markets. They grow over 40 different flowers, many not available at florists shops in our area. www.stems605.com

Committee Reports:

Awards—Linda Witt reported she has RMR award applications. They are also available on the computer including junior awards. She said to send in a picture with the application. There are specific applications that go to NGC.

Birds—Beverly Heidelberger reported being concerned about the birds during the May 12th storm (derecho that ravaged eastern South Dakota) She suggested doing what you can for the birds. Some people feel you shouldn't feed the birds because we won't always be around.

Bees—Beverly voiced concern about the bees during the May 12th storm. Some states say don't mow during the month of May so there is food for the bees.

Blue Star Memorial Markers—Margaret Straley reported there are 11 Blue Star Markers in SD. She talked about a couple of them including the one proposed in the Native American cemetery 10 miles south of Murdo. She stated the marker at Webster needs to be repainted. Some funds are already available for this repair. The marker at Pactola isn't as bad as reported. It just needs some repairs. Margaret stated the newly established Veterans Cemetery east of Sioux Falls would be a good location for a memorial marker. The current cost for a Blue Star Memorial Marker is \$1800. Margaret stated the National Chairman has a copy of where all the Blue Star Memorial Markers are located.

Butterflies—Linda Witt stated that climate change has definitely affected the butterflies. She reported that they are attracted to the color blue. She also suggested putting out mashed bananas for them.

Handbook—Margaret Straley, Beverly Heidelberger, Mary Lerssen, and Connie Earley have updated the handbook. Using a projector and screen they identified the various changes that have been made.

The Messenger—Linda Mortimore is currently co-editor with Margaret Straley. Linda asks someone to take over her position by March 1, 2023.

Scholarship—Ellen Fitzpatrick, Brookings, SD, was the recipient of the NGC Geraldine Dean Scholarship in the amount of \$4000 for the 2022-2023 school year. Ellen will be a junior at SDSU majoring in Agronomy and Horticulture and minoring in Soils and Spanish. As a senior in high school, she went to a National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. One of the speakers was from NASA who talked about growing food in space aboard the International Space Station and eventually, on the moon and Mars. This was her inspiration and "it was at that moment that I knew exactly what I wanted to do. I wanted to work at NASA and grow food in space." Ellen will pursue her Master's Degree after receiving her undergraduate degree in May 2024.

Ways and Means—Garden gloves are available at \$6.00 a pair. Payment needs to be made to Linda Mortimore, treasurer.

Website--Marlena Wenzel is stepping down from managing our web site.

Historian—Judy Welbig will continue for another year.

Penny Pines—Beverly Heidelberger stated that in 1940 pennies were collected to plant trees. A plantation of trees costs \$68.00.

Poster Contest—Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest was won by a student from Mitchell. It was titled "Lend A Hand, Care for the Land". SDFGC, Inc. awarded this student \$25.

National Garden Club Convention— held in Orlando, Florida was attended by Beverly Heidelberger. She gave a summary of her experience at

the convention. She reported many classes were available to attend. Also new products were displayed including 'PittMoss' made out of recycled newspaper. She stated that The National Gardener magazine is available online, FREE to all members. They do want articles for their publication. There's currently a book available called "Network with Nature" and costs \$11.00.

NEW BUSINESS:



←— Margaret Straley proposed that SDFGC, Inc. donate \$50 to purchase a garden/nature related toy for the 'Toy Lending Program' based at Siouxland Library of Sioux Falls. There are branches in Madison, Parkston, Brandon, Colton and several other communities. They hope to have 100 partnerships within 20 years. Toys are checked out like books. When returned, the toys are cleaned/sanitized for the next check out. Discussion followed. Motion was seconded and carried.

Beverly Heidelberger informed us of future garden club meetings. The Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) meeting will be August 26—28th 2022 in Park City, Utah.

The 2023 National Garden Club Conventions will be in West Virginia. Then the National Conventions will be west of the Mississippi River. It will be held in Denver, Colorado in 2024 and in Omaha, Nebraska in 2025.

Mary Lerssen, president of the Sioux Falls Area Garden Club invited us to Sioux Falls in 2023 for our SDFGC, Inc. annual meeting. Date and location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned.
Submitted by Judy Welbig,
SD Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. secretary

GARDEN CLUB REPORTS

Friendship Garden Club—2022

Our 5 members meet the first Thursday of the month at members' home. We encourage inviting guests.

Due to health and weather we missed several meetings but persist. We enjoyed topics as: artichokes demonstration, thistles, pine disease, mares tail, pumpkins, birds nocturnal migration, spotted owl, tree planting, pot & vegetable gardening, edible milkweed ID & preparation.

We submitted award applications for birds, trees, garden tour, butterfly gardening, and photography and were generally successful. Other projects include the geraniums in Andover, Pennies for Pines, and we figure everything we do is therapy. Members reported over 1500 trees planted since 2019 as well.

Linda Witt, President



Sioux Falls Area Garden Club Report – 2022

The SFAGC is slowly coming back from Covid as we hold in person meetings at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls. Our summer meetings are held outdoors in gardens or other significant areas. We have lost a few members but they are slowly coming back.

At each meeting we have a short presentation on some interesting butterfly or butterfly event from Butterfly Chair Glenda Heckenlaible, and a short presentation on a bird or bird event by Bird Chair Bobbie Block. This keeps us up to date in those areas and it is always interesting – did you know that the Hudsonian godwit flies each year from Alaska to the Amazon. According the “Smithsonian” magazine, January/February 2022 - “They fly night and day at speeds between 29 and 50 miles per hour, not stopping to eat, drink or rest. They pause for a couple of weeks to refuel in wetland in the central United States – usually Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas or Oklahoma – and then continue back to the Alaskan bog.”

Our plant sale is always a hit with the members. We made a record amount of money this year with over \$400 in profits. Our sale is open to members and their friends. We “auction” off the plants that members have donated and it gets “competitive” at times but all in good fun.

A popular happening at our meeting is a question of current interest such as, “what is blooming in your garden

right now or what will you do different next year?”. As members introduce themselves, they answer the question of the month. Other members offer additional information or ask questions. We learn much from this exchange.

We discontinued creating a scrapbook several years ago. We decided to give the scrapbooks to the local museum. If they do not want them, we will check with the state library or other resources. They are currently at the museum for review.

At each meeting we have a speaker or some form of education such as a garden tour. Speakers have included such topics as Jerry Mills, retired SDSU Extension Agent and Master Gardener on pollinators at two meetings and we learned about Voodoo Lilies from Glenda.

At our next meeting we will be meeting in the yard of an avid bird watcher to identify ways to increase the bird population in our yards. We plan to visit a Food Forest Farm this fall in MN.

Several of our members attended the convention in Dell Rapids last summer and the Minnehaha Master Gardeners Spring Education Event this spring.

As you can see, our club is all about learning more about gardening and actually gardening.

Mary Lerssen, SFAGC President

Mobridge Garden Club—2022

Mobridge Garden Club had a very large number of membership in the years of 2020 and 2021. We now have 6 members. We met Monday May 2nd, 2022, during which the motion was made and seconded to leave the SDFGC, Inc. membership. The vote was taken and carried to leave.

We will continue as an individual club and continue our commitment to the Mobridge City Park gardens and rose beds. The funds we have left will be used for upkeep and replacements as needed for those projects.

It is with a heavy heart that our club has made this decision after so many years of membership in SD.FGC, Inc.

Sincerely,

Carmen Gisa, President

Virginia Sandmeier, Vice-President and Treasurer



At the state convention, someone was the lucky winner of this charming lady in red made from an ironing board.

Dell Rapids Area Garden Club Report 2022

Membership

We currently have 27 members, up 6 from last year. Most of our new members originally connected with us through social media. We've worked to keep a friendly presence on Facebook, which highlights our activities in the community and gives timely gardening advice and ideas.

Community Projects

We planted and maintained the Red Rock Garden, a pollinator garden with a little library and benches along the city's recreational trail. We planted trees and flower beds in the local parks and downtown area. We provided a community herb garden in the park where visitors were invited to "help themselves to a sprig of two." We decorated a tree and provided a succulent garden for auction at the local museum Christmas festival.

Conservation

Over the last 2 years we've focused a lot on the conservation part of our club pledge. We included a conservation tip with each month's meeting agenda and looked at new "eco-friendly" alternatives to things like toilet paper, laundry detergent, and shampoo. We've also tried to re-

duce waste at our meetings by bringing our own water bottles and eliminating as much single-use plastic as possible. A member has given 2 conservation themed programs covering food waste and water usage.

Upcoming in 2022-2023

With more COVID restrictions lifted, we hope to reinstate our flower therapy project at the local nursing home, attend a mystery garden tour in Moody County, and take a fall field trip to McCrory Gardens.

Linsey
Duffy,
President



DRAGC members attending state convention in Mitchell. In back: Deon Jensen, Thelma Busk, Jackie Ellefson, Donna Smith, Linsey Duffy. Seated, Judy Welbig, Connie Earley

Mitchell Area Garden Club Report- 2022

The Mitchell Area Garden Club has 30 members (including 2 honorary) and our club celebrated our 70th birthday this year.

Our members keep very busy each year with:

Having a plant/garage sale each spring in May.

We plant petunias/prune/clean up Mitchell's Veteran Park on main street each spring so it is ready for the Memorial Day celebration

We just finished planting the perennial flower beds at our Carnegie Resource Center (historical & genealogical & Oscar Howe art center). We will keep up their lawn by providing for 2 lawn treatments of fertilizer and crabgrass.

Two club members conduct a 'Growing Gardeners' class through our city parks department in June for young children.

Our members continue to decorate Mitchell's Main street light pole pots yearly for the winter season with live and silk picks and green foliage.

Our club members help several local charities with monetary gifts such as the food pantry and Salvation Army to name a few.

We continue to have interesting lesson topics at our monthly meetings on Tuesday afternoons from February through November. Topics included native plants, growing mushrooms, flower design and tree pruning.

We had a summer outdoor picnic and in November we have a potluck 'pot planting party' with members decorating their own outdoor pot for the winter season. We do not have regular meetings in December or January but get together to celebrate Christmas and discuss our years activities.

Eight club members traveled to Des Moines & Ames Iowa for a wonderful garden trip/skip day adventure where we enjoyed the Botanical Gardens, and Better Homes & Garden test plot garden. The Helen Latch Jones Rose Garden at the Iowa State University Reiman Garden and conservatory was beautiful. We never stop growing and learning.

One member just garnered us a wonderful grant last month so we will have much needed funds to help our club with many future endeavors.

Scripture says 'many hands make light work'. We are truly blessed in the Mitchell Area Garden Club to have such an honorable group of women and men who diligently work together for the greater good.

Connie Bormann, President

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER - 2022

The South Dakota landscape has 11 Blue Star Memorial Markers. There are proposals for 3 additional markers, hoping they will be Gold Star Memorials. The first proposal is for the newly established Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery located just north of Sioux Falls. A possible marker could be located at the Capitol City Veterans’ Memorial park and a newly discovered Native American National Cemetery located 10 miles south of Murdo, SD, under the direction of the Rosebud Native American Tribe.

After visiting with a member of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) it is a good chance they will assist with funding for a Gold Star Memorial in the Sioux Falls Area. Orlando, a Native American, is willing to assist with fundraising but not certain that the Tribal Representatives will approve this structure so I will be making a special trip to explain to them what the Memorial Markers are all about. The maintenance team at Pierre has changed so it is only recently that I was able to get a contact name.

National Blue Star Memorial Chair, Candace Wells, has the updated list of SD Memorial Markers and has been working to update the registry so it will include the exact address of each of our Memorials.

I am proposing to pass out a flag to everyone in attendance at the future dedication ceremonies. Cost for the flags that I have currently in stock has been increased so I am shopping for something as effective but less costly.

Update on proposed refurbishment of Blue Star Memorial Markers:

*Webster’s Marker is located on the local Pioneer Village grounds along with 5 other historical markers. Because the hours of operation are covered by volunteers, I have not had a chance to talk directly to someone who would know about re-painting, cleaning and prepping all the markers to look good at the same time. Over the course of summer, I hope to make a contact there.

*The marker at Lake Pactola has some stones separated by the mortar coming loose due to age. (1959 or so) It is not as extensive as was described to me over the phone back in 2019. I plan to check with a construction company who specializes in this type of repair and possibly work with a volunteer to get the loose rock back in place.

Look for the Blue /Gold Star Memorial Markers on your travels this summer. How many can you find?

Margaret Straley,
Blue Star Memorial Marker Chair.



Gold Star flag in a cemetery. Name shown with permission

Club News



MAGC members who traveled to botanical garden near Des Moines, IA L-R: Connie & Greg Bormann, Deb Barondeau, Beverly Johnson, Mavis Anderson,

Mystery Garden Tour Meeting—

The Dell Rapids Area Garden Club recently attended a “Mystery Garden Tour” sponsored by the Moody County Historical Society. We started and ended at member Deon Jensen’s garden. We visited four secret rural gardens, listened to speaker Chris Lott from Lott’s Greenhouse and Gardens, and ended the tour with our July meeting at the fourth garden (belonging to our own member, Deon Jensen ..below)



Connie Earley, Donna Smith,
Mary Krantz



Deon Jensen

Images from SDFGC, Inc. State Convention "FLOWERS & FLAGS"



Red, White, Blue all around

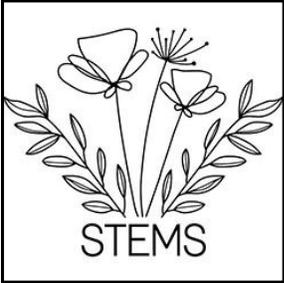


Audience listening to head table.
One silent item table in foreground



MAGC 70th year history board.

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.



Stems Floral Farm
stems605.com
'At Stems, we strive to embrace our community and provide beauty through local, fresh, seasonal flowers.'



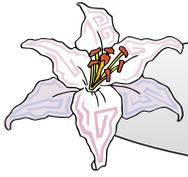
Bonnie Kor and Jill Holzberger's demonstration and finished wreath



CONTEST: Deb Barondeau (above) tied favorite craft design with Beverly Johnson's hand painted plate. Linda Mortimore's (blue wheel borrow with red & white flowers) voted favorite in live flower category. All from Mitchell.

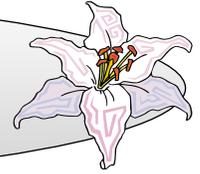
Sincerely,
Anelis C. Coscioni
Anelis C. Coscioni
Toy Lending Library of SD Executive Director
Thank you so much for your support! We will build a beautiful toy box with a gardening theme. Thank you! Anelis
401 South Spring Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104
(605)215-0575 | Director@ToyLendingLibrarySD.org | www.ToyLendingLibrarySD.org

THANK YOU from 'Toy Lending Library of SD'



WE REMEMBER

from Sioux Falls Area Garden Club



Richard David “Rick” Mayko, 61, died unexpectedly of natural causes July 26, 2021. After graduating SUNY ESF ranger school in Wanakena, New York in 1986 with a degree in Forest Resources, Rick stayed and worked in the Binghamton area until taking a position in 1991 as a South Dakota State Service Forester. His 30 years in South Dakota were spent at a job he loved. Rick also loved to travel, fish and hike the Rocky Mountains. Gardening and dancing were his passions. Rick gave classes for Community Education in Sioux Falls, teaching people about the local trees and their care.

Rick was an active member of the Sioux Falls Area Garden Club. He shared his knowledge by being a speaker to the group. In addition, Rick had two garden plots in the Sioux Falls Community Gardens where his garden was immaculate with mulch, etc. Rick was a true gardener. He enjoyed his time with nature and others.



Fern Swearingen, age 92, passed away on January 22, 2022 at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls.

Donald Swearingen, age 101, passed away on January 31, 2022 at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls. Fern Irene Bairey was born on December 19, 1929 in Chamberlain SD. Fern attended Northern State University in Aberdeen earning her bachelor’s degree in Education and spent 15-years teaching in several rural schools before teaching at Hayward Elementary in Sioux Falls. Fern then spent over 48-years as a librarian until her retirement in 1987.



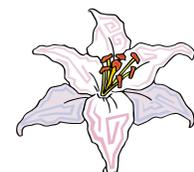
Fern enjoyed reading, embroidery, crocheting, collecting inspirational material for library, gardening outside and inside; and traveling throughout the lower the 48 states.

Donald Bruce Swearingen was born July 25, 1920, in Houghton, South Dakota. He graduated high school in from Hecla SD in 1938. He enlisted in the United States Navy, serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He was stationed aboard the Heavy Cruiser USS Chicago until it was sunk near Guadalcanal. He then ran supply barges around the Philippines until assigned to a refrigeration ship until the end of the war. Upon earning his Honorable Discharge, he lived in Aberdeen and drove truck delivering for Nash Finch. He studied Engine Mechanics at the Wahpeton School of Mines, graduating in 1952. He worked road construction and assisted in building stretches of I-90, the Lake Vermillion Dam, and the bridge across the river at Chamberlain. Don dedicated the last 30 years of his working career to Sears working in Retail and Delivery, retiring in June of 2015.

In his free time, Don enjoyed being outdoors tending to his garden, lawn, and trees.

Don and Fern were long time active members of the SFAGC. Fern served as secretary for many years and, yes, Don attended garden club meetings with Fern. They had a lovely garden with many of the old-fashioned flowers of peonies, lilies, lilacs, etc. They even hosted a tour of the garden club at their home. They are missed.

{ Notation: Obituaries for Valerie Sandmeier and Wayne Schmidt were published in the March 2022 issue of *The MESSENGER*. }



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Thank You.
Comments and suggestions welcome!
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