

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 7 Issue 1

Editor: Kathy Batzkall

JAN/FEB 2022

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

Four season gardening in northern Illinois? Is that possible? Of course, it is! The frozen tundra you see outside your window shouldn’t stop you from gardening indoors. There are so many garden projects to experiment with while we wait for our outdoor growing season to begin.

Amaryllis bulbs are one of the best ‘get out of the cold winter blahs’ projects. Bulbs can be started for Christmas blooming or wait until the new year. They provide the green growth we’re longing to see in January, February and March. What fun to watch the daily growth! There aren’t many plants that provide that much viewable magic.

Houseplants are another way to keep it green. The resurgence in popularity of houseplants has made selections at your favorite nursery greater than ever before. Try something new this year. Plan to add to the décor of your home now and your patio this summer.

Seed starting is without a doubt the most rewarding of all gardening projects. The seed catalogs are filling our mailboxes and are full of so many possibilities. Whether vegetables or flowers you will have more options from seed. Make this the year you grow from seed.

Keep playing in the dirt, Sarah & Ann

Editor’s Note: We send tremendous thanks to Sarah and Ann for 6 great years as co-presidents and bid them adieu, as their term has come to an end. Arch Smith will take the gavel in March.

Thank you especially to Ann— the core of everything she did was on behalf of the clubs and was out of a deep respect and appreciation for the institution of the Council, its members, nature and gardening.

In addition, Ann has always personally encouraged me to be the best editor and garden club member that I can be, even though I was challenged greatly by technology when learning how to do the website and newsletter! I so appreciate your loyalty and integrity and assistance! It was truly fun and interesting working with you and figuring out ways to think outside the box!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

JAN/FEB
2022

In This Issue:

P1
*Club Information;
President's Pen*

P2
*'No Show' Luncheon
Fundraiser results*

P3
*Garden Club
activities/photos*

P4
*Horticulture
Happenings*

P5
*Spring Plant Sale
and Boutique*

P6
*January Council
Meeting*

P7
Garden Events

P8
Valentine Fun Facts

SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



HOLIDAY "NO SHOW" LUNCHEON & SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER SUCCESS!

Thanks to our generous members, to date we've added \$2510.08 to the Council of Rockford Gardeners Scholarship Fund! Donations totaled \$2700.00, with expenses at \$189.92. What a terrific profit! We have the best members!

We are sorry we couldn't gather in person but appreciate your support of our 'No Show' luncheon. We look forward to a luncheon in 2022. In the meantime, our **2021 CRG Scholarship winner is Abigail D'Agostin**. Abigail graduated from North Boone High in May 2021 and will begin her second semester at Kishwaukee College in January. Congratulations to Abigail! We hope to meet Abigail in person at our next Council of Rockford Gardeners Luncheon and Scholarship Fundraiser.

Thank you to each of our clubs for donating a raffle item for the 'No Show' luncheon. Winners were drawn on December 8 and are as follows:

- **Sharon Bramel** – Gensler Garden \$40 gift card and yard art pole. Donated by Wildflowers
- **Carol Nelson** – Seedlings member, Mary Kay Morrison's book, *Legacy of Laughter: A Grandparent Guide & Playbook*. Donated by Seedlings
- **Carol Edson** – Cement birdbath. Donated by Potpourri
- **Jan Duncan** – Wind chime. Donated by Seedlings
- **Kathy Batzkall** – Cement lantern. Donated by Plantaholics

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle items!

Thank you **Lynne Franzene-Lynde** and **Maryann Miller** for handling the raffle.

Thank you to **Deb Bieschke** for suggesting and organizing the "No Show" luncheon!



Prizes modeled by Maryann Miller (our very own Vanna)

GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES



Potpourri Club met at Mary Jo Hull's home for a Christmas luncheon.

Photos courtesy of Mary Jo.



Habitat for Humanity

The beautiful porch pots were donated to the new owners of Habitat for Humanity homes.

Top arrangement created by Susan Buzzard.

Bottom pot created by Maryann Miller and Lynne Franzene Lynde.



Potpourri Club met at Linda Baker's home in January for a demonstration and display of her quilting projects.

Photos courtesy of Linda.



Seedlings

Seedlings members decided to try a book study in January, reading *The New Climate War! The Fight to Take Back Our Planet* by Michael E. Mann

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/53441709-the-new-climate-war?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=V9FkW9qNkf&rank=1

Reading and discussing a book together is a nice activity for the cold winter months. Clubs might consider reading other books related to gardening, conservation or related topics. Another book that looks interesting is *Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening: How I Learned the Unexpected Joy of a Green Thumb and an Open Heart*, by Carol Wall.

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

Yvette DeWispeleare, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

“Growing Together” A Season of Gratitude

Let's ease into this year giving ourselves permission to immerse ourselves in our gardens, delighting in life's adventures and taking time to enjoy as much as we can. Life is a beautiful and astounding journey, but since COVID, it has often been especially lonely. We need each other as much as we need the earth we share. Community is "hard wired" in us as human beings. Gardening is proven to alleviate stress and boost your mood.

Volunteering improves mental and physical health, provides a sense of purpose and nurtures new relationships. Be active in making the world a better place. *"Your work is to discover your world and then with all your heart give yourself to it."* - Buddha

Clean your tools and other garden items if you haven't already. Make a pile to donate to the CRG Fundraiser this spring.

Add natives! Not only do they help with water conservation after they're established, they attract pollinators and are extremely low maintenance. Less stress, right?

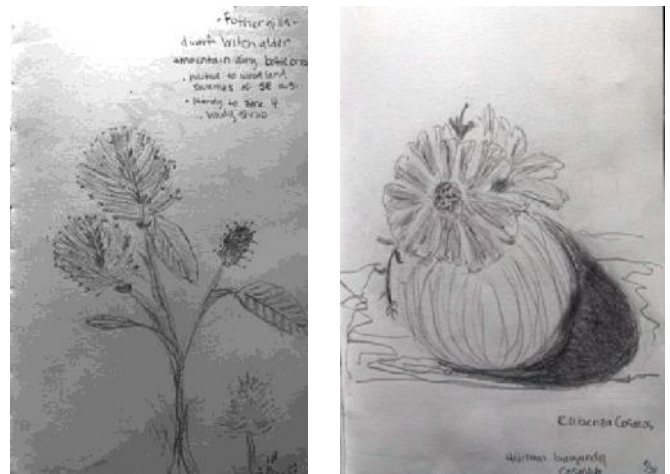
Share your produce. Home-grown produce ripened on the plant has more nutrients than store-bought because it's not picked early for shipping. Please donate excess produce to "Plant-A-Row for the Hungry." For information and drop-off locations, call the U of I Extension office at 815-986-4357.

Plant with a child. Gardening is a wonderful physical activity for children and adults alike and the tactile and sensory experiences of gardening can help children self-regulate, teaching them to grow their own food is an added plus. *“A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them.” - Liberty Hyde Bailey.* The same could be said for children.

Reading is shown to improve memory, build self-esteem and reduce stress...by as much as 68% according to Sussex university! Resolve to read at least one new Garden Book. This year's best reads: <https://www.gardensillustrated.com/garden-equipment/gardening-books/best-books-for-plant-lovers/>

Try your hand at drawing. Did you know drawing actively uses both sides of your brain? It improves critical thinking, hand-eye coordination, cognitive function and can improve your memory.

I'm not a great artist, but I love to doodle!



Visit Gardens! Here's a list from the AHS to give you a few ideas: <https://ahsgardening.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-RAP-Members.pdf>. I like to visit college campus gardens, here's 50 to get you started: <https://www.bestcollegereviews.org/features/most-beautiful-arboretums/>. Pack a picnic if you can or support a local restaurant.

If possible... **Invite people into your garden.** Beautiful gardens should be shared, and there's no better way show your love and knowledge of gardening. Above all, take care of yourselves and be thankful for the friends in gardening we've cultivated.

The best is yet to come. – Frank Sinatra





Spring Plant Sale AND Garden Boutique



**Mark your calendars!!
Sale is Friday and Saturday, May 27-28, 2022**

As you are waking up your garden this spring and find that you have extra plants or extra garden items that you will no longer use, please consider bringing them to the Council of Rockford Gardeners' Spring Plant Sale and Garden Boutique.

The Council of Rockford Gardeners (all clubs) will be having a Spring Plant Sale and Garden Boutique, May 27-28. Proceeds from this sale will be used for our scholarship fund. We need the support of all garden club members to make this a success. The sale will be open to the public, too, so tell your friends and share the sale information whenever and wherever you can.

If you have plants like Canna, start a few bulbs in early spring. Perennials, succulents and house-plants can be divided for the sale also.

Garden items do not need to be new, but must be clean and in good sellable condition. If you go to garage sales, Salvation Army, Good Will or estate sales, keep an eye out for items to include in our Boutique. If you do garden crafts, make extra!

This will be a huge undertaking and a lot of fun for our clubs. We are all so creative!!

We will need lots of volunteers! More info to come in future newsletters.

Here are some suggestions for the sale:

- . Plants, plants, and more plants
- . Seeds, pots, plant stands, garden art
- . Garden related fabric, linens, jewelry, framed art
- . Greeting and note cards
- . Anything bird related: bird houses, feeders, birdbaths etc.
- . Vintage and new garden tools
- . Gardening books and magazines
- . Spring and summer decor, wreaths
- . Garden related glassware, mugs, plates, serving dishes
- . Garden T-shirts, jackets, hats, gloves, boots



**If you have any questions, ideas, or want to volunteer now,
call or email Lynne at 815-985-2454 or ljlynde@aol.com.**

**Please support the sale in any way you can so we can continue
to assist horticulture students with scholarships!**



JANUARY 10, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

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

Balance as of December 1, 2021	\$4,205.51
Receipts (4)	1,050.00
Disbursements:	17.48
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2021	\$5,238.03

Programs – Deb Bieschke reported the “No Show Luncheon” was a great success! In her Agenda, Ann Somers wanted to thank Deb Bieschke and Kathy Batzkall for the “heavy lifting” and to Mary Ann Miller and Lynne Franzene-Lynde who managed the raffle.

Publicity – Susan Schumacher reported that she is going to try to do a news release about the scholarship given by CRG to Abigail D’Agostin of Poplar Grove. She will try to put it in the newspaper, in the newsletter, and on Facebook. Susan will also submit articles in Garden Glories.

Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio reported that our scholarship recipient is Abigail D’Agostin, a first year Horticulture and Design student at Kishwaukee College.

Civic and Conservation – No report.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that 6 or 7 gardens are lined up for this year. A decision will be made in February or March to determine if the Walk can be held this year. If so, it will be held on July 6th, the Wednesday after the 4th of July.

Horticulture – Yvette DeWispelaere reported that she wrote her first article for the January Newsletter and also had written an article for February regarding Valentine’s Day, however CRG does not have a newsletter in February.

Hospitality – Mary Pinter reported that in March we have our installation of officers and usually have it at a restaurant. Everyone pays for their own lunch. She will try to make a reservation at Tavern on Clark. The installation will be on March 7th, the first Monday in March.

Newsletter – Kathy Batzkall would like articles to her by the Friday after each Council meeting in order to have our newsletter completed and sent out within a week after the meeting.

Mary Ann Miller suggested that each club be responsible for sending a newsletter to those members without an email address. She said that the individual club may have its secretary or the person’s friend print off the newsletter and mail it or give it to that member. She will print one for Mary Wulff.

Parliamentarian – No report.

Sunshine – Cards were sent to Peg Goral, Trina Durstock, and Deb Bieschke. Cindy Rittenhouse is currently on vacation, so please contact EJ Rebman to send cards while Cindy is away.

Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde reported that we need to set a date for our plant sale and decide if we are also going to have a spring luncheon. **Elaine Parrovecchio** reported

that she needs to present the 2 scholarship recipients to honor them – usually at the luncheon. Lynne asked if we wanted to have both the plant sale and a spring luncheon. After much discussion, it was decided that we would have the plant sale on Friday and Saturday, May 27th and 28th.

Mary Ann Miller suggested just having a December luncheon and a spring plant sale – not having a spring luncheon. A discussion was held, and it was reported that we still don’t have a chairperson for the luncheons.

Susan Schumacher will advertise the Garden Sale date on Facebook. It was also suggested that the information could be put on Nextdoor, Craig’s List, Marketplace, etc.

Instead of a spring luncheon, suggestions were made regarding having a “gathering” or “cocktail party” and have appetizers and wine.

Arch Smith volunteered to have a fall gathering at his home. It was suggested that we would need a “fun name” for the event – “Fall Fest” or “Fall Frolic”, etc. It was also suggested that we would need a committee and someone in charge. After further discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to have a fall gathering the first part of October in place of the December luncheon.

Website – Kathy Batzkall reported that she needs a list of contributions made /public services provided by each club. In addition, Kathy needs a paragraph or two that describes each club, the club’s calendar for 2022, and the club’s updated membership list by March 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

EJ Rebman suggested we all congratulate Arch Smith, who will begin his term as our CRG president in March of 2022.

It was mentioned that District I usually hosts a Luncheon in March, but since District I is without a Director nothing has been planned so far. Ann Somers wrote in a message that this “has a great effect and impact on the connection to GCI and our participation in the organization.”

There is no meeting in February. Our installation meeting will be on Monday, March 7, at 11 A.M. at Tavern on Clark. All garden club members are encouraged to attend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE GARDEN EVENTS

WISCONSIN GARDEN & LANDSCAPE EXPO

FEBRUARY 11-13, 2022

Friday 12-7pm, Saturday 9am-6pm,

Sunday 10am-4pm

The full 2022 schedule is available online:

<https://wigardenexpo.com/schedule/all/both/>

Currently described as an indoor masked event.

Check website for updates.

Seminars and stage presentations scheduled throughout the day. Here are some examples:

- Gardening for Aging or Disability: "YES, you Cane!"
- Landscape Alternatives: How to Choose Beneficial Non-Invasive Plants for Your Yard
- Garden To Table Meals
- Contemporary Art Quilts and Fiber Art Inspired by Nature
- The Ecological Garden
- Edible Perennials

Advance Tickets

Save \$2 per ticket by purchasing in advance! Advance online tickets are available to purchase here:

<https://store.wigardenexpo.com/collections/tickets/products/admission-tickets>

KLEHM ABORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

Winter's Spirit Tranquility Walk

Tuesday, January 18

6:00 – 8:00 PM

\$4 Klehm members, \$7 Seniors, \$10 Public

Register online: <https://klehm.org/winters-spirit-tranquility-walk/>

WINTER HIKES WITH OUTSIDE 815

Email: info@815outside.com for hike information.

Registration is required

Hike at Colored Sands Preserve

February 2 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. FREE

Join us for a hike along the Sugar River and through the wintering prairies on this hike at Colored Sands Preserve! This hike will be between 2-3 miles in length, depending on snow conditions.

Hike at Rockford Rotary Preserve

February 12 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. FREE

Hike through the beautiful forest at Rockford Rotary Preserve! This hike will be around 2 miles long over some smaller rolling hills.

Hike at Severson Dells Preserve

February 16 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. FREE

Walk through Severson Dells Forest Preserve about 2 miles over cleared paved trails and snow-covered packed dirt trails. There are one or two small hills along the trails, but the terrain is otherwise flat.

MORTON ABORETUM

4100 Illinois Route 53

Lisle, IL 60532

<https://mortonarb.org/explore/categories/exhibitions>

The Morton Arboretum's outdoor art exhibition, Human+Nature, inspires awe and wonder as it connects people and trees.

Internationally renowned artist Daniel Popper created five 15- to 26-foot-tall sculptures exclusively for the Arboretum featured in various locations across its 1,700 acres, leading guests to areas they may not have explored before. It is his largest exhibition to date anywhere in the world. Human+Nature is included with timed-entry admission. Open through March 2023.



Fun Facts for Valentine's Day

By Yvette DeWispeleare

Valentine's Day can be traced to Ancient Rome, but the Victorians put romance—and vinegar—in the holiday!

St. Valentine

is the patron saint of lovers, but also beekeepers and epilepsy as well as traveling, fainting and the plague. You'll find his skull adorned with flowers at the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome.

There's more than one St. Valentine,

so Celebrate away! St. Valentine of Raetia (Jan. 7), St. Valentine of Viterbo (Nov. 3) and the Virgin Martyr of Palestine, St. Valentia (July 25).

Valentine Messages:

The first known "valentine" was a poem written in prison by Charles, the Duke of Orléans, Nephew of King Charles IV of France.

Roses:

250 million roses are produced annually for Valentine's Day.

The roses grown in the Andes boast the largest blooms in the floriculture market, up to two inches larger in diameter than roses grown in other countries, with stems reaching over five feet tall!

One rose means "Love at first sight," a Dozen: "Be Mine," Fifteen: "an apology," and Fifty: "Eternal Love!"



Here's a pretty cool reception,
At least you'll say there's no deception,
It says as plain as it can say,
Old fellow you'd best stop away.

"Vinegar Valentines"

comprised almost half of the messages sent by Victorians. "Tis a lemon I hand you and bid you now 'skidoo,' Because I love another, there's no chance for you" - an example of one card.