

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V4 Issue 6

Editor: Kathy Batzkall

OCTOBER 2019

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

November 5
"Bulbs" program

Potpourri

November 12
Planning Meeting
at University Club

Seedlings

October 21
Planning and Potluck
at home of Lora Prochaska

Wildflower

**Friday, October 18
Autumn Drive in McHenry Co.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Co-Presidents: Ann Somers & Sarah Britton

Fall is upon us! What garden chores are you rushing to get done? Planting spring blooming bulbs, collecting seeds, swapping out summer annuals with cool season plants, digging dahlias or elephant ears or cannas to store until spring, harvesting the last tomatoes, cutting back perennials or have you decided to just let it be? One of our members said she was bringing in her houseplants and now her house feels like a jungle! It's just part of a gardener's life!

Deb has the CRG Holiday Luncheon and Scholarship Fundraiser well in hand. Alex Mills, Executive Director at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden will be the speaker. Elaine has our scholarship winner determined. Meeting our scholarship recipients and knowing we've contributed to the next generation of plant enthusiasts is a rewarding experience. We hope you'll join us on December 11.

Enjoy these beautiful fall days and spend some time with a warm beverage watching the leaves flutter from the trees!

Keep playing in the dirt,

Sarah & Ann

~ Save the Date ~

CRG Holiday Luncheon on December 11

SEPTEMBER
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.



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 come from **Patrice Vecchio**, member of Wildflowers:

(Responding to September's tip about killing weeds among the bricks...)

"I mixed **1/2 gallon white vinegar, 1 cup Epsom Salts, and 1/8 cup of Dawn liquid**, sprayed it on my weeds in my stone walkway and they were GONE overnight - vanished completely, no dead leftovers to pull up...no more Round-Up for me!!!"



Ways to preserve Autumn's beautiful leaves

Fleamarketgardening.org

Choosing the right leaves: Pick fresh leaves with the brightest colors. You don't want fallen leaves that have already started to dry.

Pressing Leaves with Weight: The trick to keeping the colors sharp is to remove the moisture as quickly as possible. Sandwich leaves between two paper towels. Then select some of your heaviest books and layer the leaves between the pages. It should take five or six days.

Dry leaves in the Microwave: Sandwich fresh leaves or small sprays of fresh leaves between two paper towels. Place on a microwavable dish in the oven. Microwave for 30 seconds and check the leaves. Keep running the microwave at 30 second intervals and checking, until the leaf feels completely dry.

Glycerin and water: The next way to preserve the leaves is to soak them in a solution of one part glycerin to two parts water. Place the mixture in a flat pan, and submerge the leaves (in a single layer) in the liquid. Weight them down to keep them submerged. In 2-6 days they should have absorbed the liquid and be soft and pliable. Remove them from the pan and wipe off extra liquid with a soft cloth. The leaves will remain soft and pliable indefinitely.

Silica gel: You can also preserve leaves in florist silica gel found at craft stores,...just follow the directions on the bag.

How to Preserve the Colors of Fall Foliage in a vase: All you need is a little bit of vegetable glycerin, water, and newly cut branches with colorful leaves. Just put about 1/2 a teaspoon into a vase full of water, stir, and then add the branches. With this, the leaves stay on the branches and keep their color for weeks. Refresh the water and glycerin every week. Pure vegetable glycerin is available in health food stores.

GARDEN CLUB BULLETIN BOARD



Members of the Seedlings Garden Club with flower arrangements which they made at their September meeting.



Potpourri members at McEachran Homestead Winery, September, 2019.

(We really did have a lesson on growing grapes, too!!)



To see your club's photos
or stories published
in the newsletter,
please send them to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



Plantaholics member, Lori Walsh, will be published in *Fine Gardening* - December, 2019

Winter protection for broadleaf evergreens

The sidebar on page 46 in your article "Exciting Broadleaf Evergreens" (January/February 2019) included a method for protecting broadleaf evergreens from the cold and dry winters in the north. After losing a hedge of boxwoods to a brutal winter, I decided to protect the replacements with my own method. I used very small PVC pipe as the structure (go to YouTube for instructions on various ways to bend it) and zip tied burlap to the PVC, leaving the top open for air circulation. The structure lasted through lots of snow and a polar vortex, and the boxwoods emerged unscathed in spring. I was pleased to have protected my boxwoods in a way that was not only functional but also attractive.

KNOW YOUR COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Civic and Conservation Committee works with Habitat for Humanity

by Diane Donze, Civic and Conservation Committee

Habitat for Humanity is one of the many organizations Council of Rockford Gardeners, Inc works with.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. They believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities.

Habitat works in local communities across all 50 states and in more than 70 countries around the world. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Each year the Council of Rockford Gardeners donates 4 different planters for new home dedications. It's one small way we help make the new home owner feel welcome. The final dedication is October 27th at 3067 Carol Place, at 1 p.m. All are invited to attend. HFH greatly appreciates our participation. Thanks to each club and the people that helped make this happen.

WORD OF THE DAY

"Gokotta"

Swedish

The act of waking early
in the morning
with the purpose of
going outside
and listening to the
first birds sing.



Q & A

Q: Why are there so many walnuts this fall?

A: Walnut trees are capable of producing nuts every year, but may experience patterns of high and low yields from year to year. Walnut trees are prone to a reproductive pattern known as alternate bearing, characterized by alternating years of heavy crop yield followed by light or absent nut production.— homeguides.sfgate.com

*I'm so glad I live
in a world
where there are*

Octobers.

- L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables



HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

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

Celebrate Autumn with Cinnamon

As autumn sets in, and we ramp up our baking and entertaining activities, one spice stands out! That spice is cinnamon. Autumn would be incomplete without it. We use it for hot ciders, and other fall favorites from pumpkin to potpourri. Cinnamon has been in use by humans for thousands of years. As early as 2,000 B.C. Egyptians used it (and the related spice, cassia), in the embalming process. Arab traders brought it to Europe, where it became popular, however the land routes were difficult. This meant the supply would be limited and expensive. Using cinnamon in Europe during the Middle Ages was a status symbol.

Cinnamon was desirable because it could be used as a preservative for meats during the winter. Despite widespread demand for cinnamon, its origins were the Arab merchants' best-kept secret until the early 16th century. Therefore, it was considered a luxury good and available only to the upper class. To maintain their monopoly on the cinnamon trade and justify its exorbitant price, Arab traders fabricated tall tales about where and how they obtained the luxury spice.

Most of Europe used Ceylon Cinnamon, primarily because this was the first spice European explorers (Portuguese, Dutch and British) brought back from their conquests of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) nearly 400 years ago. But cheaper Cassia began making inroads and eventually came to dominate the

market. Ceylon Cinnamon sticks are soft, crumbly and rolled like cigars with layers of soft, brittle cinnamon bark. All other cinnamon looks like the Cassia Cinnamon sticks and tend to be hard, hollow and have only one rolled or curled layer. Ceylon Cinnamon is light in color while other cinnamon tends to be darker in color.

Today, we generally encounter two types of commercial cinnamon: Ceylon and Cassia cinnamon. Cassia Cinnamon is primarily produced in Indonesia and has the stronger smell and flavor of the two varieties. Cassia cinnamon accounts for about 70% of the cinnamon sold in North America. This less expensive variety is what we usually buy in grocery stores to sprinkle on our apple pies. The more expensive Ceylon Cinnamon, most of which is still produced in Sri Lanka, has a milder, sweeter flavor and is popular for both baking and flavoring hot drinks such as coffee or hot chocolate. Add some spice to your autumn dishes and drinks with cinnamon.

Video of Cinnamon Harvested in Indonesia: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/heres-how-cinnamon-harvested-valley-indonesia-180955063/#hx4ucOtvPuJP4tg.99>

Autumn Recipes containing cinnamon:

<https://skinnyms.com/11-recipes-with-a-favorite-fall-spice-cinnamon-of-course-2/>

SUBTLE DIFFERENCES

■ CASSIA BARK COMPRISES SEVERAL LAYERS IN BETWEEN THE ROUGH OUTER AND INNERMOST SMOOTH LAYERS

■ CINNAMON BARK IS THIN AND CAN BE ROLLED AROUND A PEN OR PENCIL

■ IT HAS AN INTENSE AROMA

■ IT HAS A DELICATE FLAVOUR

■ CASSIA POWDER IS REDDISH BROWN AND COARSE

■ ITS POWDER IS TAN AND SMOOTH



OCTOBER 7, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of August 30, 2019..... \$3,878.14

Ending Balance as of September 30, 2019 \$3,878.14

Becki reported that there were no receipts and no disbursements during September.

- Submitted by **Becki Dennis**, Treasurer

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs – **Ann Somers** reported that things are set for the Christmas Luncheon on December 11. Alex Mills from Klehm Arboretum will be our speaker. Reservations are due by December 6, when the price increases.

Publicity – No report.

Awards – **Elaine Parrovecchio** reported that the recipient of our scholarship is Walt Schmitt from Kishwaukee College.

Civic and Conservation – There have been two dedications for Habit for Humanity. Sarah Britton did one planter and Ann Somers did the other planter. There will be 2 more. Each club is responsible for 1 planter. Diane Donze will do one for Potpourri, and Susan Buzard will take care of one for Seedlings.

Garden Walk – **Arch Smith** reported he has 8 gardens lined up for next year.

Horticulture – **Ann Somers** reported that Gina Ross will continue to write the articles for the newsletter.

Hospitality – **Mary Pinter** reported that Council will meet at Cucina Di Rosa restaurant for lunch on November 4. There is no December CRG meeting. January will be a lunch meeting. There is no February CRG meeting.

March is a lunch meeting. All CRG members are invited to attend any Council meeting.

Newsletter – Ann Somers reported that each club will be required to submit an article in the newsletter starting in March of next year. Plantaholics will have March, Potpourri will have April, Seedlings will have May, and Wildflowers will have June.

Parliamentarian – **Mary Pinter** said that we are doing fine.

Sunshine – **Peg Goral** said that we should let her know when a card needs to be sent to a member. Peg will send a card to Ethel Johnson who is not doing well. Klehm Arboretum has held a Lilac Garden dedication in honor of Ethel who has contributed many years to the Garden.

Ways & Means – **Karin Emery** reported that **Lynne Franzen-Lynde** will be working with her at the Holiday Luncheon and will be taking over the Ways and Means position in 2020. Karin and Lynne will determine how many raffle items are needed from each club. The larger clubs might do 3 items, each valued at ~\$50.

Website – See below.

Remember to check our council website for
club meetings and
membership updates.

To get the password for the “Members Only” page,
consult with your club president.

[HTTP://COUNCILOFROCKFORDGARDENERS.ORG/](http://councilofrockfordgardeners.org/)



Council of Rockford Gardeners
Holiday Luncheon & Scholarship Fundraiser

Wednesday, December 11, 2019
Mauh-Nau-Tee-See Country Club
5151 Guilford Road, Rockford, IL 61107

Social Hour: 11:00 a.m. | Lunch: 12:00 p.m. | Presentation of Scholarships: 1 p.m.
Program 1:15 p.m.

Alexander Mills
Executive Director at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden

Menu Selections:

Ginger Teriyaki Salmon

Atlantic salmon grilled and served
with a ginger teriyaki glaze

Chicken Monterey

Breast of chicken stuffed with
Monterey cheese and prosciutto
ham wrapped in a pastry
and topped with sage sauce

Vegetarian Pesto Pasta

Penne pasta, grape tomatoes, seasonal
vegetables and shaved parmesan cheese.

Dessert

Chocolate Cupcake

*All entrées include house salad,
rolls, coffee & tea*

**Early bird price \$40 before
December 6; after \$45**

***Proceeds Benefit
Council of Rockford Gardeners'
Scholarship Fund***

Name _____ Phone _____

Menu Choice _____ Check# _____

I would like to be seated with (tables of 8) _____

_____ I am unable to attend the luncheon but would like to make a donation to the CRG Scholarship Fund.

Please return completed form with check payable to CRG to:

Ann Somers * 5412 Gingeridge Lane * Rockford, IL 61114

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Fall Colors in Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

- Jamie Johannsen, Severson Dells

Here are a few recommended forest preserves for fall walks to discover the glorious forest and prairie colors, textures and aromas happening now.

SEWARD BLUFFS: 16999 Comly Road, Seward.

An inviting scenic overlook high on a bluff looks out over the Grove Creek valley and offers a bird's eye view of the preserve's golden display of maple forest and picturesque limestone bridge.

BLACKHAWK SPRINGS:

5360 Mulford Road & 5801 Perryville Road, Cherry Valley. This popular preserve offers a two-mile paved recreation path, as well as a network of dirt and grass trails that wind through woods and prairie.

HONONEGAH:

#80 Hononegah Road, Rockton. Hononegah's winding roads and bridges provide a nice fall drive-through, as well as walking opportunities.

KLEHM ARBORETUM:

2715 S. Main Street, Rockford. An astounding variety of trees can be found in this living tree museum. The collection boasts trees from around the world, as well as native species.



LOCKWOOD PUMPKIN FEST

Sunday, October 13,
10am - 5pm
Lockwood Park
5201 Safford Road,
Rockford

BULB SALE

Sunday, October 13
10am - 3pm
Klehm Arboretum Garden
Pavilion



Why do leaves change color in the Autumn?

Most of the spectacular colors of autumn have actually been in the leaves all summer, however they were "covered up" by the dominant green of the chlorophyll. As weather cools, and shorter days settle in, the chlorophyll begins to break down, revealing new and varied color pigments. The brightest colors are seen when late summer is dry, and autumn has bright sunny days and cool nights.



White Birch



GREEN - Chlorophyll

Chlorophyll is responsible for helping trees and plants turn sunlight into food. For most months, it is the dominant color seen in most leaves until it fades away. As many trees shut down their food production, they turn to stored sugars to survive the winter.



Swamp Chestnut Oak



RED - Anthocyanin

Unlike other leaf colors that always exist in the leaf, anthocyanins are produced as the chlorophyll is broken down. The anthocyanins are often seen in leaves named for their autumn splash of red including Red Maples, Scarlet Oaks, and Red Sumacs.



Sugar Maple



ORANGE - Carotene

Sugar Maples may be one of the best examples of carotene in action. Their bright signature orange fills many hills and country roads throughout the northern US. Sassafras leaves also turn a slightly more muted orange. As its name implies, Carotenes are also the chemical responsible for giving carrots their unique coloring.



Aspen



YELLOW - Xanthophyll

Xanthophyll can be seen throughout the fall in trees including beeches, ashes, birches, aspens, and some oaks. It also contributes its bright yellow color to autumn squash and corn.