

Council of Rockford Gardeners, Inc.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue Vol.2/Issue 2
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](http://ilclubs.esiteasp.com/crg/home.nxg)

Upcoming Meetings:

**The new
2017-2018
Council of
Rockford Gardeners
Membership
Directory
will be distributed
to members of
all CRG clubs soon.**

**Please check for
upcoming
meeting information
when you receive
your new
CRG Directory.**

First Day of Spring
March 20, 2017



March 2017



From the President's Pen

Co-Presidents: Ann Somers & Sarah Britton

Spring is literally around the corner, I've seen it! Star magnolia buds are plumping, daffodils pushing through the soil, robins feasting on earthworms, the growl of a snow blower... WAIT! WHAT? Yes, it is time to run the fuel out for warm weather storage! So, there are at least two residents in northeast Rockford who think they are finished removing snow from their driveways and sidewalks. I'm quite positive there are few who wish them wrong!

Our Spring Luncheon & Scholarship Fundraiser is Wednesday, April 26. Sherry Seaver has planned a fun, delicious, informative day. You'll find more information and reservation form in this newsletter. Hope you can join us!

Keep playing in the dirt,
Sarah & Ann



Our sincere condolences to
GCI District 1 Director, Carol Rhodes,
on the death of her husband, Donald.

Our thoughts and prayers are
with the Rhodes family.

March
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.



April

Save The Date



Gathering of Clubs GoC

Meet and mingle with your fellow
Council of Rockford Gardeners members!
Enjoy a glass of wine and snacks
in a gardener's favorite place outside the garden...
a nursery!
Smell soil, feel heat and humidity
and take yourself one step closer to spring!

Gensler Gardens
102 Orth Rd
Loves Park, IL
Tuesday, April 4, 2017
5 – 7 p.m.

Hosted by Plantaholics Garden Club

If you would please let your club president
know you are coming, we'd appreciate having an idea
of how many will be in attendance.

Thanks!

Donations of Wildflowers (especially Bluebells) are being requested for planting at the Vi Bates Wildflower Garden at Klehm. If you have wildflowers you can donate, please bring them to the GoC meeting on 4/4/17 &/or contact Seedlings Member Anta Johnson.



Congratulations to Potpourri & Plantaholics member MaryAnn Miller. MaryAnn was the winner of the CRG E-News January Contest and won a floral arrangement from Petals & Pickin's!

dates to Remember

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

JUNE 21, 2017

CRG Annual Free Garden Walk
Noon – 8 PM
More information @
GARDEN WALK



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 #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 Rocks!

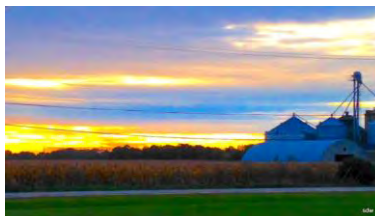
Submit a photo of one of your
favorite places to visit in the Rockford area,
or a "nature" photo you have taken
in the Rockford area.

Complete the Photo Submission Form at:

[PHOTO SUBMISSION FORM](#)

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

The view from work....
Rockton Avenue



Horticulture Happenings

Happy Spring 2017!

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

The 1st day of spring is March 20th! As the sun warms and the days lengthen, the air begins to fill with spring scents, the soil warms and plants begin to emerge.

When my kids were little, I would read to them from Greek and Roman mythology. They began to understand the importance of the sun god, Helios. Without the sun and its warmth, we don't get food and flowers. (Food was (and still is) important to the boys!) We even named our canoe Helios, after the sun god.

I thought I would share some spring legends with you.

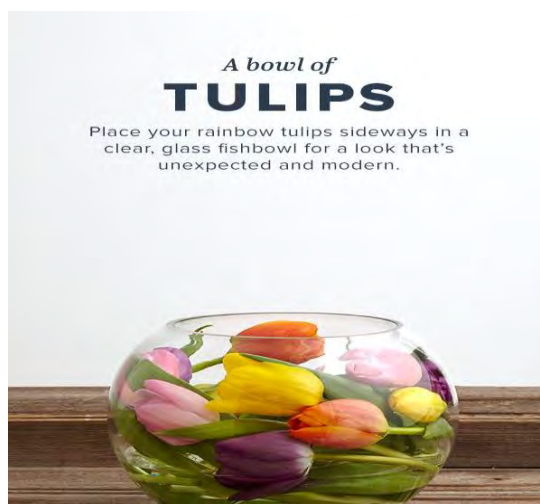
- The word "Easter" is linked to the Old English word for "east" and owes its origin to a pagan spring festival that is derived from the Latin root for the word "dawn." Dawn begins in the east, and both Easter and springtime mark a new dawning.
- Clover and other three-leaved plants were once considered spring gifts from the fairies to protect us and bring good luck.
- Herbs that have been associated with spring rituals through history include vervain, a sacred herb that was thought to ensure wealth, love, and protection.
- According to German legend, when God created the snow, he gave it the task of visiting the flowers of the earth to gather colors. The flowers refused, until the snow visited the gentle snowdrop. In exchange for her color, the snow offered to let the snowdrop to be the first to bloom each spring. The delicate snowdrop agreed and cheerfully blooms amid the snow.

March's flower is the daffodil, a symbol of awareness, inner reflection, renewal and vitality. A native of the Mediterranean region, daffodils were cultivated by the Greeks and Romans. In England, daffodils were first cultivated in 1629. In some areas of Switzerland and Austria the blooming of the narcissi is celebrated with festivals.

Another spring flower, the tulip is considered the flower of love and the symbol for charity by the Victorians. Cultivated since the 13th century by Turkish traders, it was introduced to the Dutch in the 1600's. The bulbs were traded as currency and theft of this flower prompted harsh penalties.

In ancient Egypt and Persia, where spring was celebrated as the beginning of the year, decorated eggs were exchanged at the equinox, eggs being the universal symbol of creation and fertility. Dyeing eggs is a very old tradition. Follow the link below for a video demonstration of natural egg dyeing techniques.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDVq1KO5gWY>



Information from Midway Village Museum



Midway Village Museum
Rockford's
HISTORY MUSEUM

Volunteer Orientation for Heritage Gardens and Natural Areas

**April 11, 2017
Tuesday, 6:00-7:30 pm
Midway Village Museum**

If you're looking for something interesting to do this summer, why not consider historical gardening? Midway Village Museum is looking for volunteers who would like to be part of our unique Heritage Garden Program. Join a team in one of our 10 historically themed gardens and learn more about everyday life at the turn of the 20th century as seen through the gardens. Experiment with heirloom vegetables, learn about sustainable gardening practices of the past, or discover old-fashioned flowers your grandmother was familiar with. If you're concerned about the vanishing prairie of Illinois, link up with a group that is actively working to restore the native landscape on the museum campus, an important biological community and a significant part of the heritage of Illinois.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a historical gardener, join us for snacks and an informal meeting to discuss a variety of volunteer opportunities. One FREE packet of Seed Savers Exchange Seeds will be given to all who attend.

Whatever the level of your gardening skills, **WE NEED YOU!**

For more information, please contact:

Laura Furman
Midway Village Museum
815-397-9112, ext. 108
Laura.furman@midwayvillage.com

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Midway Village Museum
Rockford's
HISTORY MUSEUM

Position Needed- Garden Coordinator

Midway Village Museum seeks a part-time Garden Coordinator to manage and maintain 10 heritage gardens and natural areas in its Victorian Village. Responsible for overseeing team of volunteers, and ensuring that gardens of heirloom plants are planned, planted, watered and maintained each year. Must be able to lift 40 lbs. and handle garden tools. 3 years experience in horticulture required. Send resume and cover letter to laura@midwayvillage.com.

REPORTS FROM MARCH 6, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of January 1, 2017.....	\$5,320.68
Receipts.....	<u>1,138.00</u>
Balance.....	\$6,458.68
Total disbursements.....	<u>456.23</u>
Ending balance as of March 1, 2017.....	\$6,002.45

Submitted by *Becki Dennis*, Treasurer

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs – Sherry Seaver reported everything has changed for the April luncheon. We will no longer be having a big salad but will have a dinner. The speaker will be Michelle Cox from The Landscape Connection. She will be talking about straw bale gardening and refurbishing items for garden décor. She will raffle items used in her presentation. Sherry may get the table decorations from Michelle also.

Publicity – Arch Smith reported that he and Deb Bieschke will be working on publicity. Becki Dennis has already sent out information to Chicagoland Gardening regarding the Garden Walk. They are **“making a game plan” for publicity. He did order the book marks, and they will be put on the tables for the March 16th meeting.**

Awards – Mary Pinter reported that they will not be giving out a spring award. They will give out scholarships at the December luncheon. Elaine Parrovecchio is assisting Mary with the awards. Ann Somers reported that we may want to revisit the amount of the scholarships. We need to use our money. She said that we will revisit this matter at a future meeting.

Civic and Conservation – Sarah Britton reported that the planters are not due till July. Habitat asks us to provide planters as they open up new homes. We do four planters each year, one from each active garden club.

Garden Walk – Lorraine White reported that we have six gardens right now. We lost one due to health issues of the garden owner. They are trying to contact the garden owner on the west side of town to confirm that garden. And they are still looking for additional gardens. EJ Rebman suggested that perhaps we should ask the garden owners in the fall if they will be home all winter. That would improve our ability to contact them. Arch Smith reported that he sent an email to the Rockford Garden Club inquiring about sharing any of their gardens for our garden walk.

Horticulture – No report.

Hospitality – Alice Moczynski reported that the Council Meeting on April 3rd will be at the Hoffman House at 9:00 A.M.

Membership Book – Kathy Batzkall reported that she has our new membership books ready for the club presidents.

REPORTS FROM MARCH 6, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

Continued

Newsletter – Ann Somers reported that Shirley Wiklund will get the Newsletter out within the week. It will include the luncheon flyer. If anybody has anything for the newsletter, let Shirley know. There is a section for questions (Garden Gab) in the newsletter.

Ann wants to post a job position in our newsletter and wanted to check with Council to do so. Tari Rowland is leaving her position at Midway Village. That was OK.

Parliamentarian – Mary Pinter reported that everything is OK.

Sunshine - Peg Goral reported that she sent cards to Kay Becker, Carol Rose, and Cindy Piper. Please let Peg know if she should send a card to anyone in our clubs.

Ways & Means – Karin Emery reported that she will be contacting the president of each garden club. She needs four people from each garden club to sell raffle tickets for the April 26th spring luncheon.

(The meeting was put on hold at 12:10 P.M. for lunch and resumed again at 12:40 P.M.)

Website – Kathy Batzkall will be working on our website. Kathy reported that our webmaster informed her that we have to get off the current platform within two months because the technology is obsolete. We will have to do the changes by April 30th. He is going to do the design of the website and then she will be on the phone with him learning a tutorial.

A motion was made that we pay for the website fees up front.

The motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay the website fees up front.

Kathy also reminded the club presidents that they need to update their “blurbs” about their clubs and email them to her.



The End
...that's
all
folks...