

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 7 Issue 7
Editor: Kathy Batzkall

SEPTEMBER 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

It's hard to believe our summer is drawing to an end. As Charlie and I were walking our dogs last week, I noticed several trees in our neighborhood already showing off their fall colors. Our late evening dog walks are now a bit earlier as the days get shorter. All our garden beds are looking a little worn as they are now starting to retire for the year. For me, it's a bit of a let down, as I love everything about summer and all of its adventures. As seasons go, is it just me or does it seem like summer is by far the shortest season of all?

Luckily for us garden enthusiasts, being a member of a garden club helps keep the thought of summer and all of its adventures alive all year round! As summer is winding down, I think we all owe a huge thank you for all the club leaders, club officers and the members that so graciously volunteered to host a meeting. Without all of these volunteer efforts, our clubs just wouldn't exist.

So this fall, Tuesday, October 4th we will be reviving the "Gathering of Clubs" with a Fall Frolic (see flyer and details on page 2). A thank you to all of you for volunteering your time in making SEEDLINGS (Estd. 1949), POTPOURRI (Estd. 1978), WILDFLOWER (Estd. 1981), PLANTAHOLICS (Estd. 2006), and THE COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS (CRG, Estd. 1980) such a huge success with all their collective events and projects. Our long history shows that we stand so much stronger together, than we can standing alone.

The Council of Rockford Gardeners and its volunteer officers, who are representatives from each club, will itself be hosting this year's Gathering of Clubs, Fall Frolic appreciation night. The CRG program committee has been working diligently to plan this fun-filled event. CRG awards chairperson, Elaine Parrovecchio will be honoring our scholarship recipient that evening as well. CRG hopes all of you will join us for this year's adventure of the Gathering of Clubs, Fall Frolic.

Finally, I wanted to extend an invitation to all of you to get more involved. CRG and all of the 4 clubs would be most welcoming to any of you that might want to volunteer to be a club officer, participate on a committee, or even just visit a CRG council meeting. Maybe I shouldn't let this secret be known, but we have a heck of a good time working together. Oh, and there is usually great food involved! We would love having any of you join us. Please feel free to contact me personally if you'd like to participate further. There might be a new adventure waiting for you.

In closing, please remember, *“September is a thirty-day long goodbye to summer, to the season that left everyone both happy and weary of the warm, humid weather and the exhausting but thrilling adventures.” -Lea Malot*

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

September
2022

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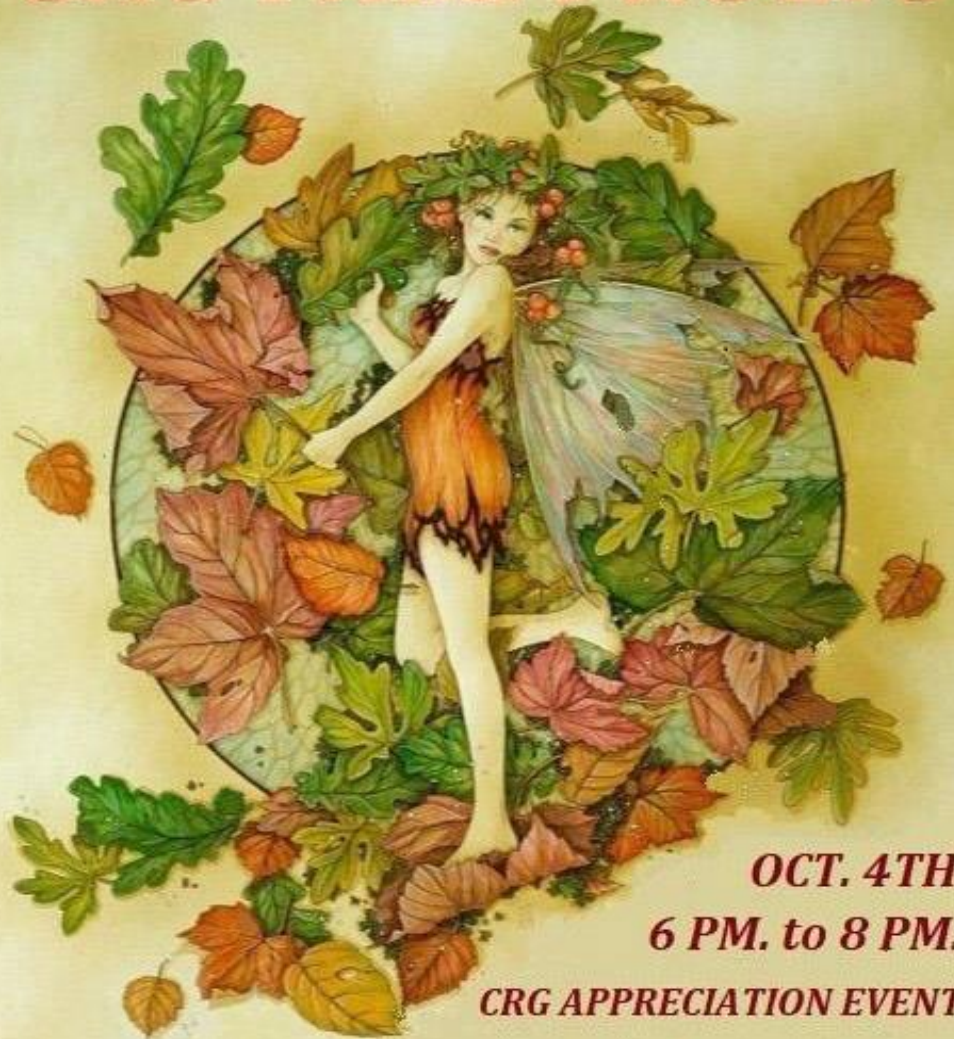
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Garden Events

SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS PRESENTS
CRG FALL FROLIC



**OCT. 4TH
6 PM. to 8 PM.**

CRG APPRECIATION EVENT

Please bring finger food to share

Our scholarship recipient presentation

The home of Arch & Charlie 2541 Bordeaux Dr. RKFD

RAIN DATE- OCT. 11th 6 PM. to 8 PM.

A doorprize will be donated by each of our four garden clubs



Clare Bland, Joan Pfeifer, Anita Johnson, all members of Seedlings model the T-shirt.

CRG T-shirts still available:
3 Med.—\$11.75 ea.

Make checks payable to CRG
and mail to:
Mary Ann Miller
6622 Old Hunters Run
Rockford, IL 61114

GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES

Plantaholics meeting at Mary Ann Miller's September 6th: Ginny Hatwich talked about her experience of using grow lights to start seeds. Mary Ann spoke on why it is good to save seeds and used examples from her garden. Everyone feasted on items which were brought for a charcuterie board.



Hull Garden



Rebman Garden

Potpourri Club enjoyed an August 9th tour of Mary Jo and Steve Hull's garden, and EJ and Wally Rebman's garden, then stayed for cocktail hour at the Emery garden. Spouses were included in this event.



Emery Patio



Plantaholics

toured Dick Behr's garden in August. He has a beautiful property near Anderson Japanese Gardens and shares some similar gardening aesthetics with Mr. Anderson.



Potpourri Club

traveled to Belvidere on September 13 to tour the gardens and the creatively renovated barn of Jim and Donna Bielfuss.

Here Jim is discussing the ceiling which he pieced with different woods to resemble the log cabin quilt pattern.

MORE GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES

Wildflower Club Adventures



Wildflowers in July at Hornbaker Gardens.



Wildflower August potluck at Joyce Lillie's "folly house."



The Garden Clubs of Illinois information:

Reported by Susan Schumacher

- Volunteer needed to solicit advertisers for the Garden Glories publication.
Contact: marilynkrueger@comcast.net
- A conservation conference will be held Wednesday, November 9 in Addison. More information will be coming in the next few weeks.
- GCI grants available: Historical Restoration grants might be of particular interest to our volunteer gardeners at Midway Village or Macktown Settlement. <https://www.gardenclubsofillinois.org/copy-of-grants-1>
- Grants | www.gardenclubsofillinois.org
AMES TOOLS . National Garden Club, Inc.'s grant program with The Ames Companies, Inc. began in 2014 and has continued through 2020. The Ames Companies, the largest manufacturer of garden tools in the U.S., includes tools in its in-kind grant program from a group of tools sized for children and a group of lighter weight and mid-sized tools which may be helpful for use in garden therapy projects.
- Membership Mondays offered by NGC - free zoom meetings about various topics, featuring guest speakers. Recordings of previous meetings available through the "Video Cafe" on the NCG website. <https://gardenclub.org/member-resources>.

AUTUMN, SWEET AUTUMN CLEMATIS



Susan Schmitz's Garden



EJ Rebman's Garden



Lynne Franzene-Lynde's Garden



Susan Schmitz's Garden

Food Pantry 2022 Season Results

Reported by Susan Schumacher

An estimated 228 pounds of produce was harvested over the course of the summer by CRG volunteers. Susan Schumacher calculated CRG members working once a week for 12 weeks through the end of September:

- July average of 17#/ day.
- August average of 20#/day.
- September average of 19#/ day.



A shout out to these Food Pantry volunteers:



Leigh Johnstone
Roxanne Southwood
Becki Dennis
Cindy Rittenhouse
EJ and Wally Rebman

Kathy Crandall
Tom and Lori Walsh
Arch Smith
Vicki Woodhouse
Susan Schmitz

FALL FOR BIRDS

By Yvette DeWisleare,

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

Some of my earliest memories were in the yard with my grandmother. “Leave some for the birds,” she’d say. Sometimes it was a few berries, and sometimes it was an overripe tomato or a handful of beans. There were hummingbirds at her kitchen window and mourning doves by her bedroom. She always waved a white handkerchief at the man in the caboose. I miss the smells from her kitchen and her garden. If I close my eyes very tight, I can hear that can of coffee opening.

Save the seeds for the birds.

According to the National Audubon Society, “Messy is definitely good to provide food and shelter for birds during the cold winter months,” says Tod Winston, Audubon’s Plants for Birds program manager. Sleep in a little, enjoy your coffee and let someone else keep up with the neighbors. Leave anything in your garden that contains seed heads. Most gardeners are ready to tidy up the beds, but those seed heads provide nutrients for our feathered friends well into the winter. Some examples are Grasses, Rudbeckia, Aster, and Echinacea. I have finches



that feed on my clematis and take shelter in the arborvitae. If you really can’t do messy- then “chop and drop” your seed heads. Leave them in the beds for our friends.

Leave the leaves and save yourself a little backache! It’s great food and shelter for your flower-beds. Rotting leaves enrich the soil and provide a wonderful place for foraging birds and insects! Mulch as much as you can into your grass, compost and let the rest be. Leaf litter is a great place for salamanders, toads, snails, worms, and moth pupae. A healthy layer of soil and undisturbed leaf litter means more caterpillars, which are a crucial food source for birds.

This is a good time to check the nursery and add natives and bulbs to your garden.

Plant a tree! There’s always room for a tree.

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants/search?zipcode=61107>



SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Mary Ann Miller, Treasurer

Plant Sale & Boutique – May 27/28, 2022:

Total Receipts: 5 deposit..... \$6,055.85
Total Disbursements: Expenses 401.59
Net Profit:**\$5,654.26**

Balance as of July 1, 2022 **\$10,826.44**
Total Receipts: 718.80
Disbursements:..... 794.73
Ending Balance as of July 31, 2022.....\$10,750.51

Balance as of August 1, 2022 **\$10,750.51**
Receipts: None 0.00
Disbursements: Jesse White/Non-Profit filing fee..... 10.00
Ending Balance as of August 31, 2022.....\$10,740.51

Committee Reports

Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio reported that in October she will contact Kishwaukee College regarding a candidate for our next scholarship.

Civic and Conservation – Diane Donze reported that Habitat is busy working on the homes for the dedications. She does not know the dates yet and will get the planters for the 4 Habitat homes – one from each club. The cost will come out of Council funds.

Programs – Arch Smith reported the Fall Frolic was originally going to be used as a fundraiser, but the committee agreed that it would be more appropriate that it be a thank you to all the club members for all their hard work. A flyer will go out to the club presidents to forward to their members. Arch is still thinking about something for the clubs to do at Christmas. Ideas have been suggested and details are being worked on.

The Fall Frolic will be held on Tuesday, October 4, from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Each club will donate a raffle prize (up to \$50). Everyone who attends will bring “finger food”.

Publicity – Susan Schumacher - No report.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that he has 6 or 7 gardens lined up for next year and has a couple more to look at. Arch will order “counters” for next year so that we can count how many people visit each garden.

Horticulture – No report.

Hospitality – Mary Pinter reported that our next meeting will be on Monday, October 3. In November the meeting will be on Monday, November 7. Mary said that if we want to change our location, the Goodwill on

Perryville has a “Community Room” we could use. It would shorten the time of our meeting since no food is allowed.

Newsletter – Kathy Batzkall would like articles to her by the Friday after each Council meeting.

Parliamentarian – Sarah Britton reported everything is fine. She is very pleased to see the table full and said to “keep it up”.

Sunshine – Arch Smith said that in August **Cindy Rittenhouse** reported she sent a wedding card to Stan Goral and Brian Malloy, a thank you card to Dick Behr, a sympathy card to Mary Ann Miller for the loss of her brother and a sympathy card to Diane Donze for the loss of her mother. Kathy Batzkall will design some cards to be sent from Council.

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

Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde had no report. Arch reported that Lynne’s thank you brunch was very nice.

Website – Kathy Batzkall reported that the website bill will be in the range of \$266 for a year. Kathy also stated that she would like someone to be her backup for the newsletter and the website.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 3, 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



Autumn at the Arboretum

Friday, October 7 – Sunday, October 9
9 AM – 4 PM daily | FREE admission

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore our 155 acres with free daily admission, activities and entertainment:

Self-Guided Smartphone Fall Color Tour

Features many points of fall foliage and autumn interest and engages guests with fun trivia and quizzes.

FREE Presentation:

“Faded Glory: The Autumn Garden”

Saturday, October 8 | 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Author and Director of Reiman Gardens, Ed Lyon, will demonstrate plant materials that not only define and create a spectacular fall garden but might extend winter interest as well.

Pre-registration is recommended: www.klehm.org

Create Your Own Painted Walking Stick (paid event)

Saturday, October 8 | 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm | \$47/person
Register online www.klehm.org

Karla Lombardo of ArtbyKarla will guide you through this workshop to paint a one-of-a-kind walking stick. All supplies will be provided.

Dog Costume Contest

Sunday, October 9 | 1:30 pm | Fountain Garden

This year’s contest will take place in the Fountain Garden and will be voted on by the audience.

Family Fun Day!

Sunday, October 9, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Kids’ activity stations and games; food

Autumn Walk & Waxed Leaf Hanging Workshop

Saturday, October 22,
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

\$40/person—Visitors Center

Register online

www.klehm.org

First, take a guided tour of Klehm Arboretum with Director of Education & Programming, Sam Burbach, to see the beautiful fall colors. Then, Karla Lombardo of ArtbyKarla will walk you through how to preserve leaves using natural beeswax. The waxed leaves will then be strung from a branch with beads and silk flower accents.



NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL

<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

DELICATE FORCES

Through 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 mechatronic movements create a kaleidoscope of colors that delight during daylight hours and illuminate in the evening when darkness descends.



Check out this wonderful exhibit video:

<https://nicholasconservatory.com/delicate-forces>

Remember to check our CRG website:

www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org