

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

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Editor: Kathy Batzkall

OCTOBER 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

A big thank you to the Council of Rockford Gardeners Program Committee (Linda Baker, Diane Donze, Lynne Franzene-Lynde, Susan Schmitz and Sherry Seaver) for all their planning and efforts made to make our CRG's Fall Frolic a success. A thank you to Lori Walsh for suggesting the event name, and Elaine Parrovecchio for introducing Abigail our most recent CRG scholarship recipient. The weather was perfect with a beautiful sunset; the food was delicious, the club door prizes were well themed for fall, our scholarship recipient Abigail was very impressive, and it was so nice to see everyone in attendance smiling, laughing and having a great time celebrating Fall.

Charlie and I enjoyed hosting CRG's Fall Frolic. This was our second time hosting a CRG Gathering of Clubs event and hopefully not our last. The two of us, along with the Program Committee wish to thank everyone who was able to attend. Oh, and our two dogs, Kai and Maya wish to thank each of you for dropping bits food all over our back yard... they really enjoyed every bite!

My two guests who attended are potential garden club members; both commented on what a nice group we have. I'd like to echo that as well! We really are fortunate to have such a wonderful group of members who make up each of our four Garden Clubs and ultimately CRG. I'm proud to be a part of an organization with such fine membership. I think we need to share our organization with a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative. Let's really make an effort in the months to come to help grow each club so others can also enjoy what we have to offer. For most clubs, November is a planning meeting, let's not only plan great activities, but plan ways to include and entice more new members, maybe host a "bring a friend event".

The Program Committee has already started on plans for a CRG Christmas event. We have several ideas we are considering. However, if any one has any ideas or suggestions for future CRG events, please contact me personally and share your thoughts. Our committee welcomes input from anyone wishing to contribute. Six people can come up with some pretty good ideas, but I'm sure there are some other great ideas out there we might not have thought of yet. So, please feel free to share.

In closing, please remember, *“Plant a flower, chase a cloud, watch a sunset, laugh out loud, find some perfect thing to do... celebrate just being you!”* - MB

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

October
2022

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SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



FALL FROLIC AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Elaine Parrovecchio introduces Abigail,
our scholarship winner.



"What a perfect night! Beautiful gardens, spectacular Halloween decorations, delicious food and drinks, great door prizes.

Special thanks for all the effort and planning by Arch, Charlie and the committee.

A really fun event!!!" - Mary Pinter



FALL FROLIC AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES, PAST AND FUTURE



Some late photos of the raffle prizes won last December after our "No Show Luncheon." Kathy Batzkall won the Japanese lantern on the left donated by Potpourri, and Carol Edson is the proud owner of the turquoise bird bath donated by Plantaholics. Photos by Arch Smith.

Coming Summer 2023... Private Garden Tour

The Council of Rockford Gardeners Program Committee is planning a private tour in summer 2023 (date yet to be determined) of Dr. Jeff and Diane Behr's garden. Jeff has graciously offered to give two narrated tours of their garden: an "AM" tour for the morning clubs and a "PM" tour for the two evening clubs. As you recall, the Behr garden, on the Rock River, was featured on the CRG's Free Annual Garden Walk a few years ago. This will be an opportunity for a more in depth tour of one of Rockford's finest private gardens.

Jeff was also instrumental in arranging tours for several of our clubs at his father, Dick Behr's garden this past summer. Arch is sure Dick would be willing to share his garden next summer for the final club that has yet to have an opportunity to visit. Check with Arch for details.



ODDS AND ENDS: FALL CLEANUP

How to clean a bird bath

<https://fleamarketgardening.org/2013/10/29/easy-steps-to-a-clean-birdbath/>

Keeping a birdbath sparkling clean is easy and it's worth a bit of effort to keep your wild birds happy and healthy. Algae may be a natural thing, but it's not attractive when your bird bath is within sight of your windows like you want it. It takes about 20 minutes or so to clean and 15 minutes of it is just waiting.

Every few weeks, here's what to do:

- Empty the water from the birdbath
- Add a 1/4 cup of household bleach. Diluted bleach kills the algae and salmonella and many more germs quickly. The time is 10-15 minutes for it to work!
- Scrub, scrub with a brush
- Cover with a plastic trash bag
- After 15 minutes, scrub with a brush again
The bleach kills the algae
- Spray out the dirty water, with a LOT of water
- Spray the surrounding shrubbery

All clean!

Once you clean the birdbath, the bleach is gone. Pennies, vinegar, baking soda do not do the job of killing algae and germs. Diluted bleach kills the algae and salmonella and MANY more germs quickly.

If you totally object to using bleach to disinfect, then use detergent and scrub, scrub, scrub.

Perennial beds

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/yard/garden-care/fall-garden-checklist/>

Perennials are garden workhorses. After a long growing season, they're ready for a winter rest. Stop deadheading in early fall and leave the above-ground parts standing even after frost kills them (unless pests and diseases are an issue). They'll provide both food and shelter for wildlife. Songbirds will enjoy the seed buffet, and many pollinators like native bees overwinter in standing stems and brush.

Complete the following tasks in your perennial garden in the fall:

- Remove weeds. Clear away as many as possible now so you have fewer to deal with next spring.
- Add mulch. After the ground freezes, add a 4- to 5-inch-thick layer of bark mulch over the crown of perennials planted this growing year and those that are frost-tender in your area.
- Plant spring-blooming bulbs. Tulips, daffodils, and many other spring-blooming bulbs are best planted in late September or October.
- Dispose of diseased or pest-ridden plants. Remove any leaves, stems, and whole plants with diseases or bugs to reduce problems the following year.
- Water once a week if dry. Even though perennials are going dormant in fall, their roots are still actively growing until the ground freezes. Well-hydrated plants withstand winter stresses better.

Pumpkin Trivia

Collected by Arch Smith

- 1.5 Billion lbs. of pumpkins are grown each year.
- In the United States \$185,000,000 worth of pumpkins are sold each year at 8 cents per pound.
- States that grow the most pumpkins: Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Texas, California, and Michigan.
- Morton, Illinois is the pumpkin capital of the world.
- Pumpkins are grown on every continent – except Antarctica.
- The original jack-o-lanterns were made out of turnips and potatoes.
- The largest pumpkin weighed 2,700 pounds and was grown in Italy.
- Pumpkin was once considered a remedy to cure snakebite and freckles.

IT ISN'T REALLY “ORNAMENTAL” CORN

By Yvette DeWisleare,

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

Autumn is in full swing with the air a bit crisper and smells of wood-burning fires in the evenings filling the air. High School Football fans are flocking to games and cheering for their teams with blankets and hot cocoa. The leaves are showing their fall color, pumpkins, mums, and ornamental corn adorn doorways and center-pieces...

These colorful ears were introduced to the Europeans arriving in the Western Hemisphere in the 15th century. Experts say it was grown in China, South America and India, and our ancestors used it as a food source. It has a starchy texture and isn't sweet like the corn we eat today. You might be surprised to know, field corn and ornamental (Indian) corn only differ by one or two genes; and field corn and sweet corn differ by one gene.

During graduate school at Cold Spring Harbor, Barbara McClintock began the work that would occupy her entire professional life: the chromosomal analysis of corn (maize). Using a microscope and a staining technique allowed her to examine, identify, and describe individual corn chromosomes. Questioning why

some ears of maize have different colored kernels, she was able to show that traits such as color can be linked to “particular” chromosomes, and as chromosomes are inherited from generation to generation, so too are the colors. Her biggest breakthrough was discovering a process that results in ears of maize that are speckled with different colors, which happens when genes responsible for color ‘jump’ from one chromosome to another.

McClintock's theory was these jumping genes were an important part of evolution, but other geneticists assumed that they were found only in maize. Research over the next twenty years showed that jumping genes are found in, first, bacteria, then almost all cells with DNA proving McClintock correct. This subject is now a hot topic in biology: jumping genes help bacteria to develop resistance to antibiotics, may produce new traits in plants and animals and may cause diseases such as muscular dystrophy and cancer.

Dr. Barbara McClintock earned her Ph.D. from Cornell University. She was elected the first woman president of the Genetics

Society of America in 1945, President Richard M. Nixon awarded her the National Medal of Science in 1971, and she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1983.



For more information you can read her full biography here:

<https://www.nobelprize.org/womenwhochangedscience/stories/barbara-mcclintock>



OCTOBER 3, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Mary Ann Miller, Treasurer



Balance as of September 1, 2022	\$10,740.51
Receipts:	
Reimbursement for t-shirts	<u>152.70</u>
	10,893.21
Disbursements:	
Pig Minds (t-shirts)	135.76
GCI of Illinois	<u>18.00</u>
Ending Balance as of September 30, 2022	\$10,739.45

Committee Reports

Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio reported that our scholarship recipient, Abigail D’Agostin, will be at the Fall Frolic, October 4. Arch Smith reported that Elaine will introduce her and will give her a \$50 VISA gift card.

Elaine then questioned whether she should contact Kishwaukee College now for a scholarship recipient and award a scholarship in December or whether she should wait to award a scholarship in the spring. A discussion was held regarding when to award the scholarship.

Mary Ann Miller then made a motion that we give the award out in December and, depending on what the Council plans are in December, award it before the second semester. The motion carried.

Susan Schumacher reported that she is filling out applications to the State organization for awards for CRG for the Garden Walk and for the Newsletter. She questioned whether she should continue doing this – or if Elaine would rather do it. Elaine agreed that Susan should continue with the applications.

Civic and Conservation – Diane Donze reported that Habitat has not contacted her yet, but she will reach out to them. It was mentioned that Habitat is far behind this year.

Programs – Sherry Seaver said that they expect about 50-60 members at the Fall Frolic. Everyone is bringing finger food, and they will have wine, water, cider, and soda. Our scholarship recipient will be there.

Arch Smith will contact the Rock River Times.

Arch also said that they are working on doing an activity for Christmas.

Publicity – Susan Schumacher will try to contact the *Register Star* about the award at the Fall Frolic.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that that he has about 7 gardens lined up for the Garden Walk. Several members viewed a few of the gardens this summer.

Horticulture – Yvette DeWispelaere reported that things are going fine. She has had good comments about her articles, and she has a few more lined up.

Hospitality – Mary Pinter reported that our next meeting will be on Monday, November 7 at 9:30 A.M. at Mary’s Market.

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

Parliamentarian – Sarah Britton reported that as long as we keep talking and getting new ideas, we are doing fine.

Sunshine – Arch Smith said that **Cindy Rittenhouse** will send a card to Peg Goral for the loss of her husband.

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

Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde reported that it might be hard for her to get a backup for her position.

Website – Kathy Batzkall reported that the website is paid for through 2022.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. at Mary’s Market on State Street.

All garden club members are encouraged to attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

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 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.



Succulent Pumpkin Centerpiece

Saturday, October 22, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Medium Pumpkin:

\$35,

Large Pumpkin: \$50

Visitors Center Gallery

Registration Required by October 19.

www.klehm.org

Fun workshop to create a one-of-a-kind succulent-topped pumpkin centerpiece that will look great through the fall season. All supplies provided. Approximate size of pumpkins: Medium: 5-7"; Large: 8-10".



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>

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road

Rockford, Illinois 61107

<https://andersongardens.org/>

A Jack-O-Lantern Experience

A Collection of carved pumpkins on display submitted by regional schools.

October 22nd - Sunday, October 30th

FREE for All Garden Members | Cost of Regular Garden Admission for Non-Members

Ikebana In the Gardens

Saturday, November 19, 2022, | 1:30 PM

Or Saturday, December 17th, 2022 | 1:30 PM

\$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members per class. Includes flower materials. Space is limited and registration is required. <https://andersongardens.org/>

Remember to check our CRG website:

www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org

- Events
- Membership directory
- History
- Latest CRG news