

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 6 Issue 6

Editor: Kathy Batzkall

SEPTEMBER 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

As we approach the autumnal equinox, one of two days in the year the sun is exactly above the Equator and day and night are of equal length, we prepare to say good bye to summer and hello to fall. For gardeners, it is a time of harvest and reflection of the past growing season. The summer of 2021 can be characterized as hot and dry. Seems a bit of an understatement since we have a moisture deficit of 12 inches! The extended forecast doesn’t show much promise of making any of that up in the near future. With our gardener’s optimism we’ll hope the rains come and all our plant life, except the pesky weeds, are nourished!

Our members are some of the most experienced and knowledgeable gardeners... we can learn so much from working together and sharing that vast knowledge. Thank you to Diane Fitz of Wildflowers for knowing and explaining ‘day lily proliferation.’ And, thanks to Anita Wetzberger also of Wildflowers for ‘dog vomit slime mold!’ Yep, both are real things! Next time you see Diane or Anita let them explain and you can then share these phenomena with others.

We wouldn’t have thought we’d still be navigating Covid, but we are. Council has decided the best course of action is to reinvent the 2021 Council of Rockford Gardeners Holiday Luncheon and Fundraiser. Fortunately, we have clever and innovative members working on this event. Thank you, Deb Bieschke! Look for additional details in the coming weeks.

Keep playing in the dirt,

Sarah & Ann

SEPTEMBER
2021

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SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



SUMMER BLOOMS IN MEMBERS' GARDENS



From Gina Ross's Garden

Gina said, "My granddaughter, Olivia, loves daisies and chasing butterflies."



Z Z Z

Hydrangea blooms mightily for first time

It's been here for 5 years. Every year it only has one or two blooms. This year, for some unknown reason, it's blooming like crazy. And I love it.

—Judy Johnson





In Remembrance Lorraine White

There are special people who never leave us
... even after they are gone.



Lorraine White passed away August 8, 2021. She was a member of Wildflowers and Plantaholics garden clubs. She worked on the committee for Council of Rockford Gardeners Annual Garden Walks. She enjoyed taking care of her yard and her perennial and vegetable gardens.

Her many other joys included ushering for Artists Ensemble Theatre, traveling, especially to Door County and Florida, dining out, shopping and cooking. She was a chef extraordinaire!

Throughout her life she gave countless hours to her church by serving on the Women's Guild, heading up the Funeral Luncheon ministry, planning and prepping foods for Holy Family clergy, parish retreats and various other events. She held fast to her Catholic values and beliefs and she exemplified those values in and outside her home.

Lorraine left a lasting impression of her kindness, her faith and the importance of service to others. She was a dear friend to many.

May her soul rest in peace.



Save the date!

You are **UNINVITED** to a
*Holiday "No Lunch" Luncheon
and Scholarship Fundraiser
in the comfort of your own home.*

December 8, 2021

Watch for further details next month



GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES

The **Wildflower Garden Club** went to Countryside Flower Shop, Nursery and Garden Center in Crystal Lake on **July 22nd**. One of the floral designers did a demonstration on flower arranging, using flowers and greenery which she had picked from her own garden and the roadside. A few lucky members received her lovely arrangements



The winners:

Jan Person, Irene Vella, and Marilyn Drake



Anita Wetzberger (Wildflower member) and the 2 lb 5 oz Ox Heart tomato which she grew and brought to our Wildflower picnic in August.

Wildflowers August meeting/ picnic at Joyce Lillie's home



Alice Moczynski, Sharon Bramel, Mary Pinter



Sharon Bramel, Joyce Lillie,
Alice Moczynski

Check out Council of Rockford Gardeners Facebook Page!

The Council of Rockford Gardeners has a page on Facebook. Since it is used by millions of people daily, it is a good tool to attract members and spread information about our clubs' activities. Our page is open to the public, and any member of the Facebook group can post. If any club members are not on Facebook but wish to have photos or information shared, you may email it to Susan Schumacher at: sueschu13@hotmail.com.



Coming in Spring 2022

We will be holding a CRG

Plant Sale and Garden Boutique

Save your slightly used or new garden/flower related items to donate for the sale. Also when you divide your plants in spring, save some for this sale.

Proceeds will go to our scholarship fund.

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

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

Heuchera

As we enter Autumn and our garden plants fade, one that stands out is the heuchera. I cannot get enough of this plant in my garden! Heucheras stand out as one of the most versatile perennials you can grow even as the colder weather and shorter days are with us. There is a heuchera in just about every shade for *any* place in your garden. They are my go-to for the borders in my garden and come in just about every shade and will grow from full sun to full shade.

Heucheras belong to the Saxifragaceae family of herbaceous perennial flowering plants. Coral bells as they are commonly referred to work well in zones 4-9. Some other plants in the Saxifragaceae family include shade loving, astible, rodgersia, bergenia and tiarella. I have found that once they are established, you don't have to make a special effort to keep them watered especially if they are in a partial sun or shade area.

Planting and Care

Choose an area of partial shade for best results, but Heuchera are also versatile enough to cope in the full shade of tricky, hard to fill spots in the garden as well as full sun. They like nutrient rich, well-drained and slightly acidic soil and prefer good drainage. Prefers cool, moist soil but will tolerate a variety of soils. Grow in partial to full shade.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Short spikes of airy, star-shaped flowers form a foamy haze over the attractive, low-growing foliage. Grow it as a groundcover or edger in a shady border or woodland garden. They are a great foil to early spring bulbs.

Choice Varieties

Ideal for growing in a border, or in patio containers, try mixing different varieties of Heuchera together for a rainbow color effect. The variation and range of colors available is a gift to gardeners.

Plants in the genus *Tiarella* (cousins of Heuchera) are at home in moist woodland environments of North America and East Asia. In the garden they make wonderful carpets of intricate leaves in a variety of shapes and with distinct markings. From spring into summer, the profusion of flowers can be appreciated up close or from a distance. Generally, running forms have smaller flowers than the semi-runners, and clumping forms have the showiest flowers.

Remember to continue to water your trees and shrubs as winter is closing in.



Autumn is the second spring where every leaf is a flower.

— Albert Camus

What about that carbon?

Lori Walsh and EJ Rebman

GROW YOUR VOCABULARY

Soil or dirt?

"Dirt is made up of sand, silt, and clay, and it may be rocky. It has none of the minerals, nutrients, or living organisms found in soil. It is not an organized ecosystem. There is no topsoil or humus, no worms or fungi." (Wikipedia) This is a practice we can embrace and understand to have a healthy property.

Regenerative agriculture

Regenerative agriculture describes farming and grazing practices that, among other benefits, reverse climate change by rebuilding the organic matter in soil and restoring degraded soil biodiversity - resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle. (Lemus)

Carbon gardening or carbon sequestration

Carbon sequestration is a process in which CO₂ is removed from the atmosphere by the plants and is then stored in the soil carbon pool. This is a good thing! More plants absorb more CO₂, which is then stored as organic matter in the humus.

As science has proven, the cause of climate change is too much carbon in the air. More plants means more carbon is removed from the atmosphere.

The goal of carbon sequestration is to improve the health of our soil which improves the health of our planet. The health of our plantings depends on healthy soil. When you have good soil, you have healthy biodiversity underground.

Increased biodiversity develops deeper root systems. The resulting microbial and fungal life traps more carbon.

WE CAN HELP SEQUESTER CARBON!

1. **Practice no-till gardening**

Tilling breaks apart organic matter which destroys the microorganisms (mycorrhizae) that connect the roots. This underground connection is vital for healthy plants.

2. **Don't use pesticides or buy plants that have been started with systemic pesticides**

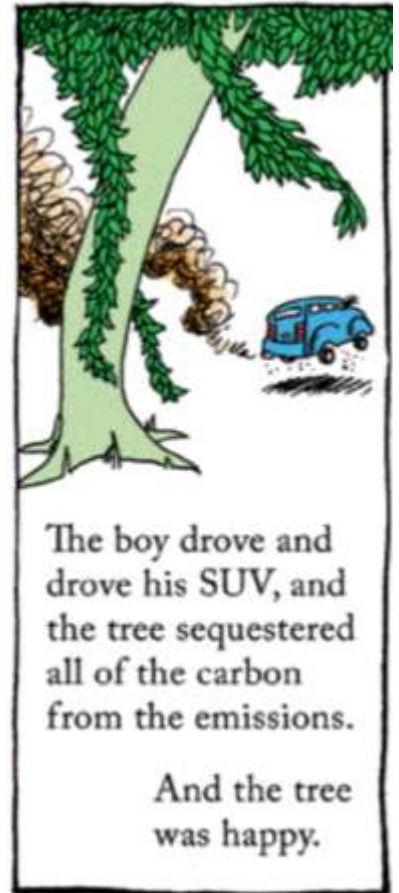
Pesticides kill the microorganisms and microscopic life in the soil. They contaminate your soil; the manufacture of pesticides adds tons of carbon to the atmosphere.

3. **Plant natives**

It's not necessary to be a purist with native plantings. Aiming for 80% native plants is a worthy goal. Planting natives helps pollinators and keeps watering to a minimum.

4. **Leave the leaves and make compost**

Leaving leaves in your garden in the fall adds carbon to your soil. Compost your leaves and apply this compost as soon as it looks like soil.



In summary, we'd like to leave you with two quotes.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "A nation that destroys soil destroys itself."

Monica Evans: "We have to stop treating soil like dirt". She went on to explain: "There is four times as much carbon stored below ground as in all of the world's vegetation. That's because healthy soil is full of fungi and microorganisms that feed on carbon from dead plants and animals and from the roots of living plants."

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT



TREASURER'S REPORT - Submitted by **Mary Ann Miller**, Treasurer

Balance as of August 1, 2021	\$2,993.95
Receipts none)	0.00
Disbursements: (Jesse White 501c3 fee)	(10.00)
Ending Balance as of August 31, 2021	\$2,983.95

Programs – Deb Bieschke started a discussion on the December Luncheon or doing a “No Luncheon-Luncheon” and asking for donations for our scholarship fund. Ann Somers reported that we got donations of \$435 at the last luncheon from members not attending. We have 113 members, so if every member gave at least \$10, we would make over \$1,000. Each club will donate 1 item for raffle prizes. After further discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to have a “No Luncheon-Luncheon” or “No Show Luncheon” this December.

Publicity – Ann Somers reported that there was an article about CRG in “Garden Glories” and thanked **Susan Schumacher** for getting it in Garden Glories. Susan said that it was not her who got it into Garden Glories. Susan reported that she puts CRG pictures and information on Facebook and also does it for the Illinois Garden Club. We can email any Facebook information to Susan Schumacher at: sueschu13@hotmail.com.

Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio said she thought it is important to give a scholarship, despite having no holiday luncheon this year. After a discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to give a scholarship for \$1,000 this year. Elaine reported that she will contact Kishwaukee College, and Elaine hopes that we can meet the scholarship recipient in the future.

Civic and Conservation – Ann Somers reported that Habitat for Humanity will have 4 homes this fall. The people who volunteered planters last year will do them this year. There will be 1 planter donated by each of our 4 clubs.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith had no report.

Horticulture – Ann Somers reported that this is the last year Gina Ross will write articles for our newsletter, so a replacement will be needed for next year.

Hospitality – Ann Somers reported that the October meeting will take place at Klehm Arboretum.

Newsletter – Kathy Batzkall would like articles to her by the end of the week of each Council meeting in order to

have our newsletter completed and sent out within a week after the meeting.

Parliamentarian – Mary Pinter reported that all is fine.

Sunshine – Ann Somers reported that **Peg Goral** will send a card to anyone, so notify Peg if anyone needs a card.

Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde said that she likes the idea of repurposing our garden items and a plant sale in the spring– late May or June. The boutique would be connected to the plant sale. We need all club members to contribute plants and items - and also to buy things at the sale. The sale will be open to the public which will bring in additional funds. The sale could also be publicity for our garden clubs.

Website – Kathy Batzkall reported that fees to the webmaster will go up due to the need of extra security measures. We already pay \$72/year for maintenance and hosting, but the following need to be added: 1) A one time fee of \$25 for ‘recapcha’ technology to stop generating spam emails; 2) \$50/year for a SSL certificate to encrypt the website and make it secure. 3) \$9.95/month to update the website software with the latest safety codes. This last fee is normally \$60, but they discounted 83% for current customers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ann Somers reported that there is a very dedicated crew that shows up every time to work in the Ethel Johnson Lilac Garden (on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 9-12).

NEW BUSINESS

Susan Schmitz of Potpourri has been working at the Pantry gardens and said that it is a challenge to get help, and Ann Somers said that we need someone to head it up, and Susan Schmitz said she wouldn't mind heading it up.

Our next meeting will be on Monday October 4 at Klehm Arboretum.

All garden club members are encouraged to attend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE GARDEN EVENTS

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

Celebrating International Day of Peace

September 17-21

Gardens for Peace (G4P) is an initiative by North American Japanese Garden Association (NAJGA) that connects communities together in Japanese gardens to promote peace and mutual understanding. See more at:

<https://andersongardens.org/gardens-for-peace-2021/>

SEVERSON DELLS

Fall Colors Hike: Hononegah Forest Preserve

Wednesday, September 29, 5:30 PM 7:00 PM

Enjoy the smell of the fall air and the crunch of the leaves under foot as we walk among the beautiful colors of fall. \$3/Member, \$5 General Admission.

Registration is required:

<https://www.seversondells.com/events/fallcolorhike2021-hononegah>



KLEHM ABORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

A Path to Well-Being

Thursday, September 30, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

\$48 public adults, \$36 Klehm members

A nine unit, self-guided program designed to help promote one's emotional, physical and mental health and overall sense of well-being.

Register online <http://klehm.org/a-path-to-well-being/>

Autumn at the Arboretum

Saturday, October 9 – Friday, October 15

Open 9 am – 4 pm, **Daily Free Admission**

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY & GARDENS

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

JUNE 26 - NOVEMBER 7

The display features dozens of species, including Venus flytraps, pitcher plants, trumpet plants, butterworts, sundews, and more. Regular admission rates apply.



NEW! Autumn Art Classes!

Create Your Own Plush Pumpkins

Dates: Saturday 9/25 or Thursday 10/14

Times: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Visitors Center Gallery

Cost: \$45 per person

Come out to the beautiful Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden and learn how to make these cute plush pumpkins that are perfect for fall! ArtbyKarla will teach you how to finger crochet. She will then show you how to attach it to a 6.5 inch craft pumpkin to serve as the perfect fall decor for your home. All supplies are included in the price.



Natural Tree Slice Wreath Workshop

Date: Saturday 10/2

Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: Visitors Center Gallery

Cost: \$45 public, \$42 Klehm members

Join Director of Education & Programming, Sam Burbach, to make a tree slice wreath to adorn your home for fall. We'll be using natural wood slices and dried flowers gathered right here at Klehm to put together this beautiful wreath! You'll learn some tips on drying flowers and how to prepare tree branches to be used in craft projects, and then you'll put together your own wreath to bring home with you. All supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring a special ribbon or additional accent pieces to match your home decor if you wish. Ribbon and flowers may vary from the wreath shown. Space is limited.



Fall Foliage Walk & Watercolor

Date: Saturday, October 23

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Meet at the Visitors Center

Cost: \$35 per person

Celebrate fall colors out at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden with our Director of Education & Programming, Sam Burbach, and ArtbyKarla! Begin this class with a guided walk through the Arboretum to view the brilliant fall colors and learn about why leaves change in the fall. After the walk, ArtbyKarla will guide you through creating a colorful fall leaf painting using watercolors and leaves you gathered from your walk.



Dress to go for an outdoor walk. Layers are recommended as we will be outdoors and indoors for this program.

REGISTER online at www.klehm.org/events, in the Visitors Center Gift Shop, or by calling us at 815-965-8146.

Due to the latest COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, face coverings are required when indoors and social distancing is not possible. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

QUESTIONS? Email sburbach@klehm.org or call 815-420-3884.



HISTORIC IRIS SALE

Where: Midway Village Fall Craft Fair

When: Sunday, September 26th from 11am -3pm

What: Iris bulbs divided from our pre-1900s Collection, all of which are recognized by the Historic Iris Preservation Society. Some bulbs are traced back to as early as 1789.

Price: What a deal! Six- inch pots with multiple bulbs of these special irises are only \$15 per pot. There are some Mystery Iris Bulbs from the collection that were unlabeled that will be sold for \$10 per pot.

Proceeds will go to the historical garden program at Midway Village Museum to maintain the Iris garden.



Plantaholics tour cottage garden on September 7, 2021.

*Garden as though you
will live forever.*

— William Kent, English Architect and Landscape Architect



*Gardening is learning, learning, learning.
That's the fun of them. You're always learning.*

— Helen Mirren, British Actress