

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 7 Issue 6
Editor: Kathy Batzkall

JULY 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

Hey I really can't blame all of you for blocking numbers, changing your email addresses and not answering your doors, all as a way to protect yourself from being asked to VOLUNTEER for yet another Council of Rockford Gardeners project! First, it was the Plant Sale, the next week it was Klehm's Garden Fair, then it was the Rock Valley Food Pantry Garden and believe it or not, a few weeks later, after a 3 year hiatus, it was that darn Garden Walk. I've actually started to notice various club members seeing me out and about, turning around then running the other way! Well, please rest assured, you all have the remainder of the summer off... I think.

All of our CRG volunteers deserve a huge round of applause or actually better yet, a standing ovation! I am truly amazed at the great response and the gracious willingness to volunteer from our membership. Thanks to all the Garden Reps for stepping forward too and making the Garden Walk run so smoothly. Usually, the worst part of heading up a project, is seeking volunteers. However, I now see that the members of these 4 clubs and their excellent leadership are the unique exception to the rule. I really can't thank all of you volunteers enough for making CRG look so good!

Speaking of “looking so good”, thank you Susan Buzzard for your persistence in pulling off the CRG T-shirt order in record time for the Garden Walk. Great work by Brian Endl of Creative Pig Mind Design! It was so much fun going to the various gardens seeing all these smiling faces wearing green CRG T-shirts.

This years Garden Walk may take the title for the longest planned Walk in the history of CRG. Remember, it was originally scheduled for 2019 and thankfully all the garden owners stuck with us. At times, it seemed like everything was against us, the pandemic, the heat, no rain, then the night before... lots of rain and on top of everything else, this was the year we decided to go “paperless!” Going paperless created several challenges in itself. Hopefully, there were only a few slight rumbles. On a brighter note, I finally learned how to actually use and create a QR CODE! As they say, welcome to the modern world! Oh, before I forget, a special thanks goes to Kathy Batzkall for putting up with my constant changes to the website and asking her to send out special emails to all CRG members.

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SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



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Another big thanks goes to all of our sponsors. John Carlson for his years of financial support, Andy Benson for donating Garden Walk stones, Josh Johnson for again allowing us a front page article in the *Rock River Times*, Steve Summers for yet another radio interview and my dear friend Becky Thalsofer for donating not 1 but 2 billboards for CRG's use. Please look at each of their ads on our CRG website under the Garden Walk link. If at all possible, show your support to these local businesses whenever you can.

On to another thought, some are under the misconception that the CRG is the governing body that runs all the 4 clubs, but in reality it's actually just the exact opposite. Our 4 clubs are really what runs the CRG, each club has representation on the Council and are part of all the decision process on what we collectively decide to do as an organization. The CRG has absolutely no authority on how any of the 4 clubs manage themselves, but the 4 clubs have total authority over the CRG. CRG was created in 1980 as a way to originally bring the 5 clubs, now 4, together to work collectively as a stronger entity on various projects. We have certainly shown over the past few months, that we can accomplish so much more with greater numbers than would ever be possible with just a single club. Remember, leadership is only as good as the ones it leads. CRG has truly been a pleasure to lead, thank you all so very much for all your support!

In closing, please remember, "Preoccupied with a single leaf, you won't see the tree. Preoccupied with a single tree, you'll miss the entire forest." - Takuan Soho

Arch Smith: racs71@yahoo.com or 815-501-1640

LOOK WHAT LANDED IN THE ETHEL JOHNSON LILAC GARDEN!



The monarch is part of the
Sean Kenney's Nature Connects
LEGO® exhibit at Klehm.

Council members Anita, Rosanne, Judi, Jen and Ann lovingly tend the Ethel Johnson Lilac Garden at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden. More than 45 hours have been donated so far in 2022.

If you have questions or are interested in getting more information please contact ansomers@comcast.net.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with
Diane Dailing
after the loss of her husband, Joseph.*

Diane is a member of Seedlings & Plantaholics





COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS FREE GARDEN WALK JULY 6, 2022



Some beautiful vignettes from the Garden Walk

Photos above and right by Arch Smith and Kathy Batzkall.

Photos below by Susan Buzzard.



ODDS AND ENDS



Council T-shirts are still available

For those of you who would like a hunter green Council of Rockford Gardens tee shirt with our signature wreath and the phrase, "Our Roots Run Deep" you may order from Susan Buzzard.

The cost is : \$11.60 for small, medium, large, and extra large, or 2x is available for \$13.50.

Text Susan at 815-978-3323 with your name and size by Friday July 22nd. Shirts will be available for pick up on Sat July 30th from 4 to 6pm at her home 1629 Oxtail Way. You may pay for your shirt at pick up with cash, or a check made payable to CRG.

Volunteer at the Rock River Pantry Garden

(421 S Rockton Ave, Rockford, IL 61102) Please consider volunteering for a Wednesday afternoon (or two) from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to help clients select, harvest vegetables and answer questions on preparation, etc.

The following dates need your attention:

Wednesday, July 27 - 2 volunteers needed

Wednesday, August 3 - 2 volunteers needed



Please let Susan Schmitz know if you (and a friend, who doesn't have to be a member) would be able to volunteer for any of these days, or if you would like more information on this project. (630) 841-1312, gardnscout@yahoo.com.

The following dates need one additional volunteer:

Wednesday, August 10 - With Becki Dennis

Wednesday, August 17 - With Leigh Johnstone

Wednesday, August 31 - With Leigh Johnstone

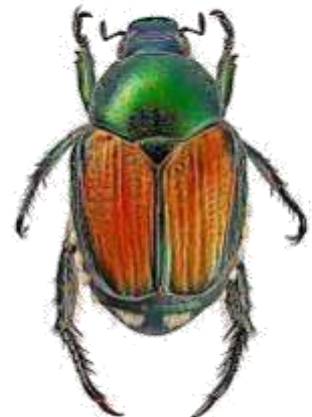
Wednesday, September 7 - With Becki Dennis



Insects & Diseases of the Summer Vegetable Garden

Join U of I Extension Local Foods and Small Farms Educator, Grant McCarty, as he discusses Insects and Diseases for the Summer Vegetable Garden. With harvest happening or on the horizon, you might be encountering insects and diseases that can effect your yields and overall gardening experience. In this class, we'll look at some of the most common insects and diseases during the growing season with advice on how to ID them, treat them, and prepare for next season.

Wednesday, August 10 from 6 -7 p.m. No cost, but donations welcome.
University of Illinois Extension-Winnebago County, 1040 N. Second St., 815-986-4357
Register: go.illinois.edu/insectsanddiseases



Klehm's Demonstration Gardens Open House!

Thursday, August 4, 10 AM - 12 PM

Free for Klehm Members; Non-members - General Admission (\$8/Adult, \$5/Child, Student, or Senior 62+). Pre-registration NOT required.

Meet the volunteers who care and maintain after Klehm's Demonstration Gardens all year-round!

Join us for this special event where you will meet some of the volunteers, learn more about the gardens and plants they tend to, and be able to ask any questions you may have wondered while walking through the gardens on previous visits!

The Demonstration Gardens are a great place to gather inspiration for your own home garden and if you've never visited Klehm's gardens before, this is the perfect opportunity to stop out and see them!



Garden Club Activities

Potpourri Club

Enjoyed meandering through Deb and Joy Jurs' beautiful garden in June, and the club also met for a pre-Garden Walk brunch at Sherry Seavers' home in July.



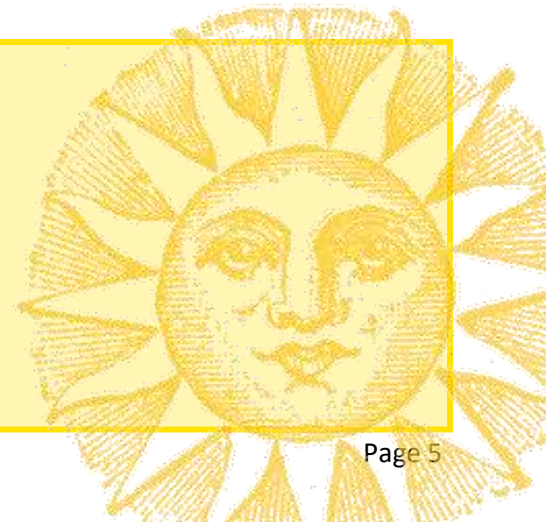
Council of Rockford Gardeners Facebook Page

The Council of Rockford Gardeners has a page on Facebook. 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 can email it to Susan Schumacher at: sueschu13@hotmail.com.

SEND SOME SUNSHINE

The Council of Rockford Gardeners has a "Sunshine" Committee to send cards to members who are ill or who have lost someone dear.

Please contact Cindy Rittenhouse to have a card sent.
Email: cdy1ritt@gmail.com or phone: 815-540-5876.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

By Yvette DeWisleare,

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

Since 1995, more than 80 million meals from over 20 million pounds of produce has been provided to the hungry from American gardeners, without bureaucratic red tape or government subsidy. People helping people in need. It all started in Anchorage, Alaska in support of a local soup kitchen. The program was so successful, it was introduced nationwide and took just five years to reach a million pounds of donated produce. Within two years, another million pounds was reached. Since 2011, roughly 2 million pounds of food is donated annually. Each pound of produce will supplement approximately four meals.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1 in 8 households in the United States experiences hunger and many often skip meals. Approximately 33 million people, including 13 million children, have substandard diets or must resort to seeking emergency food because they cannot always afford the food they need. The demand for hunger assistance has increased by 70% in recent years, and research shows that hundreds of hungry children and adults are turned away from food banks each year because of lack of resources.

It's estimated over 84 million households have yards or gardens. Consider participating in the **Plant-A-Row for the Hungry** program by simply donating excess produce when you grow more than you can use. We could make a significant impact to reduce hunger by growing and donating vegetables from our home gardens.

Approximately 20-40% of food produced in the US is thrown away annually, making food a very large part of municipal waste, therefore contributing to

greenhouse gasses, and wasting valuable resources. <https://www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste/donating>

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act of 1996 provides "limited liability" protection for anyone who makes "good faith" donation of grocery and food products to nonprofit organizations feeding the hungry, and civil and criminal liability protection for anyone distributing groceries and or food to places like food banks or homeless shelters. Lack of awareness of the Good Samaritan Act motivated Congress to raise awareness in the 2018 Farm Bill (Section 12504 of the Agriculture Improvement Act

of 2018) to raise awareness with the USDA. Who is protected to donate produce, food, and agriculture items? Backyard gardeners, farmers, gleaners, restaurants, retail grocers and manufacturers, caterers, food trucks, school food authorities and institutions of higher education, and food banks.

Year-Round drop-off sites

include the University of Illinois-Extension Office, 1040 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, M-F, 9a-4p. (815-986-4357); the Rock River Valley Pantry, 421 S. Rockton St., Rockford, M-F, 8:30a-3p, (815) 965-2466; and the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau, 1925 S. Meridian Rd, Rockford, 8:30-4, (815) 962-0653.

Summer drop-off sites include the Cherry Valley Library, 755 E. State St, Cherry Valley, Tuesdays 3:30 -5:30pm; Edgebrook Farmers Market, Alpine and Highcrest, Rockford, Wednesdays, 10 am – noon; and the Landscape Connection, 4472 S. Mulford Rd, Rockford, M-Sa 9a-6p, Sun. 11a-3p.

Please be sure to spread the word to your neighbors and friends.



JULY 11, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

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

Balance as of June 1, 2022	\$7,748.59
Receipts: 3 Plant Sale deposits total.....	3,077.83
Disbursements:	0.00
Ending Balance as of June 30, 2022	\$10,826.42

MaryAnn suggested that we should apply for a grant from District 1 regarding the Garden Walk and Plant Sale. We organize the Garden Walk as a community service at no charge to those attending.

Committee Reports

Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio reported that she will contact the 2 scholarship recipients to invite them to the Fall Frolic once the date has been set. Arch said that at the event we will acknowledge the 2 recipients and present them with a plaque. Members suggested that perhaps an Amazon gift card might be more appropriate instead of a plaque.

Civic and Conservation – Diane Donze reported that she will get the planters for the Habitat homes. Council voted last month to cover the cost of the planters.

Programs – Arch Smith reported that the Fall Frolic committee will meet soon and set a date for the event.

Publicity – Susan Schumacher sent in a report: “A terrific article about the Garden Walk, written by President Arch Smith was published in the June 29 edition of The Rock River Times. Arch also arranged for the Garden Walk to be publicized on an electronic sign near Cherry Vale Mall. 86 people responded on the Facebook Event page online.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that the Garden Walk went very well with perfect weather. Arch said going “paperless” for the Garden Walk had only a few complaints. Garden owners did want to know how many members went through their gardens, so that will be added to next year’s Greeter duties.

Horticulture – No report.

Hospitality – Mary Pinter reported that we do not have an August meeting. Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 12th.

Newsletter – Kathy Batzkall would like articles to her by the Friday after each Council meeting. She is also trying to figure out a way to get members to read the newsletter. Each club president is encouraged to suggest to their members to read the newsletter each month

Parliamentarian – Sarah Britton reported that “we are good.”

Sunshine – Arch Smith said that Cindy Rittenhouse reported that she sent a sympathy card to Jan Duncan for the loss of her brother-in-law, a thinking of you card to Deb Bieschke for her illness, and a sympathy card to

Diane Dailing for the death of her husband.

We should notify Cindy Rittenhouse if a card should be sent to a member.

Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde reported that she sat next to John Emery at the picnic, and he told her he never thought that we could have made \$6,000 on the plant sale. Lynne said that the sale was great. She will be having a final meeting of the plant sale committee after her vacation.

Website – Kathy Batzkall had no report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Susan Schmitz would like to encourage members to work at the Food Pantry garden, and suggested that members bring their own gloves when volunteering.
2. Linda McIntyre-Price talked about the Prairie Garden project at St. Anskar’s church and hoped to get donations from the clubs. Please send checks to St. Anskar Prairie Fund at 4801 Spring Creek Rd., Rockford, IL 61114-6321.
3. Susan Buzzard had a request from Lorelei Ketcher, a garden owner who was on the Garden Walk, for volunteers to help split some of the hostas in her garden on August 13. Lorelei mentioned that the helpers might be able to take part of the hosta home for their work.
4. Mary Ann Miller discussed Klehm’s Hosta Garden, where she weeds for 3 hours every couple of weeks, and could use some help. Mary Ann would like to take out or divide some of the hostas and put in more “specimen hostas.”

The Hosta Garden area lost several trees, and some of the area is now in full sun. There are a lot of weeds, and mulch would really “set off” the hostas. She said that she would need about 8 yards of natural, fine mulch for the Hosta Garden. Mary Ann will check on mulch.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 12, 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

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford, IL

<https://andersongardens.org/>

Japanese Summer Festival

July 30 & July 31, 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Performances, demonstrations, and activities that foster a better understanding of the Japanese culture.

Cost of regular Garden admission for basic & non-members. Parking Lots Fill Early. Off-Site Parking Located at UIC College of Medicine, Rockford. Complimentary Shuttle Service Offered to & from Visitor Center

See schedule: <https://andersongardens.org/japanese-summer-festival-2022/>

Tuesday Evening in the Gardens Summertime Music Series thru August 30

July 19—Will Hoge (Nashville, TN)

July 26—Danielle Juhre (Chicago, IL)

August 2—Dave Hause (New York, NY)

August 9—Laney Jones (Orlando, FL)

August 16—Backyard Tire Fire (Asheville, NC)

August 23—Everyday Everybody (Washington, DC)

August 30—Ariel Posen (Winnipeg Manitoba)

KLEHM ABORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

2715 S. Main St, Rockford, IL

www.klehm.org | 815-965-8146 | info@klehm.org

Sean Kenney's Nature Connects LEGO® exhibit

Now through September 11th! Get exhibit map at the Visitors Center for of guide 15 exhibit sculptures.

Open 9AM - 7:30PM daily. Admission is \$8/adult, \$5/senior, student and child (4-17).

Klehm's Demonstration Gardens Open House

Thursday, August 4, 10am – 12pm

Free for Klehm Members; non-members (\$8/adult, \$5/child, student, or senior 62+)

Registration not required.

Meet some of the volunteers who care for these gardens, learn more about the gardens and plants they tend to, and ask any questions you may have wondered while walking through the demo gardens on previous visits!

Woodsong Summer Concert Series

Sunday, July 17 | Sunday, August 21, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

\$8/Members, \$12/General Public

MIDWAY VILLAGE

6799 Guilford Road, Rockford IL

MidwayVillage.com

Free Admission on Wednesdays!

Wednesday Walkabouts - 9:30 am on Wednesdays, June through September

Join us on Wednesday mornings for historic garden tours that highlight all the beautiful changes of perennials, grasses and vegetables. Tours begin at the Heritage Park Gazebo off the Guilford County Forest Preserve recreational path at 9:30am, and proceed at a leisurely pace around the village wrapping up around an hour later. This event is free, with a suggested donation of \$5. Note that if rain occurs, the tour will not proceed that day.

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL

<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

DELICATE FORCES

June 25 - November 6, 2022

Delicate Forces, a botanically-inspired, large-scale art exhibition by Skunk Control, a group of engineers, scientists, and educators from Australia.

The exhibition features pieces uniquely created through science. Colorful dichroic materials and subtle mechanical movements create a kaleidoscope of colors that delight during daylight hours and illuminate in the evening when darkness descends.



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>