

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 6 Issue 6

Editor: Kathy Batzkall

JULY 2021

The 4 CRG Clubs:

Plantaholics

Potpourri

Seedlings

Wildflowers

Council Motto:

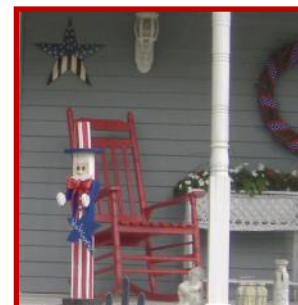
"Enjoy nature's bounty
and beauty through work
and creativity."

Council Website:

councilofrockfordgardeners.org

Club calendars listed
on website,

or please check with your
garden club on status of
individual club activities.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Co-Presidents: Ann Somers & Sarah Britton

The Council of Rockford Gardeners Pandemic Garden Walk was a huge success! A little rain doesn't stop gardeners from visiting and enjoying a garden. Thank you to Deb Bieschke (Plantaholics), Sherry Seaver (Potpourri), Susan Buzzard (Seedlings) and Pat Bellezza (Wildflowers) who generously opened their gardens. We also need to thank Mary Wulff for being our 'bonus garden.' Technically she represents all clubs as she is a member of all of them! We thank Lori Walsh for editing the garden descriptions and Arch Smith for chairing the Garden Walk Committee. Garden walks are an excellent opportunity to learn and grow our garden knowledge. We look forward to the gardens 2022 will bring!

The recent rain isn't enough to make up for the deficit but is certainly welcome. Crunchy brown turf, curled leaves, stunted growth and drooping flower heads are not what we want to see in our gardens. Gardeners have a closer more personal connection to our earth and we see firsthand how weather affects the growing of food and our garden pretties. Let's be good stewards of our planet, Earth!

Our public gardens: Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden, Anderson Japanese Garden, Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens, Midway Village Museum and Heritage Gardens as well as Winnebago County Forest Preserves and Rockford Park District areas are all open and waiting to be explored. Visit one today and share your photos with us on our Facebook page: Council of Rockford Gardeners, Inc. or email photos to Susan Schumacher: sueschu13@hotmail.com

Keep playing in the dirt,

Sarah & Ann

JULY
2021

In This Issue:

P1

*Club Information;
President's Pen*

P2

*Ethel Johnson Lilac
Garden update;
American Rose Soc.*

P3

*Anne Meyer Memorial;
Book Signing Party*

P4

*CRG Pandemic
Garden Walk*

P5

*Horticulture
Happenings*

P6

Jumping Worms

P7

Garden Events

P8

Plant-a-Row

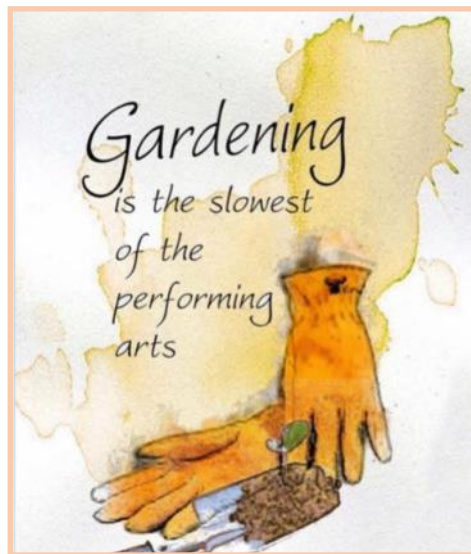
SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



ETHEL JOHNSON LILAC GARDEN UPDATE

The Ethel Johnson Lilac Garden is an ongoing project at Klehm Arboretum. We'll continue to weed on the 2nd and 4th Mondays throughout the summer. Approximately 60 new plants were added to the garden recently. Signage will be in place soon. It is a lovely garden now and will mature into an even lovelier garden. Join us whenever it fits in your schedule!



The American Rose Society

For the gardener who grows some roses or who would like to learn more, the Rose Society is hosting a special educational event. Of course, anyone is welcome to sign up for the full event to be held September 10-13.



On Saturday and Sunday, September 11, 12, there will be a special program for Community Gardeners including lectures by nationally recognized speakers. Topics will include rose growing basics, pests, David Austin English Roses and companion planting. There will also be docent led tours of the National Rose Show and garden tours including Will Radler's Rosarium.

Registration for the Community Gardeners Program will also include a 4-month American Rose Society trial membership, a full year membership to the Milwaukee Rose Society and a complimentary rose bush.

The meeting will be hosted at the Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin with special rates for attendees.

Gardeners may find more information and register at creamcityroses.org.

The title Cream City recalls the classic cream-colored bricks of Milwaukee.



In Memory of Anne Meyer

Anne Davis Meyer, 88, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. She was married 62 years to her beloved husband Norman H. Meyer. Together they built a home where they farmed, gardened and raised five children. Anne valued hard work, loved her family, and strived to make the world a better place.

Anne was a resourceful and adventurous homemaker. She kept a large vegetable garden, tended fruit trees, foraged mushrooms, and developed a robust canning, preserving and fermentation program. She shared her skills with her children and as a leader of their local 4-H club. Anne took great pride in her work. She ran Enders Greenhouse in Cherry Valley for 32 years, continuing the family business started by her grandfather in 1912. There she cultivated her love of native plants and passion for prairie restoration. A Master Gardener, Master Naturalist and an educator at heart, Anne shared her native plant expertise generously and enthusiastically. She dedicated herself to a prairie installation at her church, which

grew into an educational habitat for children at Immanuel Lutheran School. She was an active member of Rock River Valley Wild Ones, Immanuel Lutheran Church, the League of Women Voters, and Seedlings Garden Club.

Anne and Norm donated two historic barns from their farm to Midway Village Museum and were integral to their restoration. Anne also led efforts to establish the prairie and native wetlands that make up Midway Village's Heritage Gardens.

Her legacy of prairie restoration and habitat preservation can be seen throughout Northern Illinois, including in a namesake prairie garden at Nygren Wetlands.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, July 16, 2021, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Belvidere, with a visitation beginning at 9:30 am. Suggested memorials: Natural Land Institute (320 S 3rd St, Rockford, IL 61104), Midway Village Museum (6799 Guilford Rd, Rockford, IL 61107) or Severson Dells (8786 Montague Rd, Rockford, IL 61102).

Open House: Book Signing and Garden Party

July 31st from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

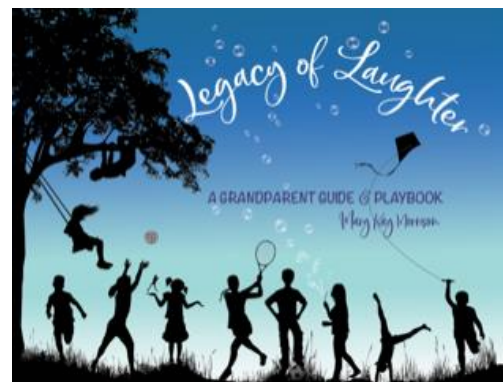
Morrison Meadows Home

322 Canary Drive, Caledonia, IL

Celebrating with balloons and bubbles! I hope you can join us for this joyful garden party and the release of Mary Kay Morrison's new book, "**Legacy of Laughter: A Grandparent Guide and Playbook!**"

We are excited to promote how grandparents can make a significant difference in the lives of children by finding time to laugh and play! You will meet our 12 amazing grandchildren who have been instrumental in helping write this book. They each have their own special path in the woods, and they would love to give you a tour of their path. Light refreshments will be served.

Mary Kay is a Seedlings member.



One of the 12 garden paths for each of the grandkids.

MEMBERS' PANDEMIC GARDEN WALK

JULY 7, 2021



Mary Wulff's Bonus Garden



**Wildflowers Garden Club:
Pat Bellezza**



**Seedlings Garden Club:
Susan Buzzard**



**Potpourri Garden Club:
Sherry Seaver**



**Plantaholics Garden Club:
Deb and Marty Bieschke**

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

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

Dragonflies

The Dragonfly symbolizes change, transformation and adaptability in almost every part of the world. They are among our oldest living creatures. Dragonflies move with elegance and grace in the garden, as they keep the mosquito population at bay. Ninety percent of their diet is mosquitoes, and dragonflies eat them in all stages of their life. An adult dragonfly can eat as many as 300 mosquitoes a day. They consume their own body weight in bugs each half-hour, so it is a plus to have these beautiful creatures in our gardens.

Dragonflies are drawn to areas where there is standing water, such as streams and wetlands. They breed in water and feed on insects found near water. To attract dragonflies to your garden, plant trees and shrubs around the perimeter of your yard and add a variety of blooming plants. Swamp milkweed, black-eyed Susans and Joe-Pye weed will attract pollinators which serve as food for dragonflies. If you are planting around a pond, include rocks. These act as hiding places for larvae during the insects' under-water growth stage. You can create a water source for them without a pond by placing a wading pool in the garden and including flat rocks they'll use to 'soak up some rays.'

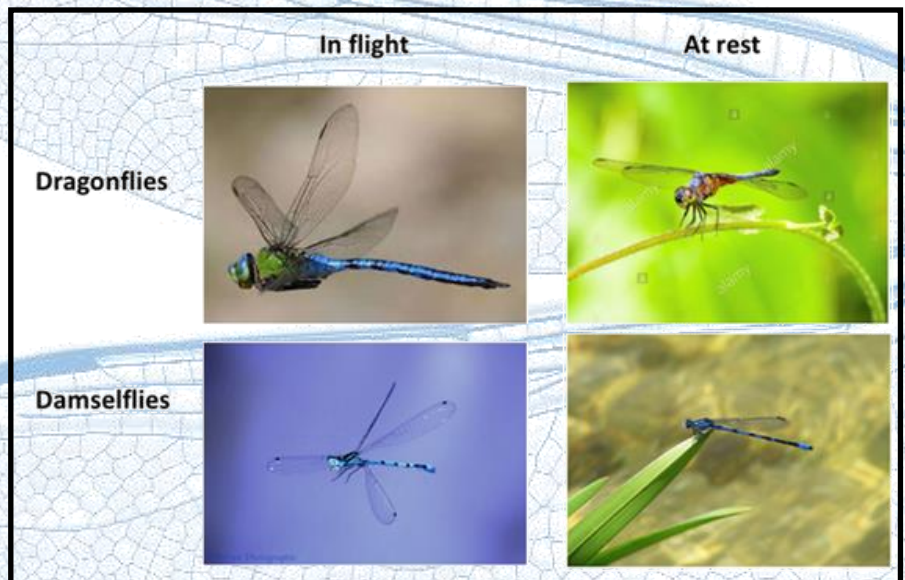
Odonata is the order of flying insects that includes dragonflies and damselflies (a relative of the dragonfly). Their life cycle consists of three stages: egg, nymph and adult. The adults lay eggs on or near the water. The eggs hatch after three to five weeks into nymphs called naiads. During this second stage of life, the dragonfly larva (also known as a nymph or naiad), are tiny creatures with ravenous appetites, consuming not only mosquito larvae but also, on occasion, minnows and tadpoles. The dragonfly nymph may molt as many as 15 times and grow up to 20 times its original size before climbing out of the water and undergoing its final metamorphosis. In the final stage, the skin along the nymph's back dries out and splits open, and the adult dragonfly emerges. Illinois has 98 dragonfly species. The species are divided into seven families: clubtails, cruisers, darners, emeralds, petaltails, skimmers and spiketails.

Food is not the only thing the dragonfly hunts. Most species survive as adults only for a month or two, so mating is an urgent priority. Like eating, mating takes place during flight. The female then lays her eggs, and the circle of life continues.

Dragonflies are considered an indicator species; their populations levels provide researchers with a measure of the health of wetland environments. Not surprisingly, human actions present serious threats to dragonfly populations. Sewage contamination and fertilizer run-off from farms and urban lawns promote bacterial and algal growth, which depletes oxygen supplies in the water. Pesticides kill dragonfly larvae. Help keep these graceful, important insects healthy and alive in your gardens and ponds.

Dragonfly metamorphosis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCGibk-IFU8>

A look at the amazing dragonfly eyes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5XUdvBO_TE



~~ Please Note ~~

There was no Council meeting in July, nor will there be one in August.
Also, there will be no newsletter in August. See you in September!

Jumping worms/Crazy worms/Snake worms

Lori Walsh and EJ Rebman, Plantaholics members

Help! I just discovered that we have Asian Jumping Worms at the Rebman garden. I had previously heard about them and Lori and I took a webinar and have listened to podcasts about them. Last week I found them in my garden. Lck!

What are Asian Jumping Worms?

They are a recently imported species native to East Asia which was found in Wisconsin in 2013 and Illinois in 2015. There are now considered endemic here, so you may assume that you have them in your garden.

What do they look like?

Until you study them closely, they look like regular earthworms. They are 1 1/2" - 8" long. They are smooth, shiny and the clitellum which circles the worm's body, is cloudy white to gray and is NOT raised like on valued earthworms. This clitellum is found 13 segments from the head, while on valued earthworms it is found much lower on the body. When they are very young the clitellum is barely visible. The jumping worms are found close to the top of your soil and move in a distinctive manner—a side-to-side motion like a snake. If you find worms in the upper layer of soil and are active, assume they are the jumpers.

Feel like doing a little science experiment?

The soil where they are living becomes the texture of coffee grounds. If you see an area like this and think you might have jumping worms, try this experiment. Mix 1/3 cup mustard powder (spice) to 1 gallon of water. Slowly pour the mixture on the garden area of concern. The mustard solution is a skin irritant for them and it brings them up out of the ground.

(Note from EJ...I poured this mixture where I found my worms but none came out of the ground. We had cleared out all of the sedum ground cover from the spot and killed about 12 worms, so maybe there are no more at this time.)

Why are jumping worms a problem?

Matthew L. Miller from blog.nature.org describes it beautifully. His post follows:

“Leaf litter provides essential nutrients to the forest. Trees need long-lasting sources of nutrients. When jumping worms quickly turn leaves into very loose soil (resembling coffee grounds), they deprive trees of essential nutrients.

They thus can inhibit the establishment of tree seedlings. The altered soil is inhospitable to many native plant species. And that soil also disrupts the relationships between fungi and trees.

In short, the jumping worm could have profound effects on the overall forest ecosystem.

They are parthenogenetic meaning that they can reproduce with no fertilization.”

Is there a way to get rid of invasive jumping worms?

Currently there is no effective way to get rid of these jumpers at this time, although research is being done into using fertilizers to kill them. It is important to be aware of their presence, and when you see them in your garden, catch them and put them in a baggie to toss in the garbage. DO NOT throw them in the compost.

What about plant swaps/plant sales?

It is now recommended that you thoroughly “root wash” plants from swaps and sales. This dislodges both the worms and their egg casings. Be certain to not throw the waste water back in your garden because of the egg casings which can be difficult to spot.

Fascinated/worried about this new invader?

Read more about them here:

<https://joegardener.com/podcast/invasive-jumping-worms/>

Or watch them here: <https://youtu.be/jrGnUFDXuyQ>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE GARDEN EVENTS

KLEHM ABORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

Woodsong Concert Series

3rd Sunday in July - August; Gates open @ 4:30 pm;
Music starts @ 6:00 pm

Enjoy some tunes amid the blooms and blossoms of our Fountain Garden at these Ravinia-style concerts featuring a variety of great musicians.

Make your own Peace Pole

Saturday, August 14, 10 AM – 3 PM

Karla Lombardo of ArtbyKarla will teach you how to make your very own colorful Peace Pole to add creative flair to your garden. Each Peace Pole is a PVC post sleeve measured 4"x4"x44". ArtbyKarla will provide all the materials needed to create this project except for varnish that takes overnight to dry.

As this class takes around 5 hours, please feel free to bring a lunch and/or snacks along, however a face covering is required to be worn at all other times. Class will take place in Visitor's Center Gallery.

Space is limited so don't wait to purchase your tickets! This class fills up fast! \$68 per person. REGISTER ONLINE

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY & GARDENS

Savage Gardens: *THE REAL AND IMAGINARY WORLD OF CARNIVOROUS PLANTS*

JUNE 26 - NOVEMBER 7, 2021

The display features dozens of species, including Venus flytraps, pitcher plants, trumpet plants, butterworts, sundews, and more. Since many carnivorous plants are quite small, there will be feature areas to get a close-up view of these amazingly adapted plants. Immerse yourself in this unique world, and experience larger-than-life interactive sculptures that will give you a "bug's eye" view of these unique flora.

Regular admission rates apply to this exhibit. In areas of the Conservatory where six feet of social distance space does not allow itself, guests are asked to please wear a mask; masks are required inside the Gift Store.

Free Plant Swap

Saturday, July 17, 1 – 3 PM

Calling all houseplant enthusiasts! Bring a few cuttings or potted plants to swap. We may even have some retired plants from NCG available! Houseplants only, please. Potted plants must be in 6" pots or smaller.

Swap is outdoors and FREE.

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

Tuesday Evening in the Gardens

FREE for Premium Garden Members (advanced registration still required) and cost of regular admission for Basic & Non-Members.

Performances start at 5:45PM. Onsite food vendors. Carry in picnics are welcome. Carry in beverages are prohibited.

Off-site parking available at the College of Medicine with free shuttle service to Gardens.

July: A Celebration of Traditional Japanese Arts

Each week will have different activities and programs in which families can participate. Advanced registration is required for workshops and classes. Garden admission is included with registration fees. Click below:

<https://andersongardens.org/july-a-celebration-of-of-japanese-cultural-arts/>

NATURE AT THE CONFLUENCE

Discover The Women Of The Confluence | Time Traveler Series Program

July 25, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, FREE.

Nature At The Confluence Learning Center,
306 Dickop Street, South Beloit.

This program will delve into the lives of the women who lived here from 1800-1880, raising their families, and growing and harvesting crops to sustain them. From the Ho-Chunk women who made their homes here until they were forced to leave, to the two Native American wives of fur trader Joseph Thibault, to the first settlers who arrived by wagon to build their home in the new frontier. We'll also learn about the women of the 15 Irish immigrant families that left their impoverished country to settle right here on this property in 1857. While their husbands toiled to build the new railroad, the women strived to build a new home and raise a family here, thus creating the first settlement they called "Illinoy", which later became South Beloit, IL.

This free program of the Time Traveler Series is Presented by Executive Director, Therese Oldenburg

Seating is limited and registration is required – please RSVP to reserve your seat. 815-200-6910.

Program will be held indoors

This program will be repeated on Sunday, September 12, 1pm as part of Beloit Heritage Days.

University of Illinois Extension

Plant-a-Row 2021

Share your Harvest with the Hungry



Year Round Drop-off Sites in Rockford

University of Illinois Extension

1040 North Second Street
Monday-Friday, 9am to 4pm

Rock River Valley Pantry

421 South Rockton Street
Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 3pm

Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau

1925 South Meridian Road
Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4pm

Seasonal Drop-off Sites

mid-May - mid-October

Cherry Valley Public Library

755 East State Street, Cherry Valley
Tuesdays, 3:30pm to 5:30pm

The Landscape Connection

4472 South Mulford Road, Rockford
Monday-Saturday, 9am to 6pm
Sunday, 11am to 3pm

July 7 - September 8

Edgebrook Farmers Market

(Edgebrook Shopping Center, corner
of North Alpine and Highcrest Roads, Rockford)
Wednesdays, 10am to Noon

What is Plant-a-Row for the Hungry?

- University of Illinois Extension-Winnebago County Master Gardeners work to raise awareness about the issues surrounding hunger in our community.
- Plant-a-Row for the Hungry provides a much needed outlet for vegetable gardeners to donate their over-abundance of produce, which helps to meet the increasing demands on local food pantries.
- U of I Extension inspires gardeners to "*plant an extra row*" of veggies in their gardens with the intent of donating that extra produce to help end hunger.



GWA
Foundation

**Plant a Row
for the Hungry**



QUESTIONS? Contact

University of Illinois Extension-Winnebago County
1040 North Second Street, Rockford, Illinois 61107
(815) 986-4357

(visit our office on the Rock River-access via Ethel
Avenue stoplight-south of the Nicholas Conservatory)

<http://extension.illinois.edu/jsw>