

# Council of Rockford Gardeners, Inc.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V2 Issue 3  
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

Held the GoC meeting  
on 4/4/17

### Potpourri 4/11/17

Ravenstone Castle  
& Steel Hearts

### Seedlings 4/17/17

6 PM Gensler Gardens

### Wildflowers 4/27/17

Sand Bluff Bird Observatory  
Colored Sands Forest Preserve  
Ray's Family Restaurant

**CRG Spring Luncheon  
4/26/17**



April 2017



## From the President's Pen

Co-Presidents: Ann Somers & Sarah Britton

Thank you to the Plantaholics for hosting the GoC (Gathering of Clubs) on April 4. There is no doubt the removal of "meeting" was a good idea! Gensler Gardens provided a perfect backdrop for those who are anxious to get the gardening season started! Pansies and geraniums in bloom, herbs looking lush, petunias spilling over the sides of hanging baskets... good stuff! It was a fun evening!

CRG's Spring Luncheon and Scholarship Fundraiser is Wednesday, April 26. You will find the flier with all information in this newsletter. This is a great opportunity to gather with gardening friends, get some fun and useful garden ideas from our speaker Michelle Cox, owner of The Landscape Connection and help to increase our scholarship fund. CRG has awarded more than \$10,000 in scholarship monies to horticulture students at Kishwaukee College. Let's keep that tradition going!

Keep playing in the dirt,

Sarah & Ann



**Thank You!**

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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.



### Council of Rockford Gardeners Spring Luncheon & Scholarship Fundraiser

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Hoffman House, 7550 East State Street, Rockford, IL

Social Hour 11 am, Luncheon Noon, Program 1 pm

Vendors for Shopping

Speaker:

**Michelle Cox, owner of The Landscape Connection**  
"What's Trending in the Garden for 2017"

Michelle will give a two-part presentation on two of the most popular garden trends... "Straw Bale Gardening" and "Repurposed & Vintage Garden Décor."

Menu Selections:

**Fresh North Atlantic Salmon Fillet**

Hand cut, broiled and topped with lemon butter

**Chicken Marsala**

Tender breast of chicken served in a wine and mushroom sauce

**Stuffed Pork Chop**

Stuffed with a savory stuffing and served with natural pan gravy

**Pesto Primavera**

Fresh vegetables sautéed in garlic and olive oil, tossed with fettuccini noodles and pesto sauce

All entrees include: fresh garden salad, baked potato and California blend

Dinner Rolls

Chocolate Ice Cream

Coffee and Tea

Early bird price \$35.00 before April 21, after \$40.00

Return completed form, with check payable to Council of Rockford Gardeners to:

Ann Somers

5412 Gingeridge Lane

Rockford, IL 61114

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Menu Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Please seat me with (tables of 8): \_\_\_\_\_

### Midwest Daffodil Society Show

The Midwest Daffodil Society's show features hundreds of daffodils on display that will be judged by the society.

**Saturday, April 29, 2017, noon – 4:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 30, 2017, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

The Midwest Daffodil Society's show features hundreds of daffodils on display that will be judged by the society. The show includes cut blooms, floral design, and photography competitions. The show will include floral designs inspired by the gardens at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Daffodil growers of all skill levels are invited to participate.

LINK WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[https://www.chicagobotanic.org/calendar/event/midwest\\_daffodil\\_society\\_show](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/calendar/event/midwest_daffodil_society_show)



**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 contact Seedings member, Anita Johnson.

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### **Marshall Elementary is looking for help with their planting beds.**

Marshall Elementary is one of the Rockford Public Schools and houses the gifted program, grades 1 – 4.

Last summer the program was moved into their new location at 4704 North Rockton. (Just down the road from Wesley Willows!) They are beginning to beautify the landscape and planting areas at the building. If you would be interested in helping – especially volunteering to water plants during the summer when school is not in session, please contact Shirley Wiklund at [CRGnews4u@gmail.com](mailto:CRGnews4u@gmail.com)



Spring Fritillaria  
Submitted by Kathy Batzkall

### **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](mailto:CRGnews4u@gmail.com)

### **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:)

### **In response to "Garden Gab #4" regarding winter composting:**

I have JUST THE SOLUTION for dreading that winter walk out to the compost bin. How about a worm farm! Sound gross? Vermiculture is the best way to compost all kitchen scraps (protein excluded) just as you do in an outdoor bin. The difference is that you do it in your home. The worm poop (worm castings) is one of the best by-products for your potted plants and gardens. A worm farm is easy to do and the payoff is beautiful plants not to mention the ease of composting inside. The only odor is the great smell of fresh earth all year round. I would love to share red wiggler worms with anyone and help you set up your own bin. My problem is that my worms are so happy that they do what worms do and multiply so quickly that the "herd" needs to be thinned.

Contact me if you are interested.

EJ Rebman (Plantaholics and Potpourri) [Namberej@gmail.com](mailto:Namberej@gmail.com) [815-494-6986](tel:815-494-6986)

# Horticulture Happenings

## The “Spring Beauty” of Ephemerals

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

April is one of my favorite months because of the many ephemerals that begin to pop up from the ground! Ephemerals last a very short time. Ephemeral wildflowers race against time each spring. They must sprout, grow, flower, fruit, and seed in the early months of spring before the tree leaves come out and block the sunlight. Forest floors, March through May are often carpeted in these ephemeral wildflowers, which will then die back from the ground entirely for the rest of the year.

The value of wildflowers goes beyond their beauty. While many of the blooms are beautiful or fragrant, these plants provide many additional benefits to humans. Like most plants, wildflowers produce oxygen, serve as food for wildlife, and are a source of biodiversity on our planet.

Here is just a few of the benefits from these wildflowers:

- Bloodroot rhizomes contain a red juice that was used by Native Americans as a dye for clothing and skin.
- Mayapple fruits are edible and can be used to make jelly.
- Spring beauty's tuberous roots may be boiled, salted, and eaten. The young leaves can be used in salads.
- Wild ginger rhizomes (part of the roots) can be used as a substitute for ginger.
- Jack-in-the-pulpit corms (part of the roots) can be cooked and used to make a flour-like substance for baking bread.
- Rue anemone root tubers were harvested by Native Americans and pioneers, who referred to them as “wild potato.”
- Shooting star flowers buds can be pickled and eaten. Their blossoms can be used to make wine.

*Never eat any part of a wild plant unless you are certain of its safety.*

Remember April 22nd is Earth Day! It's usually a good time to check the yard out for any garlic mustard and pull it NOW before it gets out of control.

Also, if you have any ideas for articles please email me at [gina31ross@gmail.com](mailto:gina31ross@gmail.com)



**Spring Beauties**



**Bloodroot**



**Shooting Stars**

"Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"

**JUNE 21, 2017**

**CRG Annual**

**Free Garden Walk**

**Noon – 8 PM**

**More information @**

**[THIS LINK](#)**



**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Laura.furman@midwayvillage.com)

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# REPORTS FROM APRIL 3, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of March 1, 2017..... \$6,002.45  
Receipts..... 2,014.00  
Balance..... \$8,016.45  
Total disbursements..... 2,826.47  
Ending balance as of March 31, 2017..... **\$5,189.98**

After recording all the District 1 receipts and expenses, Council made \$108.20, which we have to send to District 1.

Submitted by **Becki Dennis**, Treasurer

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Programs** – **Sherry Seaver** reported that everything is under control for the spring luncheon. The biggest issue is to get the number attending by the Friday before the luncheon because the Hoffman House wants their money “up front” now. The Friday before the luncheon she needs to know the number of people attending and to pay the Hoffman House. They want the money by April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Everything else is under control. She said that she will have less vendors this time.

(The meeting was put on hold from 9:35 A.M. for breakfast and resumed at 10:05 A.M.)

**Publicity** – **Deb Bieschke** reported that Arch is on vacation but that everything is OK right now. Arch had sent out press releases before he left.

**Awards** – **Mary Pinter** had no report.

**Civic and Conservation** – **Sarah Britton** had no report

**Garden Walk** – **Lorraine White** reported that they now have 7 gardens, and they did add a second garden over on the southwest side. They are working on the garden descriptions and directions for the brochures, and the garden stones have been ordered. Arch and Deb are working on publicity. The bookmarks are ready and will be put on the tables at the Council Spring Luncheon on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The bookmarks and brochures should go out to the garden centers by the end of May or early June. Lorraine also said that they have representatives for 6 of the 7 gardens so still need one representative for the Connie Austin garden. The representatives will help secure greeters for their gardens.

**Horticulture** – Ann Somers said that Gina is always looking for topics of interest to Council members, so send any suggestions to Gina. Gina enjoys writing the articles, and we enjoy reading them.

**Hospitality** – **Alice Moczynski** reported that for next month's meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> she will try to have it at Mary's Café on State Street at 9:00 A.M.

**Membership Book** – **Kathy Batzkall** reported that she has extra membership books if any club needs them for new members. Also, Kathy reminded us to please use the coupons in the booklet to The Landscape Connection and Hidden Timber Gardens.

## REPORTS FROM APRIL 3, 2017 COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED

**Newsletter** – **Ann Somers** reported that we should get any information to Shirley Wiklund this week. If you have anything of interest, put it in the newsletter. If anybody has pictures from club events, send them to Shirley.

**Parliamentarian** – **Mary Pinter** reported that Ann is doing a good job following all the rules.

**Sunshine** - **Peg Goral** asked if there is anyone she should send a card to. She sent cards to Ginny Carlson and Mary Wulff. Please let Peg know if she should send a card to anyone in our clubs.

**Ways & Means** – **Karin Emery** reported that she needs help getting a list of those selling raffle tickets for the April 26<sup>th</sup> spring luncheon. She also needs to know how many \$30 - \$40 raffle prizes there will be.

**Website** – **Kathy Batzkall** reported that she is working on the website. She sent in her first draft of the design, and the webmaster sent her suggestions for the future. Instead of putting email addresses in there, she can put in blind contact information. She will have that for the garden walk also. And we are going to have a “Members Only” tab for all the phone numbers, and we will have to have a password – or a double password. We do not want just anyone getting into the directory.

Kathy said if we do not do a printed directory, we still have the website cost, and asked if we should still have paid advertisers. What about those members without email? Will they receive a hard copy in the mail? Kathy said that we do not have to decide these things right now.

On the website, she can also put in “links” and will put in links for the public gardens in Rockford. Once it is set up, Kathy will be able to make the changes. With the new website, things will be timely, but it requires time. Ann said that Kathy has put in many hours working on the website. Kathy said the website may be up by the end of April.

On the website, we can have as many pictures as we want. It is unlimited. Each group will have their own page.



**Which Garden Club will have a member submit a photo  
to be included in the next CRG E-News?  
Plantaholics?? Potpourri?? Seedlings?? Wildflowers??**

**Also – be sure to submit your questions for ‘Garden Gab’!**