

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V4 Issue 4

Editor: Kathy Batzkall

The 5 CRG Clubs:

Northern IL Daffodil Society
Plantaholics
Potpourri
Seedlings
Wildflowers

Council Motto:

“Enjoy nature’s bounty
and beauty through work
and creativity.”

Council Website:

councilofrockfordgardeners.org

Upcoming Meetings:

(Per website,
check with club to verify)

Plantaholics

August 6

Tour of Deb Bieschke’s garden

Potpourri

July 9

Tinker Swiss Cottage & Gardens

Seedlings

July 15

Nature at the Confluence
Campus Tour

Wildflower

July 25

Blumen Gardens



July 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S PEN

Co-Presidents: Ann Somers & Sarah Britton

Garden Walks are fun. You get to take a peek into private spaces, gather ideas for your own space and marvel at the ingenuity, creativity and hard work of fellow gardeners. For more than 30 years, we, the Council of Rockford Gardeners, have held a FREE garden walk. It is a call to action for many of our members. You raise your hand to be a garden representative, you sit at a greeters’ table, you take brochures to garden centers, you help locate potential gardens for the walk, you bring your children or grandchildren and secure the next generation of gardeners... the list goes on. It takes all of these hard-working volunteers to make this event a success. The biggest cog in this garden walk wheel is the Garden Walk Chair. Arch Smith and his executive committee of Charlie and Frank & Jann produced a well-run and truly inspiring garden walk! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We are in high summer. The weeding goes on and on and on... what bountiful weeds we have! When asked about their least favorite chore in the garden, weeding is often the response of gardeners. It just isn’t for them. It is drudgery. Something you ought/need to do. For others weeding is the answer to a hectic life: a therapy session that ends with sense of accomplishment. It erases the mess and uncovers a clean slate. How do you feel about weeding? Let us know.

Keep playing in the dirt,

Sarah & Ann

JULY
2019

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SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com

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



GARDEN TIPS
AND TRICKS

You could win \$\$\$\$ by sending us your garden tips

Submit a garden tip to CRGnews815@gmail.com. Your name will be included in a drawing for a \$25 gift card to Pepper Creek. Drawing will take place at the December CRG Luncheon and Scholarship Fundraiser.

This month's garden tip comes from **Jane Gallick**, member of Potpourri:

"Having trouble picking things up in the garden? A household grabber tool (picker) works great for leaves and other light litter. Sorry, it doesn't pull weeds."

GARDEN Q & A

Ask your garden questions in this new newsletter section and they will be answered in the next newsletter. For example: "What do I use to get rid of weeds between the bricks in my garden walkway?" Our fellow gardeners will be able to give you some answers.

Council of Rockford Gardeners Dues Schedule

Clubs are responsible for collecting dues from their members. Amounts are set by the clubs. Each club then pays from the dues they've collected, \$11 per member to Council. Council keeps \$5 and pays \$6 to Garden Clubs of Illinois. GCI then pays \$.50 per member to National Council of State Garden Clubs. This makes each payee

a member of their garden club, the Council of Rockford Gardeners, Garden Clubs of Illinois and the National Council of State Garden Clubs!

Regardless of the number of CRG clubs to which you belong, dues to Council and therefore GCI and NCSGC are only paid once.



WORD of the Day: "tessellation"

I love the sound of certain words, and this one caught my attention:

A tessellation in nature is a collection of shapes that fit together without overlaps or gaps to cover the infinite mathematical plane: bee honeycombs, leopard fur, dragonfly wings, snake skin, turtle shells, fish scales, etc.



THE 2019 GARDEN WALK



"To plant a garden
is to believe in tomorrow."

- Audrey Hepburn

To all Garden Walk Volunteers:

I just wanted to thank each of you for volunteering your time in making this year's Garden Walk a success. It takes approximately 50 volunteers to pull this event off each year and fortunately we never seem to have a shortage of willing souls. I hope all of you found this to be a rewarding experience and will continue your support in the years to come.

The Garden Walk committee has already begun plans for next year's Garden Walk. We had almost 800 guests visit the various gardens this year and we couldn't have done such an amazing job without your help.

Thanks for all your help,
Arch

A sampling of garden photos from the 2019 Garden Walk. Courtesy of Charlie Refol and Kathy Batzkall.



McQuery Garden



Behr Garden



Orput Garden



Gibby Garden



Rubeck Garden



Behr Garden



Holm Garden



Rubeck Garden

GARDEN SEARCH FOR 2020

If you have a beautiful garden or can recommend someone who does, it might be perfect for a future Garden Walk. We are always looking for unique area gardens, large or small to be a part of our annual Free Garden Walk. Sharing your garden can be a very rewarding experience and a great gift to the gardening community.

To find out more details, **contact Arch Smith at: racs71@yahoo.com.**



Photos by Charlie Refol and Kathy Batzkall

"People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy the whole time to have such things about us."

- Iris Murdock



Master Gardener Helpline

The 2019 Winnebago County Master Gardener Helpline is available to answer all your gardening questions! You may stop in to talk with them or reach them at 815-986-4357.

April-September

Mondays and Wednesdays

9AM– Noon

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

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

History of herbs and their uses

The first written record of medicinal plants was created on clay tablets over 5000 years ago by the Sumerians, in ancient Mesopotamia (Iraq). Around 1500 BCE, the Ancient Egyptians wrote the Ebers Papyrus which listed over 850 herbal medicines. This compilation includes many herbs that we use today. Herbs are plants with leaves, seeds or flowers used for flavoring, food, medicine or perfume. They are seed-bearing plants and do not have woody stems. Herbs die to the ground after flowering.

It is likely that humans have used plants as medicine for as long as humans have existed. Archeological excavations dating back as early as 60,000 years ago have uncovered remains of medicinal plants such as opium poppies, ephedra and cannabis. Basil was used as an embalming agent by ancient Egyptians has been found in their mummies. In Greece, basil was a symbol of mourning. The herb was referred to as basileus phuton, meaning magnificent, royal or kingly herb. Today, basil is one of our most widely used herbs.

The ancient Greeks and Romans were well-known herbalists. They crowned their leaders with dill and laurel. The Romans also used dill to purify the air. Soldiers used it for a variety of purposes, but the most popular was as a treatment for wounds and burns. In the 5th century B.C., Hippocrates, the famous Greek physician, listed approximately 400 herbs in common use. All medicines at that time were based on herbs.

In the Middle Ages, herbs were often used to help preserve meat as well as to mask the foul taste of food that couldn't be refrigerated. Herbs also helped mask the odors of people who didn't bathe regularly, (or ever). This period was not favorable to the progress of herbs in medicine. In fact, the Catholic Church began burning

herbalists, associating them with both witchcraft and paganism.

Many of the early settlers coming to the New World brought seeds and rootstock from the Old World while they acquired knowledge of plants and their uses from Native Americans. By the 1700's a variety of herbs and vegetables could be found in a colonial garden. Native Americans showed the colonists how to use herbs to season food and formulate medicine. Herbs were also used for tanning and dyeing leather. Kitchen gardens outside the back doors of their houses provided easy access to herbs used in cooking.

Herbs hanging to dry from the rafters gave colonial homes appetizing aromas.

In addition to cooking applications, colonists used herbs for tea and tinctures for healing purposes. Plants such as yarrow, feverfew and valerian were used to treat common ailments. Tansy was used to repel ants.

While many of our herbal remedies today are derived from Ayurvedic, Chinese, Roman and Greek sources, all ancient civilizations, including the Mayans, Aztecs, and Egyptians, used herbs in treating illness. Today along with modern medicine, herbs are still used for treating illnesses, used in making tinctures, flavorings, cooking and for perfumes.

Summertime is a good time to use herbs to make teas and take to your favorite spot in the garden and relax and sip. Enjoy!

Recipe for ginger lemon tea. Can be used hot or cold. <https://tasty.co/recipe/soothing-lemon-ginger-tea>

Recipe for mint tea. Can be used hot or cold. <https://www.thespruceeats.com/easy-fresh-mint-tea-recipe-766391>



JUNE 3, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of May 31, 2019	\$4,129.05
Receipts	<u>.00</u>
Balance	4,129.05
Disbursements:	
Elaine Parrovecchio	37.00
Ann Somers – District dues	10.00
Rockford Litho – Printing Garden Walk brochures	354.00
Arch Smith – Reimbursement – Vista Print – Garden Walk	<u>49.91</u>
Ending Balance as of June 30, 2019	\$3,678.14

Submitted by **Becki Dennis**, Treasurer

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs – **Ann Somers** reported that Deb Bieschke has a speaker for the December luncheon: Alexander Mills, Executive Director at Klehm.

Publicity – **Ann Somers** reported that we are still looking for someone to take over the Publicity position.

Awards - Elaine Parrovecchio reported that she is planning on sending an email to the two boys to see what they are up to this summer – and their goals. She will have a report from them at our next meeting.

Civic and Conservation Diane Donze reported that she should be hearing from Habit for Humanity. Apparently they started much later this year. She will be reaching out to the other clubs to do a flower pot. She already did one from Potpourri.

Garden Walk – **Arch Smith** handed out copies of his Garden Walk Report for 2019 to Council members. His report listed the number of visitors to each garden (the highest being 750 and down to 355). It also listed all the Garden Walk expenses. Cost of the garden walk was \$843.77. Thanks to Jon Carlson Growers, Benson Stone, and a generous Council member, donations totaled \$464.86, bringing the final cost to \$378.91. Arch also reported that he has two gardens in Cherry Valley committed for the 2020 Garden Walk and is

working on another garden part way to Cherry Valley. Arch also said that he would chair the Garden Walk again next year.

Horticulture – Ann Somers reported that **Gina Ross** is still doing Horticulture.

Hospitality – **Ann Somers** reported for **Mary Pinter** that this is the last time we will be able to order and have wait staff here at Mary's Café. Send Mary any breakfast restaurant ideas.

Newsletter – Kathy Batzkall reported that she has started the newsletter. The Gathering of Clubs is the 3rd Monday of August, on August 19th, 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. at Christ Lutheran Church in Belvidere. Lora Prochaska said that she will send Kathy the flyer electronically.

Sunshine – **Peg Goral** reported that Kathy Batzkall gave her some lovely cards to use. Let her know if someone is ill. It was mentioned that EJ Rebman will be having surgery. Ann said that she will be in contact with Peg as to when to send a card to EJ.

Ways & Means – No report.

Website – **Kathy Batzkall** reported that our webmaster's wife is dying from cancer and asked that we keep him and his wife in our thoughts and prayers.



GATHERING OF CLUBS 2019

Council of Rockford Gardeners

Monday, August 19th

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Seedlings Garden Club presents



Peace in the Garden

at Christ Lutheran Church

425 Riverside Road, Belvidere, IL 61008

1.5 miles East of I-90 on Riverside Road

(slightly east of Shaw and Riverside Rd)

Please join us for a chance to gather with all of the other Garden Club members, have some appetizers, gourmet sugar cookies, create a peace ribbon for your garden, practice a few minutes of relaxing chair yoga, create an August floral arrangement to take home, enjoy the scents of some peaceful DoTERRA essential oils, and walk through the garden and labyrinth.

Please RSVP to your President or Council Liaison by August 1st.



GARDEN AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Olbrich Gardens 2019 Home Garden Tour

Friday, July 12 & Saturday, July 13: 9am - 3pm
Featuring the Gorgeous Gardens of Stoughton, WI
For the first time, Olbrich's Home Garden Tour will feature the gardens of Stoughton, Wisconsin, a bedroom community just a hop, skip, and jump south of Madison.

\$15 day-of tickets will be available for purchase at: 1814 Hildebrandt St, Stoughton, WI .

See <http://www.olbrich.org/> for more information.



Daylily Bloomfest

July 13-14 at Hidden Timber Gardens, 9am-5pm
462 S. Chana Road, Chana, IL
www.hiddentimbergardens.com

- Unique and beautiful one of a kind daylilies of award winning hybridizer, Robert Ellison.
- Garden vendors with cut flowers and produce.
- Food vendors, raffles, door prizes
- Beautiful display gardens, unique trees, shrubs



Chicago Daylily Society Show and Sale

SHOW:

July 20: 11am-3pm
Morton Arboretum, 4100 IL Rt 53, Lisle, IL

SALE:

August 24: 10am-2pm; Rain date August 25
41 S. Stough St., Hinsdale, IL
www.chicagolanddaylilyociety.org

Japanese Summer Festival at Anderson Japanese Gardens

July 27 & 28: 10am -3pm

The Japanese Summer Festival features exhibits, demonstrations and unique performances that appeal to all age groups and foster a better understanding of the Japanese culture. Most Festival activities are included with Garden Admission, with a small fee required for tea ceremony participation.



Tea ceremonies are hosted by Kimiko Gunji, Professor Emeritus of Japanese Arts & Culture in the School of Art & Design at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the Anderson Japanese Gardens Tea Study Group. Sensei Gunji is also the retired director of Japan House at the University. There is a special tea ceremony in the Guest House on Sunday at 11:45 AM, featuring hand made wagashi. Registration for all ceremonies is required and space is limited at each tea ceremony.

<https://andersongardens.org/>



Photos by Kathy Batzkall representative of previous years