

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 7 Issue 4
Editor: Kathy Batzkall

MAY 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 are listed
on our website,
or please check with your
garden club on status of
individual club activities.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

May is upon us, the month we celebrate Mother's Day. In my family, Mother's Day was a huge family gardening event. As far as I can recall, each year my entire family, aunts - uncles and cousins would all gather at my Grandmother's house for a family day of teamwork. We would all work together getting her yard ready for the season, while my Grandmother would sit in a lawn chair watching over all of us as proud as she could be!

One of my uncles would edge my Grandmother's sidewalks, another uncle would trim all her trees and bushes, a few cousins would clean her garage and wash her windows, while a few others cleaned out her gutters and my oldest brother would always wash and wax her car. My mother and her two sisters would plant flowers in all of her planters, hanging baskets and flower beds. My stepfather would cook us lunch on the grill. It was truly a day of teamwork in honoring my Grandmother by all giving a bit of ourselves. I think I can easily speak for my entire family, that it really was our favorite holiday of all.

Thinking back at those days, what made it so special? Of course above all, honoring my Grandmother, but maybe it was also the "teamwork." All having a great time working together, laughing, telling stories and reminiscing. In a way, the Council of Rockford Gardeners is like our gardening family of sorts. We too have opportunities to all work together, laugh, tell stories and reminisce. Especially this year with several events needing teamwork and all members' help. We have our Plant Sale and Garden Boutique, our booth at Klehm's Garden Fair, CRG Annual Garden Walk and our Wednesday Volunteering at the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. Each of these volunteer events are great ways to work together, laugh, tell stories, reminisce and above all, make a little difference!

In closing, please remember,

"A single leaf working alone provides no shade." - *Chuck Page*

And for some of us,

"Teamwork is essential... it allows us to blame someone else." - *Pentacol*

Arch Smith

racs71@yahoo.com or 815-501-1640

MAY
2022

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SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



Saturday, June 4 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday, June 5 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

\$7 Presale, \$10 at the door

FREE for Klehm members and kids 12 & under

Garden Fair Weekend is back at Klehm the first weekend in June. Experience a wide variety of plants, flowers, garden décor, art, educational information booths and more! Enjoy live entertainment in our Fountain Garden over a meal from local food vendors!

Discounted presale tickets are now available! To purchase tickets visit the front desk inside Klehm's Main Visitor's Center or visit the following fine garden retail locations throughout Rockford:

Gensler Gardens, Village Green, Didier Greenhouses,
The Landscape Connection, Meridian Nursery, Pepper Creek

*All tickets (presale and those purchased the day of) are valid
for admission on both days of Garden Fair.*

Council of Rockford Gardeners Sign-Up for Klehm Garden Fair weekend

The Council is committed to having an information booth at the Garden Fair to answer questions about the clubs. It's an excellent time to contribute to the Rockford community, meet new people, and enjoy Klehm Arboretum.

Each garden club is responsible for filling 2 shifts at the Garden Fair. At least 2 volunteers are needed per shift, with 2 extra for backup.

Please contact Arch Smith with your preference for shift:
racs71@yahoo.com or 815-501-1640

Saturday, June 4th

Potpourri 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Full
Plantaholics 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. – 3 openings
Wildflower 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. – 3 openings
Seedlings 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. – 4 openings

Sunday, June 5th

Seedlings 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – 4 openings
Wildflower 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. – 4 openings
Plantaholics 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. – 4 openings
Potpourri 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. – Full





COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS

Spring Plant Sale AND Garden Boutique

**It's almost time!!
Friday and Saturday, May 27-28, 2022
Open to the public!**

**The Spring Plant Sale and Garden Boutique
will be held at the tennis court
in the 5400 block of
Gingeridge Lane, Rockford.**
Proceeds from this sale will be used for our scholarship fund.

**We still need your donations of plants and
boutique items, as well as your time.
All members are asked to help in any way you can
to make this a success for future scholarship winners.**

The sale will be open to the public, too, so please share the sale information whenever and wherever you can.

We need more volunteers! Many positions can be done while seated.

We need members, husbands, friends to help:


May 25 3 -6pm: Drop off of plants and
Boutique items (in plastic if needed
for weather)
May 26 set up for sale 8 - ?
May 27 Sale 8-5
May 28 Sale 8-3
May 28 3-? Clean up

Details for the sale are available from each club president or liaison, such as how to mark your plants, pricing, workers needed, tables and canopies, wagons, etc.

Here are some suggestions for the sale:

- . Great plants from our members' gardens
- . 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

Garden items do not need to be new, but must be clean and in good sellable condition.



**Let's make this a success!
If you have any questions, ideas, or want to volunteer now,
call or email Lynne at 815-985-2454 or ljlynde@aol.com.**

GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES

Potpourri Club

What fun we had April 12 doing the Kokedama meeting at Rock Valley Greenhouse! A very special thank you to our friend Sylvie Charest for teaching us how to make these cool little moss balls. It was a bit messy, but everyone's ball turned out great.

Photo on right : Diane Donze's kitchen window with hanging kokedama in center.



Seedlings Club

Visited Nicholas Conservatory in April for an adventure into The Secret Life of Butterflies exhibit.

Left: Jan Bowman was successful in getting a monarch to land on the 'nectar pop.'



Plantaholics Club

"Sploshed" through the marshy soil at the magnificent Kirkland, Illinois private property of member Yvette DeWisleare's former science teacher.

Lichens and moss and beaver dams, oh my!



REMEMBRANCE

By Yvette DeWispeleare,

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

Memorial Day, once known as Decoration Day, officially welcomes summer. Americans will grill 71 million hot dogs and consume three billion dollars' worth of beer as well as potato salad and beans. It's the second most popular grilling day after the 4th of July. It's also considered THE day to plant your tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants.... gardening day... a three-day weekend! Think about that for a minute.

The First Memorial Day Celebration was May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery, where, out of necessity, the United States was tasked with burying and honoring more than 600,000 Confederate and Union Soldiers in the bloodiest Military Conflict in American History. Some experts believe the day was planned because flowers would be blooming by then and it didn't coincide with the anniversary of any battles. Ribbons, flags, and flowers adorned graves and speeches were given paying tribute to those who gave the last full measure for their country.

Poppies left on graves were meant as a symbol of remembrance and consolation representing eternal peaceful sleep.

In what was once a part of the famous rose garden near the house of the Arlington Estate stands a Masonry Vault containing the remains of 2,111 unknown Confederate and U.S Army soldiers gathered from the fields and trenches from Bull Run to the Rappahannock River. The Monument is the first memorial at Arlington Cemetery dedicated to soldiers who died in battle whose remains couldn't be identified. I sent both my husband and my

daughter to war, and I cannot imagine the pain of not getting them back or not being able to identify their remains.

I've walked those hallowed grounds many times. The signs read "Silence and Respect." It's quite sobering. The view from Arlington House is stunning. The rose garden is beautiful. Arlington National Cemetery offers a Horticulture Program and Tree Walking Tour, showcasing landscaping techniques and urban Arlington's forestry program with more than 9,600 native trees, as well as turf grounds

maintenance. The Memorial Arboretum is a living tribute to those who have honorably served their nation.

Poppies are a self-seeding annual that can remain dormant in the soil for up to a century. Continual bom-

bardment disturbed the soil and brought the seeds to the surface. Scientists attributed the growth to enrichment of the soil from lime in the rubble of war left behind, the nitrogen in the explosives, as well as the blood and bones of soldiers and animals killed. Can you imagine the contrast between the beauty of the blooming poppies covering European countryside and the horrors of war? Americans will pin poppies to their lapels made by disabled veterans because of the famous poem by John McCrae who took pen in hand after losing his best friend in battle; in the absence of the Chaplain, McCrae had to bury his friend, and yet, blooming poppies on the graves of fallen soldiers gave him hope.

On a personal note, 1 LT Arthur G. Richardson USMC, died October 8, 1963 while serving in Viet Nam. He'd graduated top of his

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Remembrance continued...

class from flight school at Miramar and was on his first search and rescue mission. He was a 24-year-old newlywed who had just sent his bride roses for her birthday.

I was his only niece. My grandma kept a copy of the poem, "In Flanders Fields" in her desk with his photo. It was very well-worn as she handled it often. *Uncle Bud was the first soldier from Northern Illinois to die in Viet Nam.* My grandma grew poppies (Papaver orientale) in her garden, and I have the same poppies in mine.

<https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/National-Poppy-Day-Flanders-Poster-2021.pdf>.

It's important to remember Memorial Day is the day in observance of the Fallen and Missing and Veteran's Day is to observe All Veterans.



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NATIONAL POPPY DAY®

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

December 8, 1915 | John McCrae



MAY 2, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT



TREASURER'S REPORT - Submitted by **Maryann Miller**, Treasurer

Balance as of April 1, 2022\$5,593.03

Receipts: (none)00

Disbursements:

Garden Clubs of Illinois – dues583.00

Deluxe Printing - checks39.44

Ending Balance as of April 29, 2022\$4,970.59

Publicity – **Susan Schumacher** reported that she has done some news releases. She sent information to the *Register Star* and *Rockford Journal*. She is also working on signs for the Plant Sale.

Awards – **Elaine Parrovecchio** had no report, but she then asked if we would ever be getting back to our luncheons so we could honor our horticulture scholarship recipients. She said that we need to do something about the awards – to make them more ceremonial for the recipient. Arch said that at the Fall Frolic, we will present the awards, and he will have a PA system. We will do something to make them feel special.

Civic and Conservation – No report.

Garden Walk – **Arch Smith** reported that he has a friend who has an electronic billboard company, and Arch may be able to put the Plant Sale and the Garden Walk information up on the billboards. Arch also reported that he finally has all the gardens (6) agreed on for the July 6th Garden Walk. For the last Garden Walk, Arch said that we had business cards printed, and this year instead of doing a brochure with the garden addresses and directions, the Garden Walk business cards will refer people to the CRG website. There will also be a larger flyer made to put up in the garden centers.

Horticulture – **Yvette DeWispelaere** reported that the articles are going fine.

Hospitality – No report.

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.

Parliamentarian – **Sarah Britton** reported that things are getting done and that we are “on the ball.”

Sunshine – **Arch Smith** said that **Cindy Rittenhouse** reported that she sent a thank you note to Doug Stock at Nelsons Flower Shop for the Plantaholics tour, and a get well card to Jan Person for her knee surgery. *We should notify Cindy Rittenhouse if a card should be sent to a member.*

Ways & Means – **Lynne Franzene-Lynde** reported that Kathy Batzkall designed the plant sale cards and Lynne's daughter printed and cut them. Lynne has the signup sheet going around to work the plant sale, and she needs people to sign up. Lynne also reported that she will send an email to members to remind them of what they signed up to bring.

Mary Ann Miller will provide Lynne with “seed money” for the day of the sale. Lynne said that there are some expenses, but a lot of expenses are coming out of people's pockets as donations.

Lynne also said that she will have another meeting for the plant sale committee on Monday at 9:00 A.M.

Website – **Kathy Batzkall** reported that she will contact the webmaster for an invoice.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Arch Smith congratulated **Susan Schumacher** for the nice article that was published in the Spring/Summer *Garden Glories* magazine.

Arch asked that members please sign up on the sheets for the Klehm Garden Fair and for the Council's Spring Plant Sale and Garden Boutique.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. at Mary's Market on State Street.

All garden club members are encouraged to attend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE GARDEN EVENTS

KLEHM ABORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

2715 S. Main St, Rockford, IL
www.klehm.org | 815-965-8146 | info@klehm.org

Go Public Gardens Days **FREE admission all week**

Friday, May 6 – Friday, May 13 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Birds in the Garden: Creating & Enjoying a Bird Oasis **FREE!**

Monday, May 9 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

True Nature Tranquility Walk

Wednesday, May 18, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM; \$4 Klehm Members, \$7 Seniors, \$10 General Public
Register: <https://klehm.org/>

Hummingbirds – Zoom Webinar **FREE!**

Thursday, May 19 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Register online: <https://klehm.org/>

Create Your Own Jeweled Sun Catcher

Saturday, May 21 | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, \$65/person
Register online: <https://klehm.org/>

Garden Fair Weekend

Saturday, June 4 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday, June 5 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
\$7 Presale Tickets, \$10 Tickets at the door

NATURE AT THE CONFLUENCE

306 Dickop Street, South Beloit, IL
<https://natureattheconfluence.com/>

Community Fire & Drum Circle

May 19 | 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Whether you're a seasoned drummer, or have never picked up a drum, you are invited to participate! We have all kinds of fun percussion instruments for you to try! Or just come to enjoy the community fire, listen to the drumming and make a S'more!
Tuesday, June 21 6:30-8:00 pm is the Summer Solstice Celebration – join us as we celebrate the longest day of the year!

WILD ONES

<http://wildonesrrvc.org/>

Monthly Zoom meetings, replayed on YouTube:

http://wildonesrrvc.org/Monthly_Meetings.html
Current meetings available on the website include:
Owls; Shade Gardens: Native Plants and Ecological Benefits; Bell Bowl Prairie.

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL
<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

The Secret Life of Butterflies exhibit

Through May 29. Pre-purchase tickets online to avoid disappointment at the door. <https://nicholasconservatory.com/tickets>

Art Show by Paula Flanagan Marsh

Through May 22. Paula Flanagan Marsh is a Rockford native who will showcase her latest works at the Nicholas Conservatory.

Food Truck Tuesdays

Ongoing, 4-9 pm. Visit website for participating trucks, menus, and weekly truck locations. More Info: <https://nicholasconservatory.com/food-truck-tuesdays>

SEVERSON DELLS

8786 Montague Road, Rockford IL
<https://www.seversondells.com>

Full Moon Hike

Monday, May 16, 2022 | 8:00 PM—9:30 PM
Celebrate the brilliant Full Moon at Severson Dells with a walk through the woodland and prairie while we enjoy the emergence of nocturnal wildlife. Registration is required by May 14. Members/\$3, General Admission/\$5

2022 Wildflower Walkabout Series

See details here: <https://www.naturalland.org/wildflower-walkabout/>

All walks will begin at 6:00 p.m. Free. **Registration for all of the walks will be required this year through EventBrite.** For more information, please call 815/335-2915 (Severson Dells) or 815/964-6666 (National Land Institute).

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford
<https://andersongardens.org/>

Tuesday Evening in the Gardens Summertime Music Series

Tuesday, May 31: Shamarr Allen (*New Orleans, LA*)
Opening: Grand Groove Hotel (*Rockford, IL*)
Tuesday, June 7: Jill Andrews (*Johnson City, TN*)
Opening: Kelly Steward (*Rockford, IL*)