

Council of Rockford Gardeners, Inc.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V4 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://councilofrockfordgardener
s.org/](http://councilofrockfordgardener
s.org/)

Upcoming Meetings:

(Per website,
check with club to verify)

Plantaholics

2/5/19

Topic-Margaret Roach's Garden
@ Mary Ann Miller's

Potpourri

2/12/19

Studio 417 Gallery

Seedlings

No February Meeting

Wildflower

1/24/19

Lunch @
Thunder Bay



January 2019



From the President's Pen

Co-Presidents: Ann Somers & Sarah Britton

How fun was the Holiday Luncheon and Scholarship Fundraiser? We gave away two \$1500 scholarships to Andre and Ulysses Vallejo! You've heard those names before. These young men were the recipients of our scholarships in 2017 also. We heard about the Kishwaukee College horticulture program from instructor, Catherine Marsh. Who, by the way, was the recipient of our scholarship in 2012! We vied for amazing raffle items provided by our clubs, took our chances on a 50/50 raffle, enjoyed delicious food at tables decorated with holiday floral arrangements & little packages of candies and chatted with gardening friends! It was a great luncheon! Thank you, Sherry for coordinating the luncheon! Thanks to Elaine and Kathy who chair the scholarship committee! Thanks to Karin who organizes the raffles. And, thanks to all who attended or contributed! With the proceeds from this luncheon and those to follow, our scholarship fund will continue!

Old man winter is making his presence known. So, grab a blanket & a warm beverage and page through the seed catalogs and dream of spring!



**JANUARY
2019**

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CRG Council Report

SUBMIT questions or
comments to:
CRGnews4u@gmail.com

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



Have you checked out the Council of Rockford Gardener's webpage?

Be sure to take a look at the CRG website from time to time. It is a great way to know what is going on with our clubs.

Schedules for each club as well as information on upcoming CRG events can be found at www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org

Information regarding the recent Holiday Luncheon and Fundraiser is available on the site, as well as a link to an article (featuring the Council of Rockford Gardener's) that was in the holiday issue of the Northwest Quarterly magazine.



If you are interested in helping with the website, please email CRGnews4u@gmail.com

Spring Luncheon

Planning for the
2019 Spring Luncheon is underway.

Mark your calendar for:
Wednesday, April 24, 2019

The Spring Luncheon will be held at
Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club.



Volunteer Visions & Voices:

Our individual garden clubs and members are constantly supporting local agencies and people with their time and talents.

If you &/or your individual club have a volunteer event or opportunity you would like to share, please email information to crgnews4u@gmail.com

Last year I made Valentine's Day cards to be distributed to children through St. Jude's. I recently picked up supplies to make cards again for this Valentine's Day that will be sent to hospitalized children through Ronald McDonald House. (sdw)

<http://www.cardsforhospitalizedkids.com/>



Sampling of the cards I sent this year. sdw

Redbuds

Anita Wetzberger, Wildflower member, shared the following link that features an interesting article regarding Redbuds.

Below is information from the link regarding eating Redbud flowers.

Eating Redbud Flowers

In a study published in *Economic Botany*, redbud flowers were found to have a significantly higher vitamin C content than most common domesticated fruits and vegetables, including oranges (Zennie, Thomas M. and Ogzewalla, C. Dwayne. "Ascorbic Acid and Vitamin A Content of Edible Wild Plants of Ohio and Kentucky." *Economic Botany* 3 Jan.-Mar. 1977: 76-79. Print.). It is this very concentration of ascorbic acid that gives the fresh buds a not unpleasant sour bite. It is subtle and took me a couple of buds to identify, but the initial fresh "sweet-pea" flavor does give way to an understated acidic brightness.

There is something I can no better describe than "wild," or wholly untamed, about foraged foods. Their flavors are complex in a way that my civilized palate finds both exhilarating and disconcerting. When I googled redbud recipes I was overwhelmed by the amount and variety of the results; raw and pickled; leaves, buds, and new pods; jellies and relishes; muffins and pound cake; and my favorite, for novelty's sake, redbud vegan cornbread! There are neither leaves nor fresh pods available yet on the trees in my neighborhood. Having already experienced the raw buds, I tried my hand at pickling them.

The entire article can be found at:

<https://thegrownetwork.com/in-praise-of-redbuds/>



Horticulture Happenings

Gina Ross, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County
Happy New Year! Winter is for the Birds

Watching birds flock to feeders, trees and shrubs on snowy days is a special winter pleasure. While many bird species migrate to warmer climates for the winter, a few hearty varieties remain here in the upper Midwest to keep us company. Blue jays, woodpeckers, American goldfinches, cardinals, dark-eyed juncos, black-capped chickadees, cedar waxwings and nuthatches are just a few of the species of birds that we may find in our yards in the winter.

During periods of cold weather, birds need higher caloric intake to maintain proper body temperature. Bird feeders can play an important role in their food gathering activities when ice and deep snow make life challenging for them.

Several varieties of feeders are available, each filling unique needs. Placing feeders of different designs will promote visits from a diverse bird clientele. Here are some of the more popular types:

Suet feeders

These feeders attract a variety of woodpeckers, nuthatches, titmice, chickadees, jays, and starlings. Suet cages that open only at the bottom force birds to hang upside down while feeding and prevent starlings from hanging around the suet feeder too much. (On Christmas Day I saw a woodpecker at my suet feeder! YAY!)

Nyjer feeders

Nyjer (also called thistle feeders) are especially popular with American Goldfinches and Pine Siskins. These are available as tube feeders or fine mesh bags. Note that Nyjer seeds can go rancid or moldy quickly in wet weather. When birds stop feeding, it's time to throw the remaining feed away and refill with a fresh batch. Squirrels tend to stay away from thistle feeders.

Hopper or "House" Feeders

This type of feeder offers good protection against the weather, an important benefit since wet seeds can promote bacterial and fungal growth. Hopper feeders are attractive to most feeder birds, including finches, jays, cardinals, buntings, grosbeaks, sparrows, chickadees, and titmice. Installing a squirrel baffle is advised.

Place feeders in safe places such as the natural shelter of a tree or shrub. This will provide birds with a rest area to enjoy between feedings. Conifers, brush piles and roosting boxes all provide birds with protection from predators. A heated bird bath, providing a source of liquid water, will be a popular attraction for our winter birds. Many additional bird species, including waterfowl and birds of prey, can be observed by hiking in area parks and forests.

Cracked corn, safflower and sunflower seeds, peanuts and suet are among the commercially available winter food choices. Before buying seed read the label so you know what birds are likely to be attracted. Fruits are also a great source of nutrition for birds in the winter. You can cut up oranges, apples, raisins, mix peanut butter in the fruit and smear it on a pine cone or roll it in balls and put it out.

Have fun with your feeders and enjoy birding whether it's by your window or in the forest.



Woodpecker at Suet Feeder



My birdbath with fruit for the birds



Birds at Hopper Feeder



I UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

*Embrace Winter's Beauty through
Outdoor Exploration and Indoor Inspiration*

Saturday, February 23, 2018

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

at
Torstenson's Education Center
13735 Cook Road
Pecatonica, IL 61063

Winter Trails **Guided Winter Hike**

Lace up your boots, bundle up, and join U of I Extension Master Naturalists for a fun and frosty winter hike through Torstenson's! Test the tracking skills you'll learn in the morning to see if you can find signs of resident wildlife within the park. Please dress for all types of weather.

Naturalist Tales **Oaks: Adaption & Decline**

Olivia Rauen, Forester - Iowa & Illinois, National Wild Turkey Federation

The oak trees standing in our woodlands and savannas are magnificent relics that record history, feed and shelter wildlife, and provide beauty. They far outcompete any of us in age, some of them by centuries. They have withstood years of drought and frequent fire and can survive in the poorest soils. Oak ecosystems are prevalent across Illinois, but how much do you really know about the species?

Coexistence

Peggy Doty, University of Illinois Extension Energy and Environmental Stewardship Educator

Whenever you reside you have the potential to witness animals in your surroundings. Your yard and garden naturally create habitats for wild things from pollinators to predators. Like a sculptor shaping a piece of clay, we humans have molded the Illinois landscape to take the shape we desire. We have done more than modestly adjust its features, we have transformed it completely. Our wild friends have had to adapt to these changes and are simply seeking a place to live out their life, whether we appreciate them or not. Nature is not a disgruntled partner but is actually an abundant caregiver. If we take time to understand why they are near us, we can make better decisions as to what to do about them.

\$25 per participant

Includes a lunch, 2 keynote presentations, and 1 guided outdoor session

Schedule

9:30 a.m.	Registration & Coffee
10:00 a.m.	Welcome
10:15 a.m.	Naturalist Tales: Oaks: Adaption & Decline
11:15 a.m.	Naturalist Tales: Coexistence
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Winter Trails: Winter Hike
2:30 p.m.	Departure



*Winter Trails & Naturalist Tales is
presented by the U of I Extension
Winnebago County
Master Naturalist Program*

Event Registration

Register online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw>
or call U of I Extension-Winnebago County at 815-986-4357.

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.

University of Illinois Extension
Presents the 42nd Annual

Gardening

for Food, Flowers, & Fun

Saturday, March 2, 2019
NIU-Rockford Campus ■ 8500 E State St., Rockford, IL

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 815-998-4357.

Classes fill early, so register today!

CHECK-IN 8:00–8:45am

WELCOME 8:45–9am

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 9–10:15am
Designing Edible-Ornamental Small Space Gardens

SESSION I 10:30–11:30am

- The Backyard Orchard
- Plants for Success in the Shade Garden
- Garden Folklore
- Dry Rain Garden

LUNCH 11:30–12:30pm

SESSION II 12:30–1:30pm

- Backyard Berries
- Learn to Love, Live, and Blow up your Landscaping for 2019!
- Sensational Succulents (\$25)
- Providing for Your Pollinators

SESSION III 1:45–2:45pm

- More Veggies, Less Work: Various Gardening Methods
- The Why and How of Houseplants
- Right Tool for the Job
- Monarchs

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dave Wanninger is the Horticulturist in Charge at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. With extensive experience in landscaping, nursery management and currently the head of horticulture at a botanical garden, Dave knows how break free from the same old, same old landscape plants and design. Sure, you can plant a perfectly nice landscape of gold spirea, purple barberry, and burning bush - three invasive, non-native plants - the same plants you see in the neighbor's yard. But we are living in a golden age of plant breeding, so let's look at some of the good new plant species and varieties and how to use them in the landscape to create an awe-inspiring design.

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ILLINOIS
Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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

REPORTS FROM 1/7/19 COUNCIL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of October 31, 2018.....	\$3,235.24
Receipts.....	<u>3,649.65</u>
Balance.....	6,884.89
Scholarships (2 @ \$1,500).....	3,000.00
Other disbursements.....	<u>2,193.08</u>
Total disbursements.....	<u>5,193.08</u>
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2018.....	\$1,691.81

Becki reported that we took in \$659.65 from the December raffle, for a total of \$3,649.65 in receipts for the luncheon. The two scholarships were \$3,000, and other luncheon expenses were 2,193.08. Our ending balance is \$1,691.81.

Submitted by **Becki Dennis**, Treasurer

Programs – **Sherry Seaver** had no report. Ann Somers reported that Deb Bieschke has set the spring luncheon for Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club. Deb is working on a speaker. The December luncheon will be held on December 11th also at Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club. Thanksgiving is late this year, so that is why the luncheon is later.

Publicity – Ann Somers thanked **Arch Smith** for his persistence with Northwest Quarterly magazine. Arch said that the lady who wrote it will also do something for the Garden Walk.

Ann also reported that we need someone to take over Publicity next year.

Awards – **Elaine Parrovecchio** reported that the boys were great. They were so excited about everything – all their plans, travels, and studies. Elaine will send them an email occasionally to check on them.

Elaine said that she had one down note. Some people complained to her about the cost of the luncheon. She tried to explain that the purpose of the \$40 is for the scholarships.

Sherry Seaver said that two members sent in a donation even though they did not attend the luncheon.

Elaine also had a request from Linda McIntyre-Price. Linda would love to come to the luncheon but is always gone. She was wondering if we could move it. Elaine said that Linda always brings people to the luncheon. Now that the luncheon is December 11th this year, it may work out for Linda.

Civic and Conservation – Ann Somers said that **Diane Donze** is having surgery on her wrist today.

Garden Walk – **Arch Smith** reported that 2 garden owners have not gotten back to him. He will check with them again. He has 8 gardens and also has a couple of backup gardens.

Horticulture – Ann Somers reported that **Gina Ross** will still write a Horticulture article.

REPORTS FROM 1/7/19 COUNCIL MEETING

Hospitality – Ann Somers thanked **Mary Pinter** for making the reservation. The March 4th meeting is our installation of officers meeting. Mary will make reservations for 11:30 A.M. at Tavern on Clark.

Newsletter – Ann Somers requested that **Shirley Wiklund** wait to send out the newsletter till Ann returns on the 22nd. We can send our information to Shirley and also send in some fun things for the newsletter. Shirley said that she might add a “joke corner”.

Ann said that the newsletter is very well put together and thanked Shirley for the great newsletter. Ann said that it is fun, it is interesting and has good tidbits of information. If anyone has any questions for the newsletter, send them to Shirley Wiklund.

Parliamentarian – **Mary Pinter** reported that we are doing well.

Sunshine – **Peg Goral** reported that she sent a card to Diane Donze. She will send a card to Esther Crandall, Ginny Hatwich, and another card to Mary Wulff.

Ways & Means – **Karin Emery** reported that regarding the Christmas Luncheon raffle items, the garden pole had 128 tickets in the bag. The lantern also had many, and the basket of wine had 80 tickets. There were a total of 441 tickets, and 136 were in the bags for Ed Irwin’s 4 tables and benches. Karen said that we had some unusual things, and everything did very well. The 50/50 raffle was down this time. There was a total of \$178, so the winner got \$89. The raffle brought in a total of \$659. Karen said that the gifts were geared to the audience.

Website – Ann Somers reported that our website is beautiful and “cool”. She reminded us to get our membership lists to **Kathy Batzkall**. We should follow Kathy’s format and highlight new member information and any changes, additions, or deletions to the membership list. She also needs the additional 4 digit zip code for the master list.

Kathy needs the following information from each club:

1. Name and contact information for new members in the following order: Last name; first name; name of club affiliation (Primary club first); email; Address with 9-digit zip code; cell and/or home phone designated with “C” or “H”
2. Name of any person dropping the club
3. Any changes to member contact information
4. Names of club officers for 2019
5. Dollar amounts of any donations made by the club in 2018
6. Club calendar of meetings/events for 2019
7. Update club intro or “blurb” for club website page if desired
8. Encourage members to use website.

Kathy needs the membership and schedule from each club.

Kathy would like all the above information by January 15th.