

Council of Rockford Gardeners, Inc.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue Vol.2/Issue 1
Editor: Shirley Wiklund



CRG Clubs:

No. IL Daffodil Society
Plantaholics
Potpourri
Seedlings
Wildflowers

Council Motto:

"Enjoy nature's bounty and
beauty through work and
creativity."

Council Website:

<http://ilclubs.esiteasp.com/crg/home.nxg>

Upcoming Meetings:

Plantaholics

2/7/17
5:30 PM
Chili Dump &
Brainstorming A Garden

Potpourri

Madison, Wisconsin

Seedlings

2/20/17
6 PM
Games & Gabbing

Wildflowers

2/23/17
Peppercreek

First Day of Spring
March 20, 2017

From the President's Pen

Co-Presidents: Ann Somers & Sarah Britton

Happy 2017!

Ahhh January... the month of snow and ice and temperatures that are low enough to make you question whether it is a Fahrenheit or Celsius reading. Or, if you are a gardener, January is the month to gather the seed catalogs and dream about what can be!

If you are a vegetable gardener, think about participating in "Plant a Row for the Hungry." The University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners are working to bring awareness about the issues surrounding hunger in our community. Plant an extra row of veggies and donate that extra produce to a local food pantry. For more information, go to <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw>

If you are a flower gardener, think about cutting some, creating an arrangement and sharing with a neighbor or friend who could use a smile. Our Holiday Luncheon speaker, Melody Layng, was an inspiration for using the products of our gardening to lift the spirits of others. Thanks to Sherry Seaver for putting together the luncheon and finding Melody!

Our clubs have exciting programs planned, Council will be hosting the GCI District 1 spring luncheon in March, our Spring Luncheon/Scholarship Fund Raiser is in the works and Plantaholics is hosting the CRG...GoC (Gathering of Clubs), formerly known as the "General Meeting." Inside scoop... there is NO MEETING!

Keep playing in the dirt,
Sarah & Ann



Our sincere condolences to Wildflower and Plantaholic member, Mary Pinter, on the death of her husband, Mike. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Pinter family.

January
2017
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**SUBMIT questions or
comments to:
CRGnews4u@gmail.com**

**REMEMBER to keep your
e-mail address current
with your individual club
and the Council.**



Save The Date



Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events

MARCH 10, 2017 2 PM - 8 PM
MARCH 11, 2017 9 AM – 6 PM
MARCH 12, 2017 10 AM – 4 PM

Madison, WI Garden Expo
Check out information [HERE](#)

MARCH 6, 2017

Noon
CRG meeting &
installation of officers
(all members invited)
Ciao Bella Restaurant



MARCH 16, 2017

CRG will host the
Garden Club of Illinois, Inc.
District 1
Spring Luncheon
Watch for additional details



MARCH 18 ~ MARCH 26, 2017

Navy Pier
Flower & Garden Show
Information located @
[NAVY PIER INFO](#)

MARCH 18, 2017

Rotary Gardens
Spring Symposium – Edible Landscaping
[Spring Symposium Link](#)

MARCH 23 ~ 26, 2017

Milwaukee Art Museum
Art in Bloom
[Art In Bloom Link](#)

APRIL 4, 2017

CRG...GoC
Hosted by Plantaholics
More details soon!



APRIL 26, 2017

CRG Spring Luncheon &
Scholarship Fundraiser
View photos from
prior years @
[Spring Luncheon](#)



JUNE 21, 2017

CRG Annual Free Garden Walk
Noon – 8 PM
More information @
[GARDEN WALK](#)



dates
to Remember

Horticulture Happenings

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2017 Garden Trends.....Plants of the Year and More.....
Let's look at what's hot for 2017 and what we'll be seeing more and less of!

Gina Ross, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

Natural Materials After years of minimalist dominance in hardscaping materials, furniture and decor, designers are noticing renewed interest in natural materials with a less geometric style. Rather than clean and modern, a more old-fashioned, more DIY look is what we'll see in gardens this year as people are looking for something more organic in their gardens.

Lawn be gone Neatly manicured lawns won't be as popular as in the past due to drought, water shortages and concerns about the environmental impact of fertilizing, pest-control treatments, and other traditional maintenance. Lawn-like alternatives, however, are hot. Installation of grass mixes that don't need to be mowed, and taller, prairie mixes are in. A short-grass meadow of native wildflowers and grasses reduces watering. Look for prairie plants popping up all over!

Natural Dye Gardens What's old is new again! Backyard homesteading has been going strong for a while, with edible gardens, chicken coops, and even bee keeping in urban neighborhoods. The latest addition to the grow-it-yourself movement is natural dye gardens: plants used to make dyes for coloring textiles, yarn, and clothing. It's beautiful and includes a lot of vegetables, fruit trees, and pollinator-attracting flowers, with selected varieties so that the harvests can be used for natural plant dyes as well as for food.

Below is a youtube video about DIY dyes from your kitchen and garden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-pQoZl0wD8>

Announcing the **2017 National Plant of the Year** Supertunia Vista Bubblegum Petunia is pink with a mounding habit 12-24 inches and works well as a filler.



The **2017 Perennial Plant of the Year** is butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

This native plant is very drought tolerant, blooms for three months (June, July and August) and attracts a wide range of wildlife (butterflies, bees, hummingbirds) that enjoy this plant as a nectar source. The monarch butterfly is certainly a big fan of this plant!!! I love this plant in my garden and can't get enough of it! Its mature height is 30" or so, is a long-lived perennial that prefers full sun!

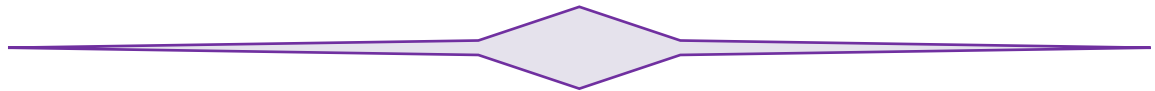


Wishing you all a Happy 2017 Gardening Year with just enough rain, sun and beautiful blooms and butterflies!

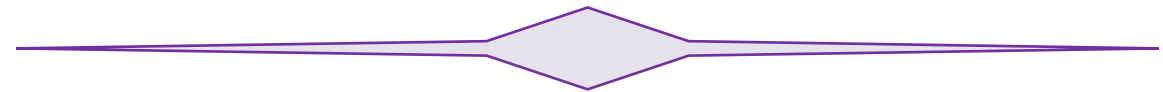
Congratulations

At the December 6th Christmas Luncheon, two scholarship recipients were introduced.

Below is information about the recipients, Amanda Schmidt & Brittney Gunderson.



Amanda Schmidt is married and has three children. She has found her passion in working with plants and started Horticulture classes at Kishwaukee College last year. She started her first garden this past spring and has never felt so accomplished. Her whole family was involved and excited the entire time. The kids loved harvesting and seeing what they could grow from just a tiny seed. They all learned a lot and cannot wait for spring to do it again. Amanda's goal in life is to have her own little plot of land and live self-sufficiently. She is a very deserving young Mother, wife and student and was so appreciative of the scholarship monies, which she will put towards her education.



Brittney Gunderson received her certificate in floral design in May 2016. She is currently a full time student at Kishwaukee College working on her Associate's Degree in Ornamental Horticulture/Floral Design. She also works at Pepper Creek part time. She has been able to utilize what she has and is learning in the classroom while on the job. Brittney would like to start her own business one day, probably a flower shop. Brittney says earning the CRG Scholarship is a great opportunity and it means a great deal to her.

CRG Scholarship Recipients

The next issue of the CRG E-News
will be sent out in March 2017.
The CRG will not meet in February.

Garden Gab:

Welcome to Garden Gab!

Do you have a question, comment, concern
or gardening issue that you would like to share
with the members of CRG?

Complete the form [BY CLICKING HERE](#)

Respond to inquiries by using the email address
provided (Send responses to:)

Garden Gab:



#3

Do you know of a good company/person
to call regarding mulch and general
landscaping assistance?

Send responses to: CRGnews4u@gmail.com



Garden Gab:

#4

Winter composting?

I can't get to my compost pile unless we have a winter
more appropriate for southern climates.

Every time I run the disposal and watch what could be
garden gold go down the drain,

I realize I need a plan.

Let us know what you do with your
kitchen scraps in the winter.

**Send responses to:
annsomers@comcast.net**

Rockford River Lights
12/31/17



Rockford Rocks!

Submit a photo of one of your
favorite places to visit in the Rockford area,
or a "nature" photo you have taken
in the Rockford area.

Complete the Photo Submission Form at:

[PHOTO SUBMISSION FORM](#)

After submitting the form, e-mail the photo
to CRGnews4u@gmail.com

REPORTS FROM JANUARY 9, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

Becki Dennis is our new Treasurer, and she read from the checkbook that our current balance is \$5,510.88. (Our Ending balance as of November 1, 2016 was \$5,226.05)

She has received about \$750 dues from three clubs. Dues from the Club treasurers should be sent to Becki Dennis by March 1st. Becki also reported that we still need two signatures on the bank account – from Mary Ann Miller and Mary Pinter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs – Ann Somers thanked Sherry Seaver for the wonderful luncheon. Sherry passed around a favor she plans for next year's Christmas luncheon.

Sarah Britton had a list of suggestions from luncheon attendees regarding the setup of vendors and the raffle table and a suggestion for a podium for the speaker. Sherry reported that part of the reason for the placement of the vendors was to have them far away from the speaker as some of them were noisily packing up while the speaker was talking. Sherry also said that the Hoffman House does not have a podium or stage.

Council wants luncheon attendees to spend money on the raffle tickets since the luncheon is a fundraiser. Some attendees spend money at the vendor booths rather than on raffle tickets. Council does not charge for being a vendor at the luncheon.

After our breakfast, Sherry reported on the Spring Luncheon. Sherry said that she would like to have fewer vendors. We had 12, and there are 3 she would like not to invite. She suggested that maybe we could let them know that we are cutting down on the number of vendors for the next luncheon. Sherry said that if someone has any ideas, to let her know. The Spring Luncheon will be on Wednesday, April 26th. The price will remain at \$35.

Sherry also is going to change the luncheon to a Salad Luncheon. She has the new menu, and there are 3 different salad choices. She had asked what would come with the salad, and she believes there will be rolls served. She has to confirm that. Sherry said that we need to reiterate that the Spring Luncheon is a fundraiser.

Sherry then suggested favors for the luncheon – maybe a flower pin. The table decorations will be from Petals & Pickens and cost \$10. A suggestion was made that we sell them for \$10. That way we would break even and save the money that we would have to pay for them.

Sherry needs suggestions for a speaker for the luncheon. Suggestions were to have Andy Hazzard, or maybe Andy could suggest other speakers. Other suggestions were speakers from Gensler Gardens, Pepper Creek, Blumen Gardens, or Distinctive Gardens. Sherry requested a list of speakers and phone numbers.

Karin Emery asked whether we should continue with the 50/50 raffle or try something new. We only **made \$85 on the raffle this year. Last year we made \$125. It does not cost us anything as we don't have to buy anything.** Any ideas would be appreciated.

EJ Rebman thought that maybe she could have her husband, Wally, make something for the special raffle.

REPORTS FROM JANUARY 9, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED

Publicity – Arch Smith will be doing publicity for the Garden Walk.

Awards – Alice Moczynski announced that she will not be here for the awards this year and she is not going to do awards anymore. She is giving it up. Ann asked Alice if she would still do Hospitality, and Alice said yes.

Civic and Conservation – No report.

Garden Walk – Lorraine White reported that they now have 7 gardens for the 2017 Garden Walk but they still need one more on the West side. Please contact her if you have any suggestions. And Arch will take over the publicity from Becki.

Horticulture – No report.

Hospitality – Alice Moczynski said that she will continue with Hospitality.

Membership Book – Kathy Batzkall asked for photos for the book. She is having a problem with the size of the ad for Jon Carlson. He wants a full page this time. Also, she asked that all garden clubs please submit their schedules and membership lists to her by January 31st.

Newsletter – Ann Somers said that we should send information to Shirley Wiklund. She likes to put things together for the newsletter. Ann said that we will not have a February newsletter and that the March newsletter will not come out until after the installation of officers on March 6th.

Shirley will put in a “Save the Date” for the Spring Salad Luncheon on April 26th, the March 16th District I Spring Meeting, and the Garden Walk on June 21st. She will also put in the “Gardening for Food, Flowers & Fun” on Saturday, March 4th.

Parliamentarian – No report.

Sunshine - Peg Goral sent a get well card to Kay Becker and will send a card to Jan Person and to Pat Wengrow-Fouke. Peg did send a card to Mary Pinter on the loss of her husband. Please let Peg know when a club member is sick.

Ways & Means – Karin Emery would like suggestions on the big raffle item. Should we have the 50/50 raffle or an item to raffle?

Website – Kris Tarbert has resigned. We are looking for a replacement.

Congratulations - you made it to the last page of the January CRG E-News.

Submit your name [HERE](#) to enter a drawing to win a fresh flower arrangement from Petals & Pickin's.

You can then take the container back to Petals & Pickin's each Friday to have it refilled for only \$5!

All entries must be submitted no later than January 25, 2017.