

Council of Rockford Gardeners, Inc.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V3 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://councilofrockfordgardeners.org/>

Upcoming Meetings:

Plantaholics
2/6/18

@ Mary Ann Miller's
Paint a Brick with Lynne

Potpourri
2/13/18
@ Sherry Seaver's
Building & Decorating
Bird Houses

Seedlings
2/19/18
@Wesley Willows
Games & Gabbing/Potluck

Wildflowers
1/25/18
Planning Meeting
@Machine Shed



January 2018



From the President's Pen

Co-Presidents: Ann Somers & Sarah Britton

Brrrrrr... dare we think this frigid cold will be a good thing. Could it help to take care of the population of grubs who will emerge and turn into Japanese beetles? Could it help with what seems to be an exploding population of stink bugs? Guess it is still to be determined. In the meantime, gardeners will spend the coldest of winter hunkered down with their seed catalogs, dreaming of growing season.

Thank you, Sherry Seaver. The Holiday Luncheon and Scholarship Fundraiser was well coordinated. Super raffle items, thanks to the clubs and Karin Emery's leadership, and our two \$1500 scholarships presented by Mary Pinter and Elaine Parrovecchio were highlights of the day. Phillip Raines, the bee guy, was entertaining and informative. Thank you to all who attended and helped make it possible for us to continue our scholarship program.

Our clubs have been planning their schedules for 2018. Those will be available for viewing on our web site councilofrockfordgardeners.org later this month. In fact, all information about meetings, luncheons, membership is available online. Take a moment to become familiar with our web pages that were beautifully designed and are maintained by Kathy Batzkall. Thanks, Kathy!

Happy 2018!

Keep playing in the dirt,

Sarah & Ann



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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.



Enjoy the Chicago Flower and Garden Show @ Festival Hall on Navy Pier or Just Ride in and Visit Navy Pier for the Day! Wednesday, March 14, 2018

The tradition of the Chicago Flower & Garden Show can be traced back to 1847 when it was created as an exhibition of prized fruits and flowers.

Today the show is all about inspiring, educating and motivating the next generation of gardener.

Let's welcome spring with life-sized theme gardens, how-to-workshops, instructional seminars, market place shopping and culinary demonstrations!

If you just want to get out of the house and explore Navy Pier...
jump on the motor coach with us
and we'll take you in to look and lunch for the day!

Depart the Highcrest Centre parking lot at 8:30 am
and return back to Rockford about 5:00 pm.

Cost is \$55 per person for your admission to the show and transportation
or \$40 per person if you would like to just get dropped off for the day.

Please call or email us with your name
and phone number to reserve your seats.

Canterbury Tours

1662 N. Alpine Road
Rockford, IL 61107
(815) 398-1454

email: canterburytours@comcast.net
web site: canterburytoursrockford.com

SAVE THE DATE

The 2018 Spring Luncheon will be held on
Wednesday, April 25th

At the Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club

This year's speaker will be

Robb Firch from Meridian Nursery

Watch upcoming Newsletters or check the CRG website
for additional information.



Tram Tour of the Chicago Botanic Garden Hot Buffet Lunch and Shopping in Lake Forest Thursday, June 28, 2018

Get carried away on a 1.3-mile 35-minute narrated tram tour! Learn the history and science of the Garden while viewing highlights including the McDonald Woods, the Elizabeth Hubert Malott Japanese Garden, the new Learning Campus and others. Enjoy views alongside the Garden's 51 acres of water! We'll have a hot gourmet luncheon in the Pullman Room and more time to walk the garden and train garden, ending up at the visitor center. If you like let's ride over to Lake Forest before we head back to Rockford.

We depart the Higginet Centre parking lot at 8:00 am and arrive back in Rockford about 6:00 pm.
Cost is \$95 per person; includes tram tour, luncheon and transportation. Call or email for reservations at 815.399.1454 or CanterburyTours@Comcast.Net.

Canterbury Tours
Higginet Centre
1662 N. Alpine Road
Rockford, IL 61107
815.399.1454
Email: CanterburyTours@Comcast.Net
Web Site: CanterburyTours.Rockford.Com

LOST AND FOUND

A diamond ring was found
in the parking lot at
Mauh Nah Tee See Country Club
on the day of our Holiday Luncheon,
December 6, 2017.
If you lost a ring or know who did,
please call Dana at [815 399-0711](tel:815-399-0711).



1040 North Second Street, Rockford, Illinois 61107
(815) 968-4357 web.extension.illinois.edu/jaw



Registration \$40

Registration fee includes keynote presentation, admission to all sessions, morning beverage service, and box lunch. Workshops have additional fees.

To register online and for full session descriptions and additional event information, visit web.extension.illinois.edu/jaw or call the U of I Extension office at 815-498-4357.

Spaces fill early, so register today!

CHECK-IN 7:30-8:30am

WELCOME 8:30-8:45am

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 8:45-10am
Designing Edible-Ornamental Small Space Gardens

SESSION I 10:15-11:30am
• Season Extension and Succession Planting for High Yield Gardens
• Successful Squash
• Creating a Victorian Style Flower Garden
• Attracting Birds to Your Yard & Dry Birdfeeder (\$10 fee)

LUNCH 11:30-12:30pm

SESSION II 12:30-1:45pm
• Local Food & Flower Production
• Best New Plants
• Beekeeping as a Hobby
• Making Herbal Scrubs (\$15)

SESSION III 2-3:15pm
• Why Grow Bare Gardening? Why not?
• Container Gardening
• Incorporating Stuff into Your Garden
• Butterflies and Wildflowers

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bill Shores has been involved in small-scale, intensive gardening and food production for the past 20 years. Bill will share a slide show and discussion of unique and beautiful spaces devoted to producing food for both homes and restaurants. Participants will learn how urban residential spaces can be transformed into highly productive organic gardens that also serve as outdoor living and entertaining spaces. Other topics he will touch on include microclimates, season extension, container gardening, indoor growing, composting, and edible landscaping.



University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener
Volunteers volunteer their time throughout Winnebago County "helping Others Learn to Grow"

University of Illinois - U.S. Department of Agriculture - Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides educational programs and research-based information to help Illinois residents improve their quality of life, develop skills and solve problems. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call the U of I Extension office in Winnebago County.

Almost 90 Council of Rockford Gardeners club members and guests gathered at Mauh Nah Tee See Country Club December 6, 2017 to celebrate Christmas and the winners of our 2017 Scholarship Awards. Everyone's attendance at our fundraising event was very significant, as we were able to present \$3,000.00 to deserving college students.

It truly cannot be overstated how much the recipients, Ulysses Vallejo and Andre Vallejo appreciated the checks. We all felt so happy to be a part of their enthusiasm. As President Ann Somers said after the luncheon "I have never been so thrilled and excited and proud about our Scholarship recipients. During the presentation I looked across the room and saw more than one woman wiping their eyes. What darling boys!"

These two boys are fine, talented, intelligent young men who will be accomplishing much in their lives. They and their parents truly earned the respect of everyone in attendance. We were so impressed with their ability to connect with people and all were glad to be a support to them as they journey through their education.

We are grateful for the support of our clubs and believe in our mission and understand the incredible impact our donation has on Horticulture student's future and thus impacting our futures as well. Thank you to all for being there.

Elaine Parrovecchio and Mary Pinter,
Awards Co-chairwomen

From the Saturday, January 6, 2018 Rockford Register Star

East High grads earn scholarships

The Council of Rockford Gardeners kicked off its 18th year of presenting scholarship awards at the Dec. 6 Christmas luncheon held at Mauh Nah Tee See Country Club. Two \$1,500 scholarships were presented to area college students.

Congratulations go to Andre Vallejo and Ulysses Vallejo, who attend Kishwaukee College in Malta. Both are recent Rockford East High School graduates. Andre is pursuing a landscape design degree and nursery management certificate. Ulysses' degree will be in greenhouse horticulture and a certificate in sustainable horticulture.

Both boys are actively trying to develop student interest in a horticulture program through East High School.

Many thanks to all Council of Rockford Gardeners members and their guests for participating, promoting and supporting our scholarship awards.

Elaine Parrovecchio and Mary Pinter,
co-chairwomen of CRG Awards

Horticulture Happenings

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

Gardening trends this year will feature a true return to nature that focuses on flow, not fussiness, bringing nature indoors and out.

Where the wild thing are! Most gardeners are aware that bees and butterflies are in decline. Habitat loss and pesticides also affect birds, frogs and turtles. When planning and planting your garden, consider planting berry producing plants for the birds, and create some moist areas in the garden for the turtles and frogs. Here's a video on how to make a frog house. <https://joybileefarm.com/making-a-frog-house-for-your-garden/>

Balance Relax, the garden doesn't always have to be perfect. Allow your garden to flow and be flexible. Choose plants that look good, are easy to manage and provide food for pollinators. Native plants work well for this.

Forest Bathing The term comes from Japan where *shinrin-yoku*, forest bathing, just means visiting a forest or wooded area for a walk. At home, you can plant trees, shrubs and flowers along a path. In a woodland yard, create a walking path through the trees for a serene effect.

Cottage Gardens are usually low maintenance by nature, inviting a variety of wildlife, keeping it exciting year-round.

House Plants have never been more popular than now as people are finding more ways to engage in bringing nature inside. There are many plants to choose from for sunny rooms or to rooms with little light.

Purple is the color of 2018 and will show up in the home as well as the garden. I adore planting baskets with annual purple Black Knight salvia. This beautiful hummingbird magnet pairs well with orange and hot pink flowers for a fun, vibrant addition to any garden.

2018 Annual of the Year



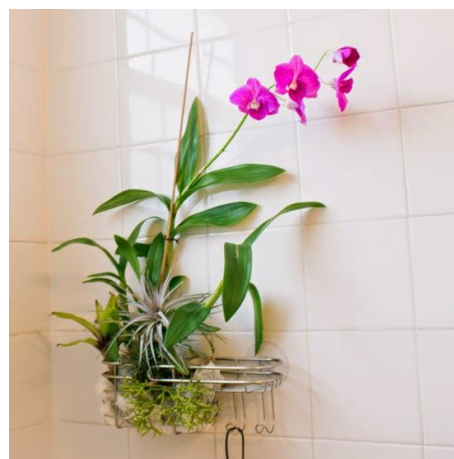
Supertunia®Bordeaux™ Petunia

2018 Perennial of the Year



Allium "Millennium"

Orchids in a shower caddy



Makes a statement

Happy New Year! Wishing you a happy and healthy gardening season filled with enough sun and rain and birds and butterflies flocking to your feeders and plants. *Any New Year's Gardening Resolutions??? Mine is to embrace my new landscape after having 5 large old trees cut down. I'm sure many of you can relate.*

Rockford Rocks Sculpture

A periodic column highlighting public sculptures in our city

Lori Walsh

When you hear the name Leonardo, what famous person comes to mind? Leonardo Da Vinci, the artist and inventor? Leonardo De Caprio, the actor? Or possibly Leonardo, the Teenage Mutant Teenage Turtle (with no last name)? What about Leonardo Nierman? The name may not be familiar to you, but his Rockford sculpture most likely is. Located on the bike path north of the Auburn Street Bridge, his stainless steel sculpture “Flame” has brought a reflective beauty to this part of the path since its installation in 2005. The title of this dynamic piece leads the viewer to think about fire, which is a favorite subject of Nierman’s. Birds, wind, water, volcanic eruptions and lightning are other repeated topics in his work. Nierman’s art can be found in more collections than any other living artist. He is an 82-year-old Mexican artist who has work in collections and museums around the world. “Flame” was donated to the city of Rockford by the Mexican government.

“Flame” 2005, Rockford



Like many artists, Nierman works in series. Perhaps you have noticed this sculpture near the Kennedy and Ohio interchange in Chicago; it repeats many of the rhythmic and curvaceous forms that Rockford’s “Flame” uses.

“Flame of the Millennium” 2002, Chicago



A multi-talented man, Leonardo Nierman holds degrees in math and physics from the University of Mexico and also trained as a violinist for two decades. The energy and vibrant colors of his paintings have led him to be referred to as the Jackson Pollock of Latin art.

“Untitled Abstract” 1966



A sunny winter walk on the bike path is an opportunity to appreciate the cool and shimmery energy of Mexican artist Leonardo Nierman’s sculpture “Flame”.

REPORTS FROM 1/8/18 COUNCIL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of October 31, 2017.....	\$4,610.17
Receipts.....	<u>3,609.00</u>
Balance.....	8,219.17
Total disbursements.....	<u>5,287.61</u>
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2017.....	\$2,931.56
Submitted by Becki Dennis , Treasurer	

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs – **Sherry Seaver** reported that she has Robb Firch lined up as a speaker for our spring luncheon on Wednesday, April 25th at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club.

The board had a discussion about having vendors v. not having vendors. It was decided to not have vendors at the spring luncheon. Silent auction item(s) for the luncheon will be determined at a later date.

Since the price of meals continues to go up and we are making less money, it was decided to raise the price of the luncheon to \$40.

Sherry will speak with Robb about centerpieces.

Sherry will write a “save the date” for our January newsletter. We don’t have a newsletter in February, so the March newsletter will contain the flyer with the reservation form. The flyer will also be emailed to club presidents to distribute to their members.

Publicity – Deb Bieschke had nothing to report.

EJ Rebman reported that we need to get the new garden signs. She is going to have a meeting with Lori Walsh, Arch, and Deb to get that taken care of. Ann needs to know how many signs we need and how much they will cost so she can try to get money from District 1.

Awards – **Mary Pinter** reported that the professor picked the boys for the scholarships. Everyone agreed that they were great and very appreciative. Mary wrote a letter to the editor regarding the scholarships. She had to call the editor to remind him, and it was finally in Saturday’s newspaper.

Ann will send the letter to the editor to Shirley for the newsletter, and Mary will write up something else to put in the newsletter.

Mary will be taking over Hospitality from Alice Moczynski, but Elaine will continue with the Awards. She will need to have a helper.

Civic and Conservation – **Diane Donze** will take on this position in 2018.

Garden Walk – **Ann** reported that **Jan Duncan** and **Lorraine White** will continue co-chairing the Garden Walk for 2018.

REPORTS FROM 1/8/18 COUNCIL MEETING-continued

Horticulture – Ann reported that **Gina Ross** will continue in this position for 2018.

Hospitality – Ann reported that **Alice Moczynski** has been good about making reservations and making phone calls for our meetings. **Mary Pinter** will take over this position beginning with the March meeting. We will install officers at the March 5th lunch meeting. Mary Pinter and Deb Bieschke will do the calling.

Membership Book – Ann reported that since we are not having a Membership book, this position will be eliminated and Membership Book will be removed from the “Committee Reports” section. The club presidents can inform their members that we will not have a membership book.

Ann said that we cannot afford the book without advertising, or we could charge for it. Kathy said that the books cost about \$250 with a color cover. We will put that money towards scholarships.

Ann reported that she will write up something about not having a membership book for the newsletter. The membership information is on the website, and it can be printed off the website.

Newsletter – Ann Somers reported that **Shirley Wiklund** will give the Newsletter a try this month, so we should get information to her by Saturday.

Ann reported that there will be some other things in the newsletter, such as the trip with Canterbury to the Chicago Flower and Garden Show on March 13th for \$55. Or, you can just go on the bus to Navy Pier for \$45. That information will be in the newsletter. There will also be information about the Gardening for Food, Flowers & Fun on March 3rd at NIU Rockford campus. Keynote is Bill Shores, who is the gardener responsible for Rick Bayless’s restaurant garden.

The newsletter will also have information about the scholarships, not having a membership book, a “Save the Date” for the Spring Luncheon, maybe an article from Gina, maybe an article from Lori Walsh, and maybe something about the stink bugs. If we have anything for the Garden Gab section, please send it to Shirley.

Parliamentarian – Ann reported that **Mary Pinter** will continue to be Parliamentarian.

Sunshine – Ann reported that we should send information to **Peg Goral**.

Website – Ann reported that **Kathy Batzkall** will continue doing the website, but it would be nice to have someone to do backup for the website. If anybody would be interested, let Kathy or Ann know.



I would like to thank the members of CRG for the cards, phone calls and emails I have received since my husband, Kevin, suffered a stroke in August. We appreciate all the thoughts and prayers being sent our way. Kevin is home and making progress.

Shirley Wiklund